

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

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The Kukah Centre has continued to impact the lives of communities, designing policy recommendations in areas of conflict mitigation, rehabilitation and reintegration of those associated with violent extremism as well as facilitating and supporting peace elections and transition in Nigeria.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT



For the past one year, The Kukah Centre has worked assiduously to improve the capacity of her staff in project delivery, accountability and financial management as well as monitoring and evaluation. The Centre also created a pool of implementing partners and a healthy environment for ideas to thrive. As a citizens' centered Policy Think Tank and Research Institute, The Kukah Centre has continued to impact the lives of communities, designing policy recommendations in areas of conflict mitigation, rehabilitation and reintegration of those associated with violent extremism as well as facilitating and supporting peace elections and transition in Nigeria.

Throughout 2019, the key projects implemented by The Kukah Centre include: The Caritas Germany Project for training local communities on countering violent extremism. The project was implemented in Wauru-Jebbe, Yola, Adamawa state. Again, the Centre completed a project with Tony Blair Institute for Global on inter-faith dialogue and peacebuilding in communities across northern Nigeria. The Centre also escalated the Digital Classroom project to the 19 northern states. The Kukah Centre, being the Secretariat of the National Peace Committee coordinated the

signing of the Peace Accords between different political parties and their candidates in the 2019 general elections. The Accord was to support peaceful elections and non-violent transition. Additionally, the Centre facilitated peace conferences across the country in support of the 2019 general elections. The Centre also worked very closely with Plan International to complete the project on Kaduna State Youth Peace Academy, aimed at training young people in selected communities in Kaduna state to become peace ambassadors.

Furthermore, in 2019, The Kukah Centre supported the commemoration of the Day of the African Child (DAC) held on Monday June 17, 2019 at the Arewa House, Kaduna. It also part-sponsored the Yahab Initiative Project that aimed to meet the basic health needs of 500 community members in the RUGA village on the outskirts of Abuja. The Centre equally supported the Mandela Washington Foundation Fellows conference on for innovative public leadership in Nigeria. The conference centered on repositioning Nigeria's public service leadership. The Centre participated in some conferences such as the screening of the #Sex4Grades BBC Documentary and Discussion Sessions with



The Kukah Centre supported the commemoration of the Day of the African Child (DAC) held on Monday June 17, 2019 at the Arewa House, Kaduna. She also part-sponsored the Yahab Initiative Project that aimed to meet the basic health needs of 500 community members in the RUGA village on the outskirts of Abuja.



Kiki Mordi, the author of the documentary; and the conference on DDDR in Nigeria organized by the Army Resource Centre. The Centre signed an important MoU with the Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Management of the Taraba State University to conduct research and generate data that will help in designing policy recommendations for peace and social cohesion in Nigeria.

At the international level, the Centre organized a meeting between the Guinean Dialogue and Contact Group with the National Peace Committee in sharing strategies on peace and stability in Africa. It also attended Commonwealth conference on designing peace architectures for African Nations. The Kukah Centre was also part of the programme to deliver community-based engagements and approaches to peace building at the Tony Blair Institutes for Global Change. It participated in the Insight Forum in Kenya on amplifying the voices of communities and marginalized groups in peace building.

It is with pleasure therefore that the Centre wishes to express her deep sense of gratitude to all her partners and friends. The Centre would like to thank her local partners such as the Northern Governors' Forum, Women Interfaith Council (WIC), Centre for Population and Development (CENPODEV), Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, American University of Nigeria, Son of Hope Foundation, Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Management, Taraba State University and Catholic Television of Nigeria. The Centre is equally grateful to Conciliation Resources, UK, Caritas Germany, Plan International, United States Agency for International Development, International Republican Institute, IRI, the European Union Delegation, the UK Department for International Development, McArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Tony Blair Institute (TBI) for Global Change, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), the Swiss Embassy and all stakeholders and community members that collaborated with the Centre.

The Centre remains grateful to all the committee members of the NPC and profoundly to General Abubakar Abdulsalam (rtd) GCFR, whose leadership cannot be overemphasized. The Centre wishes also to express her appreciations to all those she has worked with on the field or at administrative level for their commitment and cooperation. And to the evergreen visionary Founder of The Kukah Centre, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, the Centre cannot be grateful enough for this wonderful platform you have created for the good of humanity. The Centre advances to the new year 2020 with great enthusiasm and preparedness.



Rev. Fr. (Dr.)

**Atta Barkindo**

Director, The Kukah Centre &  
Head of Secretariat, NPC, Abuja



## Mission

Believing that the pursuit of the Common Good of all citizens should be the basis for the existence of government, and that citizen participation in their own affairs should be at the heart of governance, we shall, through this Centre, aspire to set up a mediating institution for achieving this.

