



National Christian Elders Forum

Motto: Watch & Pray that we may be one ...

Headquarters: National Christian Centre, CAN Headquarters, Central Area, Garki, Abuja Email: admin@csmnigeria.org

PROTEST TO NEC

PROTEST BY NCEF: DERELICTION OF DUTY AND NEGLECT OF OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES BY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) OF CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CAN)

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” – Ecc. 8: 11

CONDOLENCE

The National Christian Elders Forum (NCEF) wishes to express its condolence, first and foremost, to the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and, to all Christians in Nigeria, on the unfortunate death of Rev. Dr. Musa Asake, the General Secretary of CAN in the early hours of Friday, May 11, 2018. The loss of Dr. Asake, coming shortly after the death of Bishop Joseph Bagobiri, is another painful blow on the already battered and bruised Nigerian Church. Nationally, Christians are mourning the loss of tens of thousands of Christians killed by Islamist insurgents on Jihad, the destruction of thousands of Christian places of worship and the abduction of Christian school girls. We are still in anguish over the many girls from Chibok remaining in captivity as well as Leah Sharibu who, also, is yet to be released by the Islamist abductors.

May God have mercy on the Nigerian Church and grant us grace to be united to confront and defeat implacable and ungodly foes.

A CALL FOR PRAYERS

The death of Rev. Dr. Musa Asake should be taken as reason for a serious call for prayers in the Nigerian Church. It is written, **“we are not ignorant of the devices of the Satan”**. (2 Cor. 2: 11) Both Bishop Bagobiri and Dr. Asake are from Southern Kaduna and both died in the early hours of the morning within a few months of each other. What happened during the night that our Church leaders died in the early hours of the morning?

Like Bishop Bagobiri, Dr. Asake stood for the Church and resisted the devil to the best of his ability. All the frustration of Satan against the Church came directly to Dr. Asake. All the insults, intimidations, derision, scorn, abuses, were heaped on the man. Like Christ,

he never replied back to defend himself. He took all the attacks until the pain in his heart was more than the pain in his body. On Wednesday, May 9, 2018, Dr. Asake told a group of CAN Officials, **“you people have to let me go. The pain in my body is nothing compared with the pain in my heart”**. He died on 11th May, 2018.

Christians seek not yet repose. The Church should engage this issue in serious prayer. Fortunately, the 21-Day Prayer and Fasting initiated by the NCEF devoted an entire week to breaking the atmosphere of witchcraft and sorcery in Nigeria. These prayers should continue.

“The wise shall understand”. Daniel 12: 10

THE LOSS OF A STABILIZING FACTOR

When Bishop Bagobiri died, the NCEF issued a Tribute titled “A VOICE IS GONE”. Now, we say concerning Rev. Dr. Musa Asake, A STABILIZING FACTOR in the Nigerian Church is gone. This is the reason that the Christian Elders are going to set forth in this **PROTEST LETTER** to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of CAN, the need for urgent corrective measures in the Church (particularly in CAN), to preserve the legacy of Rev. Dr. Asake. We remember some crucial interventions of Dr. Asake as follows:

1. Rev. Dr. Musa Asake singlehandedly withstood and prevented the Islamist Government in Nigeria from imposing its stooge as the President of CAN in 2016. If not for Dr. Asake, the Islamists would have been directly controlling the Church by now through their proxy.
2. He refused to be dragged into the corruption associated with the purchase of vehicles for CAN in Cotonou and left a legacy that probity and accountability should be respected in the Church.
3. It was, through his intervention, that the 21-Day Prayers and Fasting for National Repentance, which was held from April 23 – May 13, 2018, received CAN endorsement. There was an active attempt to disclaim and scuttle the prayer program.
4. It was also through his intervention that the meeting of NCEF with Church leaders to appraise situation in the country and marshal an action plan for the Church was held. Against all intimidation, Dr. Asake stood his ground after obtaining due approval for the program.

Based on point No. 4 above, the NCEF is saddened but compelled to make certain clarifications now that Dr. Asake has gone home to be with the Lord. While he was alive, Dr. Asake refused to defend himself on whether the meeting was approved or not. This became a contentious issue amongst leaders in CAN and the NCEF is persuaded that the records should immediately be set straight.

