



NAHCON Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad receiving the Blueprint Distinguished Public Service Champion award from Etsu Nupe, Dr Yahaya Abubakar.

## NAHCON Chairs Bags Distinguish Public Service Champion Award

The Chairman and Chief Executive officer of National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) added another plume to his cap as he was decorated with the prestigious "Distinguish Public Service Champion" Award by the Blueprint Newspaper Organization.

His investiture which took place alongside Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje of Kano State and the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi attracted the crème de la crème of the society.

The organizer said the award bestowed on Barr. Abdullahi was a result of his long-standing contributions to public service especially Hajj Affairs and Management. For instituting a new lease experience for Nigerian pilgrims to Makkah

and in the process enhanced the functionalism of Hajj management, staff and other stakeholders"

According to the organizers citation, Barr Abdullahi has over the years "devoted his attention to working for improvements in Hajj awareness, professionalism of Hajj and improvement in the living condition of pilgrims in the Holy land.

Receiving the award, Barr Abdullahi expressed his utmost gratitude to the organizer for his little contribution towards the growth and development of Hajj and dedicated the award to the Nigerian Pilgrims, and the entire Hajj Managers in the country.

## INAUGURAL FLIGHT FIXED FOR JULY 2018

The first flight to the 2018 Hajj from Nigeria has been fixed for July 21, according to the official calendar of event of the Commission.

Although the departure center has not yet been agreed on, it is believed that the inaugural pilgrimage flight may be from any of the six zonal centers in the country.

Nigeria has an allocation of 95,000 pilgrims from the kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the 36 boards allocated 75,000 seats, while private tour companies has 20,000 allocated seats.

It would be recalled that the last year's inaugural flight took place in Abuja with 450 pilgrims from Nassarawa state boarding the Saudi –bound flynas Aircraft. In 2016, Sokoto Muhammed Saad Abubakar international Airport hosted the center for the inaugural flight, while Kaduna state hosted in 2015 with 300 pilgrims aboard max air aircraft for the spiritual journey to Saudi Arabia.

## NAHCON PREACHES UNITY AMONG NIGERIANS

The Chairman/CEO of National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), Bar. Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammed, has admonished Nigerians to eschew violence and learnt to live in peace for the progress and development of the country.

The NAHCON helmsman gave this advice at the flag-off of the 2018 Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem in Abuja on Wednesday said it was only in an atmosphere in peace and unity that the country's abundant potentials can be harnessed and therefore admonished the pilgrims to devote time to make prayers for the contained peace and unity of the country while in the holy land.

He stated that the importance of prayers cannot be over emphasized stressing that the Almighty would always hearken to the calls of people who prayed to him.

Bar. Abdullahi further advised the pilgrims to shun acts capable of tarnishing the image of the country in the holy land saying that such incidents can jeopardise the wellbeing and future of their pilgrims as the host country may be less likely to welcome similar visits in the future. The chairman's entourage to the event included, the commissioner in charge of policy, personnel, management and finance (PPMF) Dr. Yusuf Adebayo Ibrahim, Acting secretary, Alhaji Ahmed Maigari, Head of inspectorate and compliance section, Dr. Aliyu Tanko, the SLO Bashir Jazuli and host of other senior management staff.

## NAHCON Meets Airlines, States on Flights Operations

**N**AHCON Meets Airlines, States on Flights Operations  
The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) met with critical stakeholders in the aviation sector in an apparent effort to identify conflicts, challenges and causes of flight delays. Declaring open the workshop, the Commissioner in charge of operations, Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh said the purpose of the meeting is to ensure the success of the forthcoming airlift operation and change the participants to be frank and honest in their presentations. Alh. Saleh said for the operation to be successful, all the ties of operations-NAHCON, states, and airlines must cooperate and sup-

port one another by being flexible, accessible and accommodative of each other's high and low priority. Earlier in his welcome remark, the Head of Inspectorate and Compliance, Dr Aliyu Tanko said the meetings was to appraise the strategic work plan of the stakeholders with a view of coming up with remarkable plan of action that will eliminate delay in flight time and ensure the success of the 2018 Hajj airlift operation. The meeting which discussed among other things, the readiness of states, air carriers and their flight schedules. The causes of flight delays, filing and submission of flight data sheet as well as collection and distribution of Zam-Zam water.