We shall seek to conceptualize, identify, design, clarify and articulate proactive mechanisms that will increase policy proficiency, effectiveness and efficiency, and public participation and input for the attainment of the Common Good and the pursuit of the ideals of good governance.

## Vision

To aspire towards the attainment of a more humane, democratic and free society where citizens can live in real and true freedom, unencumbered by any structures of exclusion on the basis of ethnic, religious, social status, economic or gender differences.

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## FAST FACTS

### BISHOP KUKAH

One of Nigeria's foremost public intellectuals, **Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah** has delivered numerous lectures and written over seven books and scores of articles on various aspects of governance, faith, and public policy in Nigeria. He is well-regarded across the country, and has been called "the conscience of the nation" and "Nigeria's spiritual guide," among other praise.

Born in Kaduna State in 1952, Bishop Kukah's background and experience have motivated his work to promote stronger Nigerian national unity through interfaith dialogue and promotion of economic and social justice for all citizens.

**Bishop Kukah has deep experience in mediation and conflict resolution and has been a long-standing champion of peace and nation-building in Nigeria. These are the values that lie at the core of the work of the Kukah Centre.**



Throughout 2019, Bishop Kukah has been engaged in public speaking, policy debates and engagements as well as travels to engage with international audience on the social and political condition of Nigeria.

### THE KUKAH CENTRE

The Centre was established by Bishop Kukah to enhance and encourage greater citizen engagement in Nigeria. The Kukah Centre is a non-profit organization that promotes an active and engaged citizenry by providing support for inclusive dialogue and advocacy initiatives.

The Centre treats political leadership as a collaborative exercise and aims to promote governance structures which incorporate multiple levels of engagement, including individuals, households, small businesses, the private sector, NGOs and government.

**Interfaith dialogue is at the core of the Centre's work and involves actively promoting conversations among Nigeria's faith communities, as well as between leaders in faith and public policy.**



**The centre has been transformed into a National-Regional Think Tank that formulates policies on issues of peace, social cohesion, development, political participation, diversity, leadership training and knowledge promotion.**



## FAST FACTS

### Programmes Areas of the Kukah Centre

Throughout the year under review, the Centre treats political leadership as a collaborative exercise and aims to promote governance structures which incorporate multiple levels of engagement, including individuals, households, small businesses, the private sector, NGOs and government.

Activities of the Centre falls into four major categories:



#### GOOD GOVERNANCE

Programmes seek to build an informed and active electorate that recognizes the value of a system organized to ensure equality of opportunity and social justice.



#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Programmes aims to mentor the next generation of Nigerian leaders and create accountability in current leaders from all works of Nigerian life to drive good economic and social policies and instil trust in communities



#### MEMORY PRESERVATION, ADVOCACY & KNOWLEDGE PROMOTION

Programme strives to raise awareness on critical issues of both historical and contemporary national importance with a view to promote active citizen engagement.



#### INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Interfaith Dialogue remains core at the Centre's work and involves actively promoting conversation among Nigeria's faith communities as well as between leaders in faith and public policy.



The Centre has succeeded in positioning itself as a global Research and Policy Think. It intends to increase visibility in the area of research, policy recommendation and engagement.





# Part Two

PARTNERSHIPS IN 2019

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OUR RESULTS FOR 2019

# Partnerships in 2019



To effectively carry out these activities and meet its goals, the Centre has, throughout 2018, adopted a partnership approach that engages multiple stakeholders in its work and allows the Centre to maintain a lean and flexible core staff. The types of partners engaged include public engagement partners, advocacy partners, faith-based partners, programmatic partners, and funding partners. Some of the partners engaged are

- KAICIID, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
- UK Department for International Development (DfID)
- Northern Governors' Forum
- Catholic Bishops Conference
- Conciliation Resources, UK
- Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria
- Plan International

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None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.

*Mother Teresa*





- Women Interfaith Council (WIC)
- Centre for Population and Development (CENPODEV)
- McArthur, Ford Foundation
- American University of Nigeria
- Son of Hope Foundation
- Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Management, Taraba State University

- European Union
- United States Agency for International Development
- International Republican Institute, IRI
- Catholic Television of Nigeria

## programme partners AND ACTIVITIES

**TONY BLAIR INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE:** This year, 2019, The Kukah Centre in partnership with Tony Blair Institute completed the project on training religious leaders in Nigeria. The project came to an end with an international conference titled "Insight Forum" held in Nairobi, Kenya from 18th – 21 November, 2019.

**Development Initiative West Africa, DIWA:** The Development Initiative of West Africa (DIWA) addresses critical long-term issues affecting vulnerable communities in the areas of access to education, health and nutrition, water, capacity- building, good governance, emergency relief, other social services, and peaceful co-existence in multi- religious and multicultural environment. DIWA takes pride in its grassroots consultative approach to problem solving, vast indigenous partner network, and careful monitoring of projects. At the moment, The Kukah Centre and DIWA implemented the pilot phase of the Caritas project on building community resilience and training religious leaders on countering violent extremism in Wauru Jabbe, Adamawa state.