- a. The Chairman of NCEF discussed with Dr. Asake that the Christian Elders wanted to meet with Church Leaders to prepare Christians for 2019 and other related issues that

affected Christianity. This is the normal practice with the NCEF since Dr. Asake represented CAN on the Forum. The Chairman of NCEF requested that Dr. Asake should approach the President of CAN for permission.

b. **Dr. Asake discussed this request with the President of CAN and he (the President) gave approval** and told him to inform the Church leaders. Based on his consent, but aware of the penchant of the current President of CAN to deny whatever he says, depending on the situation, Dr. Asake wrote a letter which started with “I am directed by the President of CAN, Rev. Dr. Olasupo Ayokunle to invite you, as a Church Leader ...” **It would be confirmed by anyone familiar with Administration that before any Secretary can write like this, he is very sure that his boss gave him the approval.** Despite giving the approval, the President of CAN objected to being presented as the person inviting the Church Leaders. This was the initial objection and he instructed that Dr. Asake should withdraw the letter and rewrite that it is the NCEF that is summoning the meeting not himself. Please note that Dr. Ayokunle did not withdraw his approval, but he only insisted that another letter be written statute that it was NCEF who issued the invitation.

c. On the basis of the new instruction, Dr. Asake issued a clarification on 5th May, 2018 and circulated same to Church Leaders that the meeting is an initiative of NCEF not CAN and Church Leaders are at liberty either to attend or refrain from attending. It should be pointed out that even at this point also, Dr. Ayokunle did not demand that the meeting should be cancelled.

d. On 6th May, 2018, despite the clarification by Dr. Asake, the President of CAN issued a disclaimer disowning the meeting and dissociating himself from it. He went as far as instructing, in writing, that no Church leader should attend and followed it up by directing in writing, that the National Christian Centre should be locked to prevent the NCEF from gaining access into the premises to hold the meeting.

e. It was at this point that Dr. Asake stood his ground and told the NCEF to proceed with the meeting because the President of CAN had earlier given approval and gave no reason why the meeting should not hold.

The National Christian Elders Forum (NCEF) wishes to clarify to all Nigerian Christians that Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo Ayokunle gave approval for the meeting of the NCEF with Church Leaders but reneged without giving any reason. He simply denied that he ever gave the approval. Even the denial is based on very questionable grounds as follows:

- In his denial of 6th May, 2018, Dr. Ayokunle stated: **“The meeting does not have the blessing of National Executive of CAN”**. The National Executive of CAN is made up of five (5) members as follows: The President, the Vice President, the General Secretary, the Assistant General Secretary and the National Treasurer. NCEF would like to know when Dr. Ayokunle convened the meeting of the National Executive and they agreed that the meeting convened by the NCEF did not have their blessing. When the NCEF made the request, it went through the General Secretary to the President. Why should the President now seek to invoke “National Executive”? Or, are we to conclude that Dr. Ayokunle has now

constituted himself into a one-man Executive for CAN? The statement of Dr. Ayokunle, quoted above, is false.

- When Dr. Ayokunle issued the second instruction that the National Christian Centre should be locked up against NCEF, he also stated: “... **the National Executive Committee of Christian Association of Nigeria and I did not approve the meeting the National Christian Elders Forum want to hold with church leaders in Nigeria, ...**” Again, NCEF would like to know when Dr. Ayokunle convened a meeting of NEC and obtained NEC resolution that the meeting should not hold and the National Christian Center should be locked against NCEF and Church leaders. This again, is a false statement.

NCEF has asked this question before and would like to ask again. On whose side is Rev. Dr. Ayokunle? Is he on the side of the Nigerian Church or the Islamists? Who is writing the script that Dr. Ayokunle is acting in CAN? It should be clear to all discerning persons by now, that CAN and Dr. Ayokunle are moving in opposite direction.

MEANING OF STEALTH JIHAD IN AMERICA: APPLICABLE TO NIGERIA

Terror attacks involving bombings and shootings are not the sum total of terrorist aspirations, but are just one component of a larger initiative. The goal of that initiative is the imposition of jihadists' ideology over the world-over their fellow Muslims and non-Muslims alike. --- Stealth Jihad, like conventional Jihad, is intended to advance the subjugation of non-Muslims and not doing it solely by violent means. The common distinction between “radical” and “moderate” Muslims has generally been made between those who are engaged in blowing things up or are plotting to do so, and those who are not. However, the distinction ought to be placed elsewhere: between those Muslims who believe that Islamic law is the perfect system for human society and who are working by whatever means to impose that Islamic law, and those Muslims who support Western pluralistic governments and seek to live with non-Muslims as equals, under secular rule, on an indefinite basis. --- Those who are working to advance the hegemony of Islamic law do so in innumerable ways, including by introducing it, bit by bit, into American society and demanding that Americans accommodate it; by shouting down any and all who dare to discuss the supremacist impulse within traditional and mainstream Islam; and by engaging in efforts to transform and control Western economies. --- The Stealth Jihadists have already made significant inroads into American life. They are well-funded, well-organized, and persistent. They will not be pacified by negotiations, compromises, or concessions; they cannot be bought off. And every day, they are advancing their agenda-while most Americans don't even know they exist.