Commissioner operations Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh, along side Dr Aliyu Tanko Head of inspectorate, Engr Goni Sanda Head of Aviation at the a meeting with states and airlines

## NAHCON approves 117 Tour operators for Hajj 2018

**T**he National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has approved 117 Tour companies for the 2018 Hajj exercise.

This figure was disclosed at the first NAHCON operational meeting held in Abuja with Tour operator recently.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman/CEO, Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad MON,FCIA said that it would no longer be business as usual as the commission has strengthen its capacity to deal with fraudulent operators.

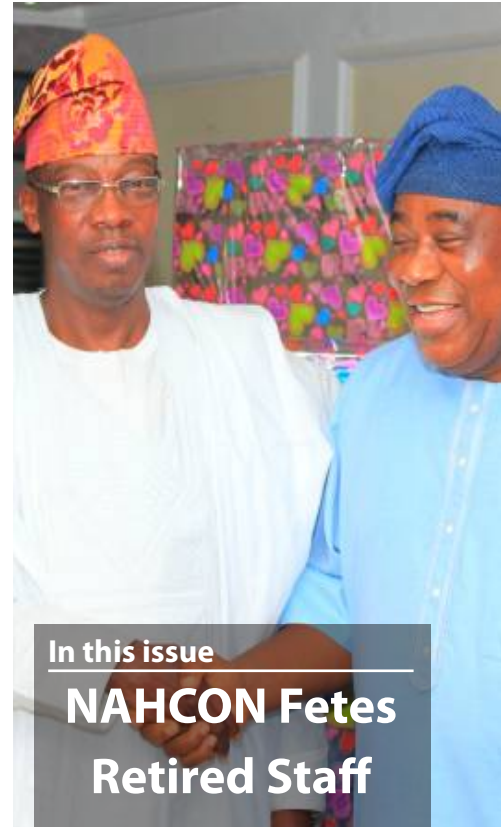
According to him "our goal is to ensure that pilgrims get value for their money, on no account would we compromise standard".

The Chairman also advised the operators not to compare themselves with state pilgrim's welfare Boards/agencies, pointing out that their services and operation is different. "There should

be no basis for comparison between you and the state boards. Your pilgrims are supposed to be people in the upper echelon who are not ready to spend much time in the Holy Land".

"Do not because of the reason of hooking for patronage charge the state amount as the state boards, while there won't be commensurate service. We will never take that" he added.

"Speaking in the same view, the Commissioner Operation, Alh. Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh warned also of the commission's determination to act decisively with operators that refused to get their pilgrims guaranteed". Guarantorship is no longer a joking matter. Anyone that must stand as surely for any pilgrim must ensure that the person is really known to him/her, because in any case of abscondment of the pilgrims, such guarantor or surely will be liable" he said.



### In this issue

## NAHCON Fetes Retired Staff

- 1 NAHCON CAUTIONS PILGRIMS ON BRIBERY**
- 2 NAHCON MULLS OPERATOR LICENSE EXTENSION**
- 3 JOURNALIST CHARGE AGAINST REPORTING FALSEHOOD**
- 4 MED-VIEW, NAHCON SIGN IRLIFT PACTON E-HAJJ REGISTRATION**

#### QUICK INFO

NATIONAL HAJJ COMMISSION OF NIGERIA (NAHCON)

HEAD OFFICE  
NO 1 Sokoto House, Central Business District, Abuja  
[www.nigeriahajjcom.gov.ng](http://www.nigeriahajjcom.gov.ng)

Social media Handles @nigeriahajjcom



#### EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF - Barr. Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad  
MANAGING EDITOR - Fatima M. Mustapha  
EDITOR - Mousa Ubandawaki  
ASSITANT EDITOR - Fatima Sanda Usara  
REPORTERS - Muhammad AJah,  
-Tawfiq Akinwole  
-Mariam Zubair

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY - Allaki Husaini  
- Ahmad Muazu

