

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FEDERATION OF MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN NIGERIA (FOMWAN) HELD AT GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE, DAMATURU YOBE STATE, FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011.**

**PREAMBLE**

The Annual National Conference of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) 2011 hosted by FOMWAN Yobe State, took place at Government Girls College Damaturu, Yobe State from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

A total of 751 delegates from 31 States of the federation including the FCT Abuja attended the conference.

The opening ceremony which took place at the August 27<sup>th</sup> stadium Damaturu in Yobe State was chaired by the secretary to the Yobe State government, Engineer Babagoni Machina (MNI) while the conference was declared open by the Executive Governor of Yobe State Alhaji Ibrahim Geidam who was ably represented by the Deputy Governor, Engineer Abubakar B. Aliyu.

The wife of the Adamawa State Governor, Nana Asma'u Nyako; Emir of Fika HRH Alhaji M.A. Ibn Idris, Emir of Damaturu HRH Alhaji Shehu Hashimibn El-Kareem and HRH Alhaji Umarulbn Wariwa Bauwa, Emir of Potuskum. Other dignitaries at the occasion were representatives of the Minister of Women Affairs, members of the Executive and legislative councils of Yobe State and Wife of the former Governor of Yobe State Hajia M. Buka.

The Theme of the conference was *“Education as a Tool for National Development”*. The following sub-themes were extensively discussed:

- a. The Almajiri syndrome: tackling the issues at stake.
- b. Human resource development: A strive towards achieving Education for all.
- c. Harnessing local resources for effective educational delivery.
- d. Education: “Citadel for women empowerment”.
- e. The rise of Islamiya schools in Nigeria, (A review).

The following observations were made at the end of the conference:

1. FOMWAN Observes with concern the general decadence in the educational system in Nigerian inspite of the MDG target of 2015.
2. The conference observes with dismay the persistent increase in the population of Almajiries, especially in the Northern part of Nigeria.
3. FOMWAN expresses concern on the lack of home based educational polices in addition to their inconsistence changes.
4. FOMWAN is disturbed with the low access to education by Women despite all efforts by the Government and Civil Society Organizations.
5. The conference notes the non involvement and nonchalant attitude of stake holders such as parent, mallams, community , traditional and religious leaders in developing policies affecting the Almajiris.
6. FOMWAN observes that, our developmental framework including aspect of the constitution are not people oriented.

Sequel to the observations raised above, the conference resolved as follows:

1. There is need to develop a holistic periodic review mechanism of our educational polices.
2. There is urgent need to rehabilitate the Almajiris with the involvement all relevant stakeholders such as government, parent and communities.
3. It is imperative to take cognizance of our cultural values in the review of our educational system in Nigeria.
4. The conference re-echoes that the education of women is a right as well as a duty in Islam.
5. There is the need for continued advocacy, sensitization and mobilization of stake holders such as, parents, mallams and community leaders to develop positive attitude to education of children.
6. There is the need for people oriented reform programs in the country in education, housing, transportation and governance.

In conclusion, FOMWAN shall continue to pray for stable and peaceful co-existence in the country in order to have meaningful and sustainable national development.

**COMMUNQUE COMMITTEE:**

- |                         |                 |              |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Dr. Sumaya F. Hamza  | Plateau State   | Chairperson. |
| 2. Nafsat L. Musa       | Plateau State   | Member.      |
| 3. Zainab M.Abdullahi   | Borno State     | Member.      |
| 4. Khadija Gbogboade    | Ogun State      | Member.      |
| 5. Zainab T. Abdulmumin | Nassarawa State | Member.      |
| 6. Rakiya M. Ahmed      | Imo State       | Member.      |

- |                         |              |            |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 7. Hajiya S. Sulaiman   | Rivers State | Member.    |
| 8. Alhaja Sariyu Olaoye | Osun State   | Secretary. |