In his controversial book *America Alone*, Mark Steyn suggests that Europe is falling to the Islamic Jihad and that only America will be left as a bulwark against Islamization. But it is unclear how much of a bulwark we will be if we allow our freedoms and way of life to be eroded in the name of “getting along”. That is exactly what is happening today. The stealth jihadists are working energetically to wear away the very fabric of America culture. It is happening right now, under our noses.” [**Stealth Jihad by Robert Spencer pgs. 4 – 7**]

Any Nigerian above the age of 70, educated and of sound mind knows that stealth jihad has done more harm to Nigerian polity and social life than Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen.

IS NEC PLAYING THE OSTRICH WITH THE DESTINY OF CHRISTIANITY?

Right from the inception of the Administration of Rev. Dr. Ayokunle, it was clear that CAN should prepare for stormy waters. However, events that unfolded as time went by, staggered the imagination of the NCEF. The current CAN administration has been filled with crisis, scandals, contention, and outright disloyalty to the Body of Christ. The only conclusion that the NCEF has come to is that prominent officials of CAN have lent their support to the **stealth Jihad** being used against the Body of Christ and non-Islamists in Nigeria.

The NCEF has had to intervene in mediatory, advisory and reconciliatory capacities on many occasions. Every attempt to bring about reconciliation has been frustrated by Dr. Ayokunle. The current President of CAN is simply implacable. Some of the interventions of NCEF to restore normalcy in the Body of Christ can be summarized as follows:

- a. Mediation and Reconciliation meeting in February 2017. The NCEF produced a 52-page report on issues causing contention and acrimony in CAN. The report identified Dr. Ayokunle as the cause of all the contention in CAN.
- b. Intervention in CAN when DSS arrested Laity Trustees of CAN Trust Fund. (It was agreed on 15th Feb. 2017 with the President of CAN that he would sign the protest letter to DSS. However, during the meeting of NEC on 28th Feb. 2017, Dr. Ayokunle unceremoniously reneged on the agreement with NCEF and refused to sign the letter raising doubts about who he is truly working for. He was heard later insisting that NEC told him not to sign (which is not true.)
- c. The General Zamani Lekwot led Committee to investigate and resolve issues of fraud and abuse of office in CAN in which the President of CAN was indicted. This was in July 2017. The General Zamani Lekwot Committee recommended that NEC should set up a Committee to investigate the issues. The President in Council (PIC) decided to constitute an illegal and unconstitutional “expanded PIC Committee” which included non-members of the PIC in violation of Article 9 Para III(a) of the Constitution of CAN. It is clear that the only objective of the Committee was to sweep the theft of CAN funds under the carpet and absolve all the criminals. **NCEF insists that this issue has not been investigated as wrongfully claimed by Dr. Ayokunle.**
- d. The Hon. Justice James Ogebe (Supreme Court Justice retired) led Committee of 18th December 2017 to advise NEC on how to resolve the lingering issues of contention and acrimony in CAN.



*This is the vehicle that was purportedly purchased for N11 million in Cotonou. The market price in Nigeria is around N5 million. Dr. Ayokunle is yet to explain what happened to N6 million. In all, N43 million was spent to purchase four second hand vehicles in Cotonou. **This vehicle is too big to be swept under the carpet.** (This vehicle is parked at the National Christian Centre, Abuja)*

IS NEC GUILTY OF NEGLIGENCE?

NCEF is dismayed that despite all the plethora of evidence and confirmation of issues that have gone wrong in CAN, NEC has failed to take any action. NEC has adopted an ostrich attitude and pretended that nothing has gone wrong. Every misdeed and misconduct by Rev. Dr. Ayokunle has been swept under the carpet by NEC. **Are we to conclude that Leaders of CAN are practicing corrupted version of “esprit de corps”?**

The few honest and truthful Christian Leaders, led by the Vice President of CAN, Prof. Joseph Otubu, have been ostracized. Prof. Otubu, the Vice President of CAN, no longer goes to the National Christian Center.

The Constitution of CAN Article 15 (b) states:

“The National Executive Committee of the Association shall be the Association’s Executive Body ...”