#### CREATIVE

ART DIRECTOR - Muhammd Ahmad Musa  
DESIGNER - Ahmad Muazu  
ASSISTANT DESIGNER -AllakiHussaini

# EFCC Applauds NAHCON on fight against Corruption

The Economic and financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has praised the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) for its effort in tackling corruption and other related crime associated with Hajj and Umrah activities. The Commandant of EFCC training institute, David Tukura gave the commendation during a visit to the institute by me Chairman/CEO of NAHCON, Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad MOW, FCIA. While commending NAHCON for training its officials on anti-corruption activities, Tukura said he fought against corruption

should not be left in the hands the anti-corruption agency alone, but one that should be frowned at by everyone. "it is good that NAHCON has key into the objective of our activities, therefore, we expect that the lesson or training got here will help the NAHCON officials to detect, tackle and prevent corruption in every sphere of their activities." Speaking at the event, the Chairman/CEO, Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad stated that the aim of the training programme was to make the officials better citizens. "This training is a platform to make you become

a better citizen, where you can serve as a special agent to prevent and report crime." According to the NAHCON boss, the training programme will help the officials to detect, address and strengthen any corruption tendencies in their line of duties, thereby giving good name to the commission at the end of the day. The Chairman further enjoined the officials not to underutilize the knowledge gained from the programme but ensured that whatever has been learnt is passed to others coming after them, so that it doesn't die with them.



Deputy Commandant EFCC training institute Dr David Takura making his remarks during a five (5) day training organised for NAHCON staff

## NAHCON Cautions pilgrims on Bribery

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has warned intending pilgrims to the 2018 Hajj against payment of fees for biometric data capturing. The commission in a statement signed by its Head of Public affairs, Fatima Usara Sanda said the biometric capturing exercise is free as the company is not expected to collect any money from prospective participants.

She said the warning became necessary against the backdrop of information received by the commission that some unscrupulous individuals were collecting money from pilgrims to exhibit a sense of patience while waiting for their turn for the exercise, stressing that the procedure was not long enough to entail agitation from them, pointing out that everyone will be attended to.



NAHCON Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad being interviewed by journalist after inspecting FCT biometric capture center

# NAHCON MULLS OPERATOR LICENSE EXTENSION

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) is considering the extension of validity license of private tour operators from the current two years to five years.

The Chairman/CEO of the Commission, Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, MON, FCIA, disclosed this at the final preparatory meeting of the Commission with state boards and tour operators on the 2018 Hajj operation.

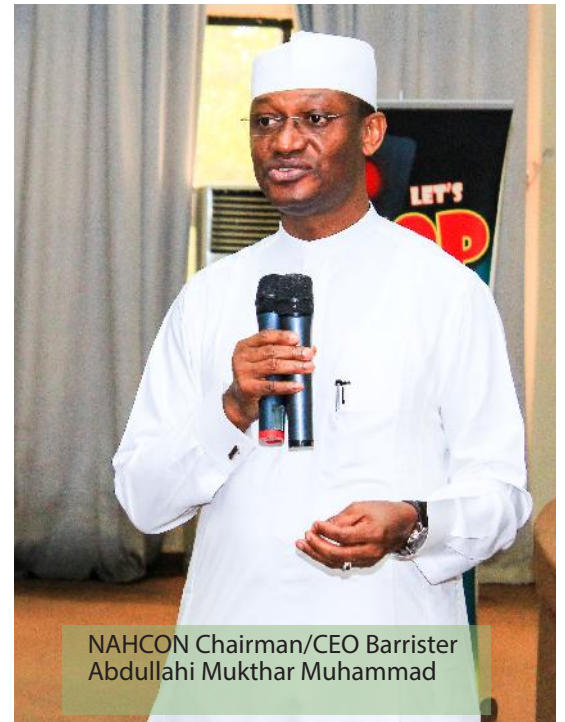
He stated that intention was aimed at improved better services delivery to the pilgrims as well as afford the company to consolidate on their operation.

According to him, the current license period of two years needs to be reviewed so that the operators don't need to be applying every year or two years. The five years' validity period will give them ample time and opportunity to build on their capacity while at the end of the day will benefit the pilgrims in terms of service

delivery.

