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SCHOLARS WARN AGAINST UNQUALIFIED QUR'ANIC TRANSLATION, CALL FOR INCLUSIVITY AS KASU HOSTS PRE-RAMADAN LECTURE



Islamic scholars and religious leaders have cautioned against the growing trend of unqualified individuals translating and interpreting the Holy Qur'an, warning that misinterpretation could fuel division and undermine peaceful coexistence in society.

The concerns were raised during a Pre-Ramadan Lecture organized by Kaduna State University (KASU), through its Centre for Qur'anic and Arabic Studies, in collaboration with the Bureau of Interfaith, Kaduna State.

Delivering the lead paper, Prof. Muhammad Kabir Yunus of Bayero University, Kano (BUK) stressed that speaking on religious matters without authentic grounding in the Qur'an and Hadith poses serious risks to societal harmony. He emphasized that adherence to verified Islamic sources and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) remains the surest path to peace and stability. He urged scholars to exercise caution, sincerity, and scholarly discipline in religious teachings, especially during Ramadan when public engagement with

religious texts increases.

Similarly, a paper authored by Prof. Imam Isa Abdulkareem and presented by Prof. Abdullahi Muhammad, Head of Department of Islamic Studies, KASU, examined the principles and methodologies of Qur'anic translation. The presentation identified three recognized approaches:

Interpretation of the Qur'an by the Qur'an itself,

Interpretation through authentic narrations (riwayat), and

Interpretation based on sound scholarly reasoning in line with established principles.

The paper stressed that Qur'anic translation must follow strict scholarly protocols and should only be undertaken by qualified individuals with deep knowledge of Arabic language, Islamic jurisprudence, and exegetical sciences.

In their goodwill messages, prominent scholars including Sheikh Rabiu Ashiru (Fitayanul Islam), Sheikh Isma'il Zakariya (Jos), and Prof. Ali Ibrahim Kyari Dan Fodio (Research Centre, Zazzau Emirate) echoed similar concerns. They underscored the need for competence, accuracy, and responsibility in Qur'anic interpretation, particularly in an era of social media where misinformation spreads rapidly. They also urged contemporary scholars to build upon the legacy of earlier translators while maintaining established standards to preserve unity within the Muslim community.

Representing the Honourable Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, the Director-General of the Bureau of Interfaith, Hon. Barr. Tahir Umar Tahir, called for expanded opportunities for persons living with disabilities, particularly the deaf and blind to study and memorize the Qur'an. He noted that proper and accessible translation of the Qur'an strengthens tolerance, unity, and peaceful coexistence across faith communities.

These resolutions were captured in a communiqué presented by Dr. Tahir Baba, Director of Islamic Matters, Kaduna State. Participants called for stronger collaboration between the University, government, and religious leaders to safeguard the integrity of Qur'anic teachings. The communiqué emphasized adherence to established guidelines in translation, avoidance of divisive interpretations, promotion of peace, and sincerity of purpose in religious scholarship.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor of Kaduna State University, Prof. Abdullahi I. Musa, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Bashir Muhammad Ali, described the workshop as a platform for knowledge sharing anchored on truth and sincerity. He stated that deepening understanding of the Qur'an and its translation is essential for promoting peace, noting that without peace, sustainable

development and coexistence would remain elusive.

The Director of the Centre for Qur'anic and Arabic Studies, Dr. Yahaya Umar Abdullahi, disclosed that the Centre, established in 2025, is dedicated to advancing Qur'anic and Arabic scholarship in Kaduna State and beyond. He announced that academic activities would commence after Ramadan and highlighted available diploma and certificate programmes in Qur'anic recitation, translation, and 'Ulum al-Qur'an. He added that the Centre would cater to women and individuals seeking to improve their recitation skills.

The Emir of Zazzau, His Royal Highness Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli CFR, represented by Hakimin Gabaswa Dangkaladiman Zazzau, Alhaji Shitu Ibrahim Dikko, praised the initiative and urged religious leaders to avoid actions capable of dividing the community. He expressed optimism that the Centre would contribute meaningfully to societal development.

The Registrar of KASU, Samira Umar Balarabe Esq., delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating scholars, the Emirate Council, the Bureau of Interfaith, staff, students, and participants for their contributions to the successful event.

Participants described the workshop as timely, particularly as Ramadan approaches, noting that it provided a vital platform for reinforcing scholarly discipline, peaceful coexistence, and responsible religious engagement.

Kaduna State University reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence, moral values, and community engagement through strategic partnerships and knowledge-driven initiatives.



