



## 1.0 HISTORY

The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria popularly referred to as **MSSN** was established on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1954 and was officially launched at the Ansaruddeen Alakoro Mosque School Hall, Lagos on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1954 amidst prayer, joy and exhortation. The antecedents of this noble struggle could be traced to the effort of the triumvirate of Tajudeen Adisa Aromoshodu, Sumola Akin Luguda and Abdurrahman Alade Sahid of the then Methodist Boys High School, Lagos.

The idea of setting up an organization for Muslim students was born out of Muslims' desires to safeguard their religious fundamentals, culture and identity from the twin effects of forceful evangelization and alluring Christian activities.

The history of colonial education in Nigeria had a remarkably coincidental relationship with Christian evangelism. As such, Muslim students at the initial stage had to study under the tutelage of Christian missionary society schools. The prevalent situation at that time necessitated Muslims to study under a very hostile environment where some of those students were reported to have changed their religion. Others who were steadfast and were willing to pursue their academic activities were forced to change their names. It was this type of forceful evangelization coupled with alluring activities that made the afore-mentioned trio to come together and call for the establishment of an organization whose principal aim was to



serve as a rallying point and a platform for organized and concerted Da'awa activities in our educational institutions and a source for religious fulfillment for Muslim students.

Within a year of the Society's formation, its branches spread to cover more schools in Lagos, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ilesha, Ijebu-Ode, and Ikorodu. Two years later, the Society's presence covered virtually all government schools in the North.

At the first conference of the society held in 1955, which was declared opened by Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos, Brother Abdullateef Adegbite and Brother A.R.A Sahid were elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> National President and Secretary General respectively. Also at the conference, the late Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Ahmadu Bello; Alhaji A.R.A. Smith of Ilesha; Dr. S.O. Biobaku; Alhaji Inuwa Wada, then Minister of Works; Mrs H.M. Shodeinde, M.B.E. and Alhaji Hummu Alaga of Ibadan were appointed patrons and patronesses of the society.

The contributions of the MSSN to national development are enormous and these include, among other things, serving as a potent tool of national unity and cohesion. Apart from its membership that cuts across all the geographical and ethnic barriers, the MSSN promotes national integration and building bridges through its programmes and activities that emphasize the brotherhood of Islam, in particular, and mankind in general. Furthermore, the society has continued to produce generations



of outstanding leaders in all spheres of national life, whilst defining and encouraging adherence to certain minimum standards of national ethos. The Society remains a pressure group working for the advancement of the interests of Muslims and Islam. Indeed, past members of the MSSN occupy leadership of virtually all leading Islamic organisations in Nigeria today.

Another notable achievement of the Society is the creation of confidence in the vast majority of Muslim students who openly and proudly proclaim their identities as Muslims. It was also the first Muslim organization in the country to spearhead the use of Hijab by educated female Muslims.

The Society has been able to consistently produce Muslim students who are a synthesis of scholarship and morality. In virtually all spheres of life in the country, the Society has contributed valuable, reliable and progressive personalities, be it in governance, education sector, and other fields of endeavour. The Society has largely been responsible for setting of the agenda of both the campuses and the larger environment. In a country rent by divisive ethnic sentiments, the Society has built robust brotherhood that has remained unprofaned and unassailable by the virus of ethnic bigotry. The friendship generated by the Society is real and deep. The Society has groomed a crop of leadership that is not just Spartan but renders altruistic and selfless service. The Society



has always made valuable contributions in the areas of good governance, justice, and in fighting corruption, oppression and immorality. It has also responded to issues of national and international interest. The Society either nurtured or provided manpower for virtually all the Muslim organizations that exist in the country today.

Moreover, MSSN was instrumental to the formation of many international organizations such as the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (IIFSO) in Jeddah, the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) in the USA, The Muslim Students' Association of Canada and America as well as the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY).

The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN) is registered with the Cooperate affairs commission of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

## **2.0 BASIS**

The Society believes firmly in the Glorious Qur'an and the Sunnah of the noble Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as its cardinal basis and guide.

It also recognizes the rules and principles of the SHARIAH as binding on all its members. It further believes and accepts the saying that ***'the acquisition of knowledge is a lifelong process from the cradle to the grave and thus every Muslim is essentially a student for life'***. *Ad infinitum*, the



Society is fully committed to holding fast to the cord of unity and brotherhood which Allah has stretched to us.

The Society's Motto is ***“There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad (SAW) is His messenger”***

### **3.0 MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Society is open to every Muslim who believes in its vision and objectives. Currently, MSSN has millions of members in all the 36 states of the federation and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.

### **4.0 AIMS**

The Society's aims and objectives are:

- a) **To work towards the development of the Ummah that is guided by the SHARIAH**
- b) **To bring all Muslims in closer union and inculcate in them the true Islamic spirit of brotherhood and absolute faith in ALLAH as the only basis for the achievement of peace among mankind**
- c) **To encourage the study of the Glorious Qur'an as a Holy Book and Arabic language as the lingua franca of the Islamic World and ensure proper understanding of Islam among its members**



- d) To promote the general welfare of Muslims and safeguard their fundamental rights in any community
- e) To constitute a strong force for the propagation and strengthening of Islam in Nigeria and throughout the world
- f) To champion the cause of the oppressed in any community
- g) To embark on deliberate capacity building with a view to meeting the manpower needs of the Ummah and the larger society
- h) To participate actively in the establishment and promotion of good governance and responsible leadership at various levels of the larger society
- i) To lay a sound foundation for financial self sufficiency to carry out its programmes and also promote the development of an economically vibrant Ummah that is self-reliant

## **5.0 VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT**

The new vision of MSSN is:

*“To establish an Islamic Ummah governed by the principles and rules of the Shariah within the next fifty years”*