Barr Abdullahi also told the gathering that the Commission would from Hajj 2019 revert to old policy of allocating to the airlines directly instead of states or airlines competing for allocation from the states "from 2019 the Commission will revert to our former policy wherein; the commission allocates airlines instead of the current system whereby airlines goes through the state boards to get allocation".

We have found out that this negativity affects the airlift operation as some of the airlines lack technical capacity to undertake the number of pilgrims gotten from the states and this often greatly affect our operation, therefore from next year and beyond, the commission will allocate pilgrim airlift to airlines based on their capacity and technical competence and ability" he declared.



NAHCON Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad



Ejibunu Wale, of the ICT unit while making presentation during a workshop organised by the ICT unit for Tour operators.

## NAHCON holds E-Track Training for Tour Operators

The orientation cum e-track training programme and other logistics was held at the National Library complex. For information/communication technology for officials of private tour companies.

The workshop which was conducted by the IT staff of NAHCON examined the strategic work plan of the tour operators on how to access the Saudi Hajj portal to make payments and process their pilgrims visa without recourse to physical visit to the embassy.

The core objectives of the workshop among these include:

i. E-registration system for pilgrims data base,

ii. Complaint management system, which is a resource set up to provide the pilgrims with information and support in Saudi Arabia.

iii. Electronic Medical Record(EMR)- which is a data base of patients to facilitate effective and quick medical services.

iv. Hajj Guide- a comprehensive Hajj guide for pilgrims, as well as Hajj Tour operators licensing and registration system.

It would be re called that the e-track system was introduced in 2014 as part of Saudi Hajj management portal to activate Hajj operations also seeks to impose more control and surveillance on the performances of all the authorities concerned with Hajj affairs.



## HAJJ 2018: JOURNALIST WARNED AGAINST REPORTING FALSEHOOD

The Chairman/CEO of National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad MON, FCIA, has enjoined media practitioners to focus and reports on issues that will add value to the annual pilgrimage as well as benefit the image of the country.

Speaking at the formal inauguration of National Media Team to the 2018 Hajj in Abuja, the chairman said the reportage of Hajj should not be limited to only activities alone, but to make non-Muslim understand and appreciate the beauty of Islam and Hajj.

According to him, Nigeria Journalists are to anchor the performance of Nigeria contingent to the Hajj.

We have the human resources and expertise to cover Hajj and make the Hajj operation successful; we want those of you who will cover the 2018 Hajj to discuss and agree on what the aim of this assignment will be".

Barr Abdullahi however cautioned the members of the team to avoid getting involved in the domestic policy or affairs of Saudi Arabia stressing "you shouldn't involve in anything that will cause fiction between our country and Saudi Arabia and smear the image and relationship between the two countries.

He further warned them against exporting Nigeria political activities to Saudi Arabia as the host nation frowns at any activities of propoganda or political souvenir.

Responding on behalf of the committee, the chairman Alh. Atoyebi Said the essence of the team is to have a united team to report Hajj and Umrah, pointing out that the journalist should see their assignments as a professional call to service as well as religious duties. "You are an agent of Da'awah therefore, you must shun negativity. You are to propagate Islam and make Hajj attractive to non-Muslims"

We owe it a duty to our nation, and our religion Islam against the spread of falsehood and to propagate Islam" he added.



Alh Abubakar Saruku General Manager, Business/Economics NCAA making a presentation at the stakeholders meeting

## WE ARE READY FOR 2018 HAJJ-NCAA

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the nation's premier aviation regulator, the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority, (NCAA) has given a thumb up to the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) as it declares its determination to make the 2018 Hajj a resounding success.

Speaking at a one-day final preparatory meeting for 2018 Hajj in Abuja, the director general of NCAA Capt. Usman Mukhtar, who was represented at the event by Alh Abubakar Saruku general manager, business/economics expressed its readiness to partner with NAHCON to ensure seamless, smooth safe and secure airlift operations for the pilgrims.

