



PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AMONG INTERFAITH YOUTH IN KANO STATE

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INTRODUCTION

Peace is a state of tranquility, quiet and harmony absence of violence or a state free of oppressive and unpleasant thoughts and emotions. Peace also stands for harmony in personal relations etc. Co-existence is the state of two or more things existing together, usually in a temporal or special sense, with or without mutual interaction.

Interfaith has to do with the involvement of members of different religions. For instance, the coming together of Christians and Muslims. Fagge Local Government is one of the local governments with the highest tax collections in Kano State particularly the Sabon Gari axis which is predominantly occupied non-indigenes. Like any other area or people, Fagge Local Government especially Sabon Gari area, is noted for its unique way of life and cultural heritage too. Most residents in those areas are business people and farmers etc.

Statement of the Problem

Due to the sensitive location of Sabon Gari which is occupied by non-indigenes from different geo-political zones of Nigeria, it is most times the target of reprisal attacks in times of religious conflicts or crisis as the case may be. Many individuals from other areas occupied by non-indigenes always find solace in Sabon Gari when crises erupt their areas to avoid being casualties. Though the people in Sabon Gari community have been living in harmony with one another over the years, as our political system is bias and uses religion to cover up of their failure of the leaders, these leaders take advantage of religion to cause conflicts among the two major religions in the area.

This gave rise to the need to close the gap between the youths of two faiths (Muslim & Christianity) so as not to them tool for political upheavals in the community in Sabon Gari area of Fagge Local Government.



PROJECTS

In order to avoid distrust among youths in Kano State, and in particular Sabon Gari Community, a project on peaceful co-existence among the interfaith youth in Kano State was organized on 26th December 2021, a Public Holiday to encourage attendance by the youths. The program was held at CAN complex secretariat in Sabon Gari community with over 50 persons in attendance. The participants were drawn from the various religious groups in Sabon Gari community and some cleric from both Muslim and Christian faiths. The program focused on understanding of the message peace and peaceful co-existence among the interfaith groups with scriptural references from all faiths. The project had much impact as many of the participants testified that certain things were unknown to them but that they had been and enlightened. They also requested that greater program that can accommodate more participants be organized. They also promised to extend knowledge gained to their friends and family who were not privileged to be part of the project. The project was sponsored by the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for peace (COFP).

Sustainability of Projects

In order to ensure sustainability of the project plans should be put together to partner with donors who preach the message of peace. These include non-governmental agencies, non-governmental organization and philanthropist.

Needs Assessment

The immediate and long term needs of the people are mostly shelters, foods, security, education, skills acquisitions, modern farming mechanism or technologies, pesticides, centers for peace development etc.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Peace is the bedrock of every society and should be maintained using all avenues and resources. Peace should be preached on a regular basis to ensure growth, development and to better our society. The following recommendations are made:

- Provision of skill and peace centers in Sabon Gari community.
- Empowerment of the youth in order to have a better community for all.
- There should be support from international donors, non-governmental organization to ensure continuity of the projects.



