

## **Pre conference Press Briefing held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen of the press. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this very important occasion, heralding the 26<sup>th</sup> FOMWAN Annual Conference in Damaturu, the Yobe State capital

The Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria is an umbrella body of all Muslim Women's associations in Nigeria. Today, FOMWAN is represented in 35 states and FCT with over 600 local government branches and over 2000 affiliated groups.

Over the years FOMWAN has continued to grow from strength to strength establishing, developing and maturing numerous women organisations in the country either directly or indirectly.

FOMWAN seeks to empower women to enable them impact positively on their society. In order to achieve this, FOMWAN is actively involved in various trainings and advocacy programs, sometimes collaborating with government at all levels, donor agencies and other Non Governmental Organizations.

As part of its training programmes, FOMWAN has established numerous schools across the country where quite a number of young boys and girls are been provided Nursery, primary and secondary education. The adult literacy, Islamiyyah and vocational schools also provide impressive opportunities for women and youths. I am happy to say that FOMWAN schools can compete favourably with all schools across the country.

FOMWAN has four hospitals, orphanages, and skill acquisition centres spread across the country.

FOMWAN's annual conferences since inception, seeks to draw the attention of the government of the day to issues of great importance Thus, the theme for this year's conference, "Education; A Tool for National Development" is intended to look at the role of education in development, challenges facing education in the country and give possible solutions.

It is our duty as citizens to contribute our quota to the development of our dear country. Through the annual conferences FOMWAN, brings to light current issues which need attention to the public. Seasoned lecturers are invited to deliver papers. This year the keynote address will be delivered by Professor Tijjani El-Miskin while other topics and lecturers which include the following:

1. The Almajiri Syndrome: -"Tackling the Issues at Stake", Religious aspect, Cultural, Parents: way forward to be delivered by Prof. Musa Alabi
2. Human Resource Development, A stride Towards Achieving the Goals of Education for all by Dr. Ibrahim Umara
3. Harnessing Local Resources for Effective Educational Delivery by Dr. (Mrs) Maryam Bukar Abba
4. Education "Citadel for Women Empowerment by Dr. Muhammad Babangida
- 5 The rise of Islamiya Schools in Nigeria a (Review).Dr. M. ZajiBunu.

Discussants include:

1. Mal. Muhammad Gishiwa
2. Dr.SalisuShehu
3. Dr.MaimunaWaziri
4. Dr.Mairo Ahmed Amshi.
5. Alhaji Bukar M. Jumbam.

The opening ceremony of this year's conference Insha Allah will be graced by the wife of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo, a lady who has a passion for education as the special guest of honour. State Governors, First ladies of different states, Ministers, members of both the national and state houses of Assembly and a host of other dignitaries across the country are expected to grace this occasion.

Finally, FOMWAN's greatest challenge still remains how to encourage Muslim women organisations across the country, who are yet to join FOMWAN to realise and accept the fact that FOMWAN as an organisation is not established to swallow other women

groups but to complement. FOMWAN will continue to seek to work with the different women groups and encourage them to work with each other