"from our analysis of the presentation made by the airlines and inspection of the various departure airports in the country, I think we are ready for the 2018 Hajj"

According to him, twelve of the sixteen

(16) departure points in the country were okayed for the 2018 Hajj airlift, while remaining four has some slight challenges which could be fixed at the earliest possible time"

Twelve of the airports have reached 80 percent readiness to begin the airlift exercise. Even the four (4) that have got some challenges are not really in critical safety situation. Therefore, I can state without fear of contradiction that our airports are ready to undertake this year's Hajj airlift.

Alh. Saruku further revealed four (4) out of six (6) airlines approved by the Federal Government have made representation while two of them have been certified and cleared.

According to him, the civil aviation authority has inspected two each of the aircraft presented by both Max airline and Fly prime – a Saudi designated carrier -

## 2018 HAJJ: MED-VIEW, NAHCON SIGN AIRLIFT PACT

Med-View Airline Plc has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) for the 2018 airlift of pilgrims to Makkah and Madinah, Saudi Arabia.

The airlift of intending pilgrims for the 2018 Hajj would commence on July 21st with pilgrims from Kogi State, according to NAHCON.

Med-View Airline, one of the carriers airlifting pilgrims signed the pact with the Hajj commission to perform the task of flying the pilgrims to and from the holy land.

The MoU was signed by the Managing Director of Med-View, Alhaji Muneer Bankole and NAHCON Chairman/CEO, Barr. Abdullahi Muhammed, in the presence of Med-View Company Secretary/Legal Adviser, Barr. Abdullahi Al-Ilory in Abuja.

Alhaji Bankole said the airline would deploy a new B777-200 in addition to its B767-300ER for the airlift. The 777 which arrives Lagos today (Wednesday) has the capacity to airlift 323 passengers.

It has airlifted over 300,000 passengers in the last 14 years of the exercise.

# PHOTORAMA

## NAHCON MEETING WITH STATES AT STONEHEDGE HOTEL



## NCPC inaugural flight for ester season



## Abike Dabiri Erewa SSA to President on Diaspora courtesy visit to NAHCON



# PHOTORAMA

Screening of members of the National Medical team



Five day training organized by EFCC for NAHCON STAFF





## OPERATIONAL MEETING WITH NAHCON LICENCED UMRAH AND HAJJ COMPANIES.

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and the licenced umrah and Hajj tour operators held a meeting on the success of the 2018 Hajj operation at the stonehedge hotel Abuja, on Wednesday 23, may 2018.

Mohammed Ahmed Shira, the head of licensing unit, during his welcome address, said that the aim of having the meeting was to provide all necessary information to the licensed Hajj and Umrah tour operators and to also give room for questions that will be properly answered. During the meeting he gave an estimate number of the approved umrah licenced as 105, and that of Hajj as 117.

The chairman/CEO, Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Mohammed, said the aim of the meeting was to strengthen the leadership of the Association of Hajj and Umrah of Nigeria (AHUON), and to give chance for more responsibility and freedom of expression through a legitimate way with the hope of leaving a system and not just an institution. Barrister Mukhtar also cautioned that tour operators who are used to lobbying should know that there is nothing like that any more, and they should also know that they are not in competition with anyone particularly the states, so there should be no comparisons between the tour operators and the State Pilgrims Welfare Boards.

The chairman, spoke on the new date for the closure of Saudi portal by the 12th of July, 2018. And the challenges of the biometric centers to be created, and remind the tour operators to let the pilgrims going through them to know that all repeated goers are to pay SR2000. He also assured the AHUON that NAHCON as the regulatory, monitoring, and supervision body, will continue to monitor the activities of the Hajj and Umrah operators.

The commissioner operations, Al-haji Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh, gave a word of caution on the issue of guarantorship, that the tour operators should be careful when fronting for pil-

grims that are going for the pilgrimage through their companies, so as not to get involved in any of their mischievous activities that might dent their image or their companies, abscondee also shall be punished by ceasing their licenses and handing them over to the necessary authorities, some of the tour operators who are involved in trafficking cases were investigated by the appropriate authorities and were punished according to the level of their crime.

Therefore, the commissioner emphasized on the proper flow of information to pilgrims by educating them on the Hajj and umrah activities to ease the Hajj operation for the tour operator. He also spoke on the just concluded world Hajj and umrah summit that was held in the Saudi Arabian kingdom on the progress of the 2018 Hajj.