While the Mission Statement is:

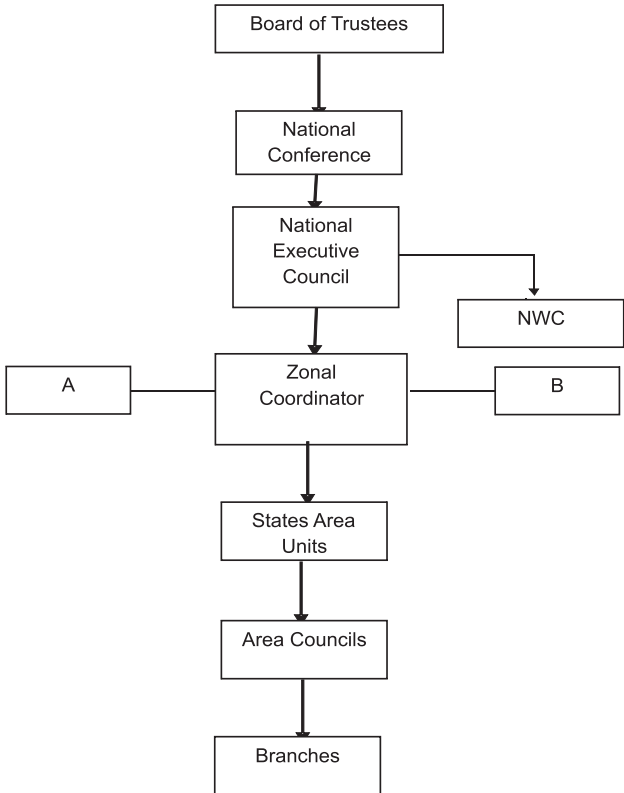
*“The MSSN will work relentlessly towards the establishment of a society that fosters all-round human development. To achieve this, MSSN will continuously strive towards strengthening the Ummah educationally, economically, spiritually and politically through a wide spectrum of activities in schools and the larger society in partnership with likeminded organizations. To succeed, MSSN must ensure that its members are God fearing, knowledgeable, united and with superior moral values”*

## **6.0 MSSN STRUCTURE**

The Society has a formalized pyramidal structure. At the top is the Board of Trustees (BOT). This is followed by National Executive Council and the National Working Committee. For administrative purpose, the country is zoned into two: the A and B zones (Northern and Southern zones) and the Area Units (comprising the state chapters). Then comes the Area Councils that coordinate the central, higher institution and secondary school branches drawn from two or more local governments that form the base of the Society.



## 7.0 CURRENT STRUCTURE OF MSSN







## **8.0 PROGRAMMES/ACTIVITIES**

The Society at the national level has six main programmes viz National Conference, National Islamic Vacation Course (IVC), National Higher Institution Convention of Muslim Students (NHICOMS), National Leadership Training Programme (LTP), National Quiz Competition and National Convention of Muslim Students in Secondary Schools (NACOMSISS). It also organizes special retreats to brain-storm on issues of special concern.

### **8.1 NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The National Conference is held annually to receive and deliberate on reports of National Officers. It is the supreme governing body of MSSN. The Conference is rotated between the two zones. Zones, Area Units, Councils, and Branches have their respective annual conferences.

### **8.2 NATIONAL ISLAMIC VACATION COURSE (IVC)**

IVC is a seven-day programme which usually comes in December of every year in the two zones between 22<sup>nd</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>. The programme usually attracts students from primary schools up to university. The main activities in the camp, among other things, include: lecture, ta'alim, classroom instruction, Da'awah outreach as well as visitations. In classroom students are exposed to lessons with regards to Qur'an, Hadith, Seera, Current Affairs, Mu'amalat and Akhlaq.

The main objective of IVC is to complement the aims upon which the Society was formed and at the same time expose Muslim students to the challenges of intellectual stagnation cum moral stupor and equally inculcate the culture of academic excellence.



### **8.3 NATIONAL HIGHER INSTITUTION CONVENTION OF MUSLIM STUDENTS (NHICOMS)**

Because of the significant leadership roles they play in MSSN, all the higher institution branches gather once in a year at a convention aimed at finding solutions to identified problems of the organisation, the larger Muslim community, and the society at large. Papers are presented and discussed with roadmaps for implementation defined. The Convention also provides for interaction among the higher institution branches and members.

### **8.4 LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE (LTC)**

To demonstrate its commitment to the development of quality leadership both for its own internal needs and the society at large, MSSN organizes a yearly Leadership Development Programme for its members. This has tremendously helped to create generations of leaders, who after their student lives, have continued to provide leadership in different spheres of national life.

### **8.5 NATIONAL QUIZ COMPETITION**

The programme is organized annually in order to stimulate the academic activities of our promising young Muslim students at the secondary school level.

### **8.6 NATIONAL CONVENTION OF MUSLIM STUDENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS (NACOMSISS)**

As may be understood from the title, NACOMSISS is a programme that draws its participants from secondary schools and subjects them



to rigorous Islamic training with a view to instilling in them the spirit of Islamic Universal brotherhood, sacrifice, selflessness and an unsatiable desire for excellence in academics and indeed all spheres of life. Seasoned scholars and intellectuals are normally the resource persons for this “***Catch them young***” programme.

## **8.7 JIHAD / DA'WAH WEEK**

All Area Units, Councils and branches have week-long annual programmes to commemorate the founding of the organisation, do a stock-taking and engage in activities and programmes that will directly impact on the immediate environment, such as propagation and enlightenment, social and humanitarian work, etc.

## **9.0 RELATIONSHIP/COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Believing in the principle of synergy, MSSN collaborates with other Islamic organizations, both local and international, that share its vision and objectives. It also collaborates with governmental and nongovernmental organizations towards achieving its goals.