Whenever issues go wrong in CAN, NEC is expected to step in promptly and exercise oversight functions. Unfortunately, the current NEC is treating fraud, abuse of privileges, incompetence and negligence of duties in CAN with complacency thereby, permitting lawlessness and impunity to reign in the apex institution of the Body of Christ. At other times and seasons, such negligence could NOT have been tolerated talk less of now that the Church is under intensive attacks of Jihad and the survival of Christianity in the country is tottering on the edge of the precipice. CAN requires leadership with high moral authority to command the respect of the Church and the enemies of God.

Without mincing words in its letter dated 28th February, 2018, to the Head of CCN Bloc, Rev. Fubara Manuel, who impudently and un-righteously asked Christian Elders to

apologize for exposing the current President of CAN, NCEF described Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo Ayokunle as: **“clearly morally challenged, unspiritual, contentious, divisive, arrogant and obstinate”**. Despite all the information at the disposal of NEC, the Body of Christ is managed like a cult in which an erring member is patted on the back.

The following outstanding issues that NEC has swept under the carpet should be brought out. The carpet must be cleaned and the room sanitized. If the Nigerian Church is to overcome external enemies, it must put its house in order. Christians cannot tolerate a leadership that is corrupt and mediocre. Currently, those supposed to cover us have uncovered us. The Nigerian Church is spiritually naked and NEC must fulfill its oversight role and provide spiritual cover for the Body of Christ by ensuring that CAN is clean and pure. The following issues must be re-visited.

1. The purported investigation of the “expanded PIC Committee” into the purchase of four second hand vehicles in Cotonou at N43 million is illegal, unconstitutional and therefore, null and void. **When NEC was going to investigate, the Chairman of the PIC “Committee”, Rev. Dr. Felix Omobude walked out of NEC thereby stalling proceedings. This is wrong and unethical. A servant of Christ should not frustrate righteousness.** One of the vehicles purchased for the Vice President Of CAN by the cronies of Dr. Ayokunle, Rev. Dr. Onifade and the National Treasurer of CAN, Bishop Anyiador, was priced at N11 million. It was later discovered that the same vehicle cost around N5 million in Abuja. Who stole N6 million from the coffers of CAN? How much was spent on the remaining three vehicles? The Vice President, Prof. Otubu, has insisted on proper investigation and he chained the vehicle down in the premises of the National Christian Center. NCEF insists that this issue cannot be swept under the carpet. The photograph of the vehicle is reflected in this protest letter.
2. **In violation of Section 19 of CAN Constitution**, Dr. Ayokunle recruited an Auditor and approved the payment of N350, 000 for him. Only NEC has authority to appoint an Auditor according to the Constitution of CAN. The Auditor presented a financial report for CAN that did not include the N43 million spent on vehicles in Cotonou! Where did N43 million disappear to? Who is behind this cover up? NCEF insists that this issue cannot be swept under the carpet.
3. On 10th November, 2018, a delegation of CAN led by the President of CAN, Rev. Dr. Ayokunle met with President Buhari and, after the visit, collected “transportation” money. While informed sources claim it was N40 million, CAN officials insist it was N25 million and **it was “shared” by Rev. Israel Akanji who is not an official of National Secretariat of CAN.** NCEF insists on proper investigation of how the money was shared and how much each person received. In addition, NCEF insists on proper sanction of every Christian leader that took part in sharing money from President Buhari. It is unethical and very insensitive for Christian leaders to collect money from the man every Christian is aware has compromised security to the detriment of the Church. Is there no decency anymore in the Body of Christ? As the head of the delegation, NCEF holds Dr. Ayokunle responsible for this corruption.