Alhaji Modibbo, finally informed the tour operators on the recent postings and placement of the newly employed staff, and the changes made in the tour operator unit, and introduced the officers responsible for each unit within the department. He also said that their doors are always open to the tour operators if they have any enquiries or questions concerning their jobs.

The acting president of AHUON, Alhaji Abubakar Salihu Butu, makes an assurance of a common understanding and agreement between the AHUON and NAHCON, assured to give the best of services to the pilgrims of both Umrah and Hajj, and promise to make refunds whenever proper services are not rendered. Appreciates NAHCON on the issuance of license, and on actions taken on the trafficking issues and partnering with (NAPTIP). And assured the Commission that pilgrims will be charged according to the services that the tour operators will render to them.

Finally, Dr. Aliyu Tanko, also made reminders on movements from Nigeria to the Saudi Arabian kingdom and all masha'ir activities, and also enlightens on the usage of facilities, and shunning of VIP treatments to avoid been implicated by anyone.

## INAUGURATION OF MEDICAL TEAM

The Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Mohammad National Hajj Commission of Nigeria, have inaugurated the medical committee for the screening of the medical personnel that will be sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria on the 23rd of May, 2018, For the 2018 Hajj operation.

The medical committee was inaugurated by the commission and chaired by Dr. Kana, the committee is expected to attend to all pilgrims needs during the 2018 Hajj. The screening of all applicants, they should also be gender sensitive, they should be mindful of their policies, repeated goers amongst the committee members should be changed.

The committee are expected to screen experienced medical practitioners, and Muslim practitioners should have a better chance, the Commission assured the committee on giving them full support to discharge their duties diligently, so also Mr. president too have promised to provide them with all their necessary needs that concerns the health issues.

The representative of the committee chairman, Dr. Jibril from the ministry of health, have carefully noted all said will deliver to the chairman of the committee and do the needful immediately.



Dr Ibrahim Kana, representative of Federal Ministry of Health



## NAHCON Fetes Retired Staff

Five retired staff of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) were send forth at the impressive ceremony held at Stonehedge Hotel, Abuja.

The officers who had attained the mandatory 35 years in public service were commended for their meritorious service during their time in service;

Speaking at the event, the commissioner in charge of policy, personnel, management and finance (PPMF) Dr. Yusuf Adebayo Ibrahim extolled the virtues of the officers whom he described as a shining light and whose contribution would be dearly missed.

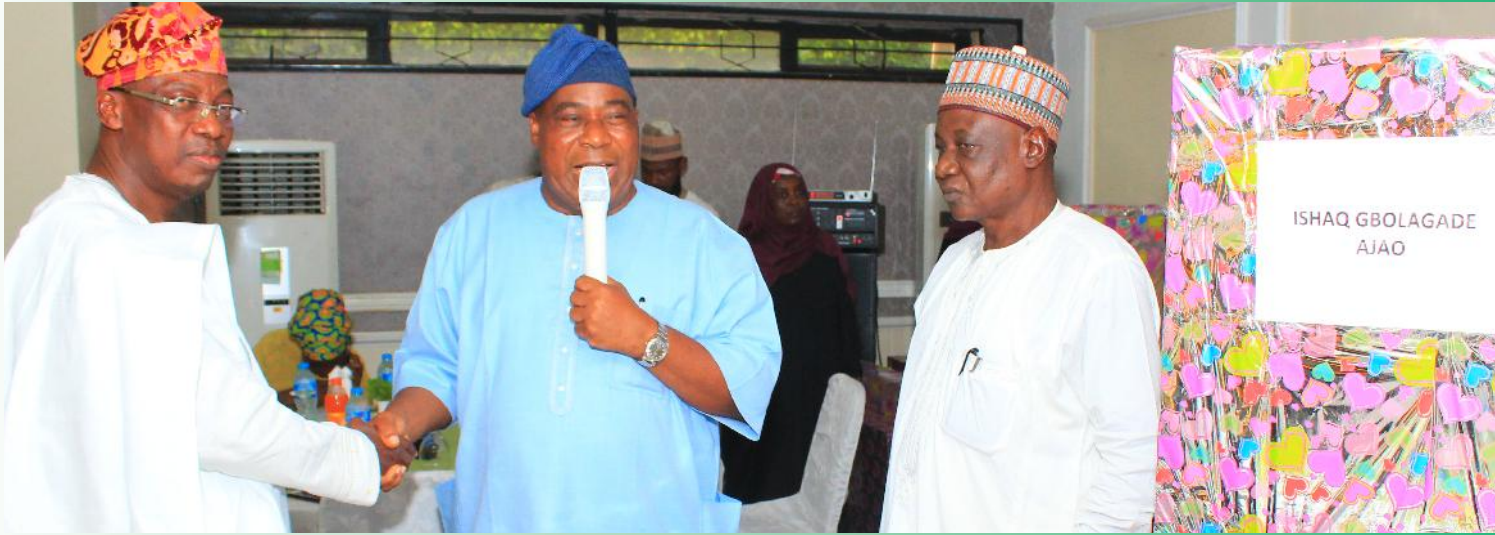
The retired officers included the Director of Finance, Alhaji Gbola-

