

ISLAMIC VALUES AS CATALYSTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT KASU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



By: Aliyu Jama're

Amid growing socio-economic, political, and security challenges confronting contemporary societies, scholars and stakeholders have increasingly identified Islamic values as vital instruments for promoting sustainable development and societal transformation. This perspective formed the central focus of the 2nd International Conference organised by the Department of Islamic Studies at Kaduna State University on May 5, 2026.

The conference, themed “The Relevance of Islamic Values in Achieving Sustainable Development Through Alleviating Contemporary Issues (Academia, Security, Socio-Economic and Political)”, brought together academics, researchers, religious scholars, and policy stakeholders to examine the role of Islamic principles in addressing pressing contemporary challenges.

In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of Kaduna State University, Prof. Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Muhammad Bashir Ali, described the conference as both timely and significant. He observed that prevailing national and global realities require sustained intellectual engagement and value-driven approaches capable of providing lasting solutions to societal problems. He welcomed participants from various institutions and expressed confidence that the deliberations would generate meaningful and impactful outcomes.

Speaking during the event, the Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Prof. Abdullahi Muhammad, described the conference as an important academic platform designed to foster knowledge exchange, scholarly interaction, and intellectual development. According to him, the gathering represents a continuation of critical academic discourse aimed at addressing the contemporary issues highlighted in the conference theme. He further appreciated participants, colleagues, and guests for their contributions toward the successful organisation of the event.



The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Ibrahim Muhammad of Bayero University Kano, who commended Kaduna State University for convening what he described as a highly relevant and intellectually stimulating conference. He noted that the conference theme demonstrates a profound understanding of contemporary societal realities and the urgent need for solutions grounded in ethical and moral principles.



Prof. Ibrahim emphasised that Islam promotes peace and security through the principles of justice, fairness, and equity, stressing that these values are fundamental to societal stability and sustainable development. He explained that Islam strongly condemns hate speech and upholds equality before the law, particularly in the administration of justice. According to him, sustainable development cannot be achieved in the absence of justice, as peace, social harmony, and progress are intrinsically linked to fairness and accountability.

Addressing the issue of extremism, the keynote speaker clarified that Islam does not advocate religious extremism in any form. He attributed extremist tendencies to misconceptions and the misinterpretation of Islamic teachings, particularly regarding the concept of Jihad. He maintained that many acts associated with extremism stem from personal and misguided interpretations rather than the true teachings of Islam.

On the issue of corruption, Prof. Ibrahim strongly condemned all forms of unethical conduct, noting that Islam unequivocally prohibits bribery and corruption in both public and private spheres. He observed that corruption manifests in different forms and is often influenced by individual choices and actions. He further called on religious leaders and clerics to intensify public enlightenment efforts aimed at educating followers on the distinction between legitimate gifts and corrupt practices such as bribery, as many individuals remain unaware of these ethical boundaries.

The conference provided a robust platform for scholarly engagement and critical discussions on the relevance of Islamic values in addressing contemporary challenges across academic, security, socio-economic, and political domains. Throughout the deliberations, participants reaffirmed the importance of integrating moral values, justice, accountability, and ethical conduct into governance and societal systems as essential prerequisites for achieving sustainable development in the modern world.