4. NEC is yet to properly investigate how N28 million the former President of CAN provided before he left office to minister to persecuted Christians was spent.
5. The various infractions on the Constitution of CAN, as listed by the Vice President of CAN have to be investigated.
6. The Report of the Mediating Committee, headed by Supreme Court Justice, Hon. Justice James Ogebe has to be examined by NEC and considered based on merit. It is inconceivable that the Report of a Committee headed by a Justice of the Supreme Court would be swept under the carpet by NEC.
7. The attempt to use the Assistant General Secretary as scapegoat for the questionable transactions in Cotonou has to be properly investigated and all those involved must be disciplined. (It was confirmed that everyone involved in the transaction received kick-back, except Rev. Dr. Musa Asake.) It is ungodly to attempt roping the Assistant General Secretary into a crime to create a false impression of integrity.
8. The letter to DSS which Rev. Dr. Ayokunle refused to sign on 28th February, 2017 after he had agreed he would do so on 15th February, 2017 has to be investigated. Why he, as the President of CAN and as the Chairman of the CAN Trust Fund, should refuse to append his signature to the letter? Second, who gave the authority to edit the letter and remove substantial sections of it before the Legal Adviser eventually signed and sent a diluted document to the DSS?
9. NEC has to demand why the Strategy Document of CAN, which was adopted by NEC in July 2015 is not receiving any attention from Dr. Ayokunle. When the NCEF met with him on 2nd August, 2016, it was agreed that an Implementation Committee be formed by the President of CAN. The NCEF was to nominate three people while the rest would be nominated by the President of CAN. The NCEF nominated its three members immediately. Till today, after many reminders, nothing has been heard about the Strategy Document. If CAN does not execute a coordinated plan, how can it win a war?
10. NEC is yet to investigate the Tribal shift in appointments in the National Offices and in the Secretariat. This issue was raised but it has not been addressed.
11. Who approved the N5 million that Dr. Ayokunle paid to Dr. Jeremiah Gado for out of court settlement?
12. What has been the decision of NEC on the parallel Secretariat that is manned by Rev. Dr. Onifade, the self-appointed Senior Special Adviser to Dr. Ayokunle? This was a major vexation for Rev. Dr. Musa Asake in his lifetime. NEC has to investigate this matter and make its finding public.

NEC IS THE HOPE OF CHRISTIANITY

NCEF is aware that Jihadists employ both **conventional Jihad** (Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen and complicit security forces) and **stealth Jihad** (Jihad by subterfuge, deceit and Taqiyya) against the Church. In Turkey, it was conventional Jihad that was used to destroy the Church. In Egypt, the Jihadists used stealth Jihad. In Nigeria, both **conventional and stealth Jihad** are working against the Church.

If NEC does not fulfill its oversight functions, lawlessness and impunity shall reign supreme in the Body of Christ and the Church will collapse from within. It is because NEC did not act as and when due that Rev. Dr. Ayokunle can unilaterally and in a disgraceful manner engage in gross abuse of office and cancel a meeting that was meant to unite and harmonize the Church to overcome its enemies. Earlier, he had attempted to cancel the 21 Days Prayer and Fasting program for national repentance if not for the insistence of Rev. Dr. Asake.

The Bible states:

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” – Ecc. 8: 11

It is clear that NEC is not fulfilling its oversight function. Consequently, the Nigerian Church is sinking. The issue is no longer Dr. Ayokunle. NEC has to prove that it is on the side of the Church and not on the side of the Islamists who are determined to destroy Christianity.

In view of the foregoing, the NCEF requests as follows that:

1. NEC should convene an Emergency Meeting immediately to consider these issues and set up the process for the investigation of the President of CAN.
2. Immediate suspension of Rev. Dr. Ayokunle as the President of CAN by NEC until all these allegations have been investigated and he is cleared of all wrong doings.
3. NEC should ensure that the investigation involves other officials of CAN who are indicted of wrong doing and misconduct.
4. NEC should investigate the position of Dr. Onifade, the so-called personal assistant of Dr. Ayokunle and the activities he carries out in CAN with a view to restraining him from carrying out official functions reserved for accredited officials of CAN.

The NCEF shall make its position public to all Nigerian Christians and alert them that if Christianity is destroyed in Nigeria or Christians continue to get slaughtered, the present NEC of CAN should be held responsible. As Christian Elders, we resolve to do everything possible to preserve Christianity in Nigeria for coming generations. However, if we are unable to achieve this, let it be placed on record that we did everything possible within our power but that the current leaders of CAN chose to destroy Christianity for pecuniary gains.

Thank you.

Solomon Asemota, SAN
Chairman, NCEF
May 14, 2018
Benin City

Solomon Asemota, SAN (Chairman), Prof. Joseph Otubu, Gen. Joshua Dogonyaro (rtd), Archbishop Magnus Atilade, Dr. (Mrs) Kate Okpareke, Dr. Ayo Abifarin, Gen. Zamani Lekwot (rtd), Elder Moses Ihonde, Elder Nat Okoro, Gen. T. Y. Danjuma, Elder Matthew Owojaiye, Justice Kalajine Anigbogu (rtd), Elder Shyngle Wigwe, DIG P. L. Dabup, Sir John W. Bagu, Dr. Saleh Hussaini, Elder Mike Orobator, Justice James Ogebe, JSC (rtd), Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife, Chief Debo Omotosho, Dame Priscilla Kuye, Dr. S. D. Gani, Mrs. Osaretin Demuren, Prof. Yussuf Turaki, Dr. Musa Asake, Pastor Bosun Emmanuel (Secretary)