gade Ajao, Mallam Liman Usman (hHead of Licensing), Alh. Jimoh Olojo, Alh.Uba Mana, Ex Director of Media and Information, Hajia Murjanatu Matawalle of Katsina Zonal office.

Responding on behalf of other retirees, the ex- Director of finance, Alh. Gbolagade Ajao expressed delight for the wonderful reception accorded them by the commission which he said would remain indelible in their hearts.

He pointed out that the reception showed that the commission appreciated their little contribution to the growth and development of the organization.

Gift items were later distributed to the affected staff



Hafsat Daroda of ICT unit receiving award from Galaxy backbone



Usman Shamki handing over Inspectorate and Compliance unit to Dr Aliyu Tanko



Members of the national media committee while being inaugurated by the Chairman/CEO of (NAHCON) Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar

## SUBMISSION OF REPORTS ON MEDIA GUIDELINES COMMITTEE.

The National media team guideline committee set up by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has submitted its report with recommendation to the commission to place emphasis on orientation of media personnel covering Hajj and Umrah operation in Saudi Arabia. Presenting its report to the chairman/CEO of NAHCON, the chairman of the committee Mr Mudashir Bayo Ateyobi said organizing workshop and orientation fully devoted to the manasik as well as civic duties of journalists would go a long way for the media practitioner to discharge their assignments effectively and efficiently. According to him, the training programme would enhance the quality of reportage adding that training and sensitization of media team members on Islamic events and rights during the Hajj and Umrah.

The Chairman/CEO National Hajj Commission of Nigeria, Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Mohammad, expressed appreciation to the committee and promised to implement the recommendations by them, as he said justice have been done to the job assigned to you which is for the promotion and upliftment of Hajj and Islam as a whole. As he encouraged them that there should always be room for improvement, and they have made the task for the members of the media team very easy. The Chairman thanked the committee for their profound effort for making the task easier for the media team. He also gave permission for trainings and accreditations to commence immediately. And he also promised to let the government know about the developments.



Cross section of the members of the National Media team

## NAHCON BOSS CHARGES MEDIA ON ETHICS

The Chairman/CEO of National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad has charged the members of the pen-writing profession to always report truth as ensured in the ethics of the profession.

Barr Abdullahi who was the Chief Host at the launch of news website and award ceremony of the Independent Hajj Reporters in Abuja, challenged journalists to ensure that only the truth is published or posted online as the religion of Islam abhors spread of falsehood in all ramifications. The Chairman praised the Initiative of the convener which he stated would go a long way to bridge the information flow between pilgrims and officials. He said, "This is a wonderful initiative that deserves our supports, encouragement and contribution. It is a veritable platform to access Hajj news and information across the globe."

Barr Abdullahi however admonished the initiator to stick to its original goals for which it was established. "My

advice to the operator is to ensure that they stick to its goal of reporting only Hajj news. Don't get involved in the Hajj economy or politics as that can derail your objective."

The Chairman disclosed that guidelines on the accreditation of journalists that would be covering the Hajj exercise were in the pipeline with a view to streamline the practice of Hajj reporting.

According to him, it is imperative to accredit journalists that will be reporting the Hajj exercise as the football governing body FIFA used to do for sport reporters. If we leave it as an all corner affairs, some reports might pit the country into a diplomatic conflict with our hosts.

The Chairman/CEO, Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammed has declared open the 3 edition of the commission's management meeting at the conference room of the commission. The meeting was attended by the Executive board and top management staff of the commission.



## NAHCON BOSS TASK ADVANCE TEAM ON SERVICE DELIVERY

Members of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) advance Team to Saudi Arabia has been urged to imbibe the spirit of selfless service and commitment to the cause of their assignments.

The Chairman/CEO of the Commission, Barr. Abdullahi Mukhtar Mohammad, MON, FCI expressed this during a farewell meeting with members of the Advance Team at the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja.

He stated that dedication to the service of the pilgrims should be paramount in their mind as it's not the only determinant of their commitment but also the key to the overall success of the whole Hajj exercise. "I want to urge you to diligently execute your assignments in order to ensure the comforts of Nigerian pilgrims." Pointing out, "Your main responsibility is service to the pilgrims first before any other things including your spiritual Hajj rites."

Barr. Abdullahi therefore urged them to fear Allah in the discharge of their duties, noting that they would one day account for their deeds whether omission or commission before Allah on the handling of the guests of Allah.

Members of the Advance Team which comprised of staff of the commission as well as National Medical Team departed the shores of the country aboard on Ethiopian Airline to Saudi Arabia via Addis Ababa.



Chairman/CEO of (NAHCON) Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar delivering his speech during the launch of Independent Hajj Reporters of Nigeria website

**SALIENT ISSUES ON BIOMETRICS**

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria, NAHCON, recognizes the contribution of various corporate organizations in the successful conduct of biometric capturing activities in progress all over the federation.

Therefore firstly, considering Saudi Arabia's benevolence in making the biometric exercise free of charge, State Pilgrims Welfare Boards, SPWBs, are advised to duly sensitize their intending pilgrims not to pay anyone, either for the registration or, before they are allowed into the data capturing premises. As for those who prior to this press release have paid for the registration, they should meet their respective boards/agencies for refund.

Secondly, intending pilgrims are advised to be patient and wait for their turn to be invited for the biometric registration before they present themselves at the centers. This is important to maintain orderliness, prevent stress and to follow the arrangement on ground to accommodate a specific number of people at a time yet; everyone will be captured before end of the exercise.

SPWBs are however encouraged to collaborate farther with the biometrics managers to work out a plan that will hasten the process. Intending pilgrims are also advised to note, for avoidance of speculations and distrust, that there are other biometric capture candidates other than they. They should understand that others legitimately traveling to Saudi Arabia for their different purposes are also being captured. Therefore, the handlers alternate between different categories of biometric applicants, vis-a-vis pilgrims from licensed tour operators, tourism, as well as those applying for work and study visas.

Finally, intending pilgrims that have their international passports with them can go for the biometric exercise wherever they find themselves without having to travel to places where they registered for Hajj.

In conclusion, NAHCON wishes all intending pilgrims a successful Hajj experience.



**Hajj 2018: Saudi Arabia begins to receive pilgrims**

The Hajj 2018 season has begun, with the first flights arriving from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Malaysia on Saturday. King Abdul Aziz International Airport, Jeddah and Prince Mohammed bin Abdul Aziz International Airport, Madinah, are witnessing the start of pilgrimage flights, in which all public and private sectors operating in the airport finished preparations for serving pilgrims from all over the world. Pakistan has started operating Hajj flights and the first Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-7001, carrying 171 pilgrims from Karachi,

landed in Madinah. Pilgrims were offered dates and prayer mats by the Saudi authorities. The passengers were received by Vice President of the General Authority for Civil Aviation Sulaiman bin Hamad Al-Bassam, Director General of King Abdul Aziz International Airport Essam Fouad, and a number of government and airport officials. The Madinah airport also received the first flight carrying pilgrims from Malaysia. pilgrims.