**CARITAS GERMANY:** with the support of Caritas Germany, the Kukah Centre implemented the pilot phase of the Leaders for Peace in Nigeria (L-PiN) Programme in Wauru Jabbe, Adamawa State. The programme is designed on the premise that religious leaders have high influence on social cohesion within communities, and as such, need to be equipped with critical thinking and other relevant skills needed to counter harmful narratives that instigate and drive communal conflict. The Programme will therefore consist of inter and intra-religious training sessions for religious leaders to equip them with knowledge and skills that will increase their capacity to address religion-based extremist tendencies and offer counter-narratives. It will also consist of continuous interactive engagements between implementing partners, religious leaders and community members.

**Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Management, Taraba State University:** The Kukah Centre and the Taraba State University Institute for Peace Studies co-hosted a one day peace conference on ending the conflict in Taraba state.





### **King Abdullah International Centre for Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue, KAICIID:**

The King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, an Inter-governmental Organisation established in Vienna, Austria, official address at Schottenring 21, A-1010 Vienna, Austria. Over a seven-year-long negotiation and development process, KAICIID's mandate and structure were designed to foster dialogue among people of different faiths and cultures that bridges animosities, reduces fear and instil mutual respect. Intercultural and interreligious dialogue helps build communities' resistance against prejudice, strengthens social cohesion, supports conflict prevention and transformation and can serve to preserve peace. As an international organization, KAICIID supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The Centre also combats all forms of discrimination based on culture, religion or belief. We implement programmes to overcome stereotypes in a long-term process that leads to a culture of dialogue that enables greater understanding of people of other cultures and followers of other religions. Currently, The Kukah Centre and KAICIID are in partnership to facilitate the formation of Regional Peace Committees in the six geo-political regions to contribute to peaceful elections and transition. They have also agreed to set up early warning systems in

**PROFUTURO:** This is also an ongoing project in partnership with the Catholic Bishops Conference, the Northern Governors Forum and ProFuturo, a Spanish NGO. The project is a program of education that provides access to digital form of teaching and educating children and young people. It is intended to keep kids off the streets, and refocus their minds on the acquisition of skills through technology.

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL:** Kaduna State Youth Peace Academy - The project is designed to train and improve the peace building abilities of 120 young leaders from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds in Nigeria's Kaduna State to lead initiatives that build peace and tolerance in their communities. It supports six cohorts of these leaders to implement initiatives that they design, enabling them to drive a locally rooted process that builds inter-communal tolerance. The project was completed this year with a documentary.




# OUR RESULTS FOR 2019

During the 2019 programme period, The Kukah Center, through its interventions, promoted good governance and inclusive democratic engagement. It also facilitated leadership development for women and young people, supporting community-led approaches to peace building and conflict resolution, particularly in areas and territories marginalized and neglected by government responses to security issues. Fundamentally, the center's interventions also bridged the gap between research, policy formulation and implementation. The center used its convening power to engage with policy makers at the highest level of governance on policy issues that matter to ordinary Nigerians.

Consequently, in 2019, the Center has, through its interventions, been able to reach more than 100,000 people (both offline and online) in the areas of research and policy formulation, citizen engagement, advocacy of public policy on social inclusion, leadership training and contribution to good governance.

The highlights of the Center's 2019 activities are presented under each programme area in the following section of this report




### GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Good governance requires a fully functioning participatory democracy.
- Requires an informed and active electorate that recognizes the value of system organized to ensure equality of opportunity and social justice.




### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Accountable leadership drives economic and social policies and instills trust in the community.
- Requires well equipped country leaders that benefit from sustained training opportunities.



### MEMORY PRESERVATION, ADVOCACY & KNOWLEDGE PROMOTION

- Knowledge promotion underlies the importance of political participation that is not driven by ethnic or religious considerations.
- Raising awareness of key issues promotes a more engaged electorate.



### INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

- Interfaith dialogue deepens the debate on good governance and helps establish a higher governance bar based on shared goals and needs.
- Interfaith dialogue offers a unique opportunity to convene leaders together to jointly tackle issues based on shared national aspirations.
- Interfaith dialogue allows diverse communities to come together, in the face of huge divides, and successfully coexist.



# *Our Results for* **2019**





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An aspect of good governance is linked to diversity management. The government must learn to manage Nigeria's diversity for peace to reign.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

Throughout 2019, The Kukah Centre facilitated activities that support good governance and promoted citizen engagement in the affairs of their own government. Most of the activities were designed to promote peaceful elections, citizen right to exercise their franchise in choosing who governs them; the right of women to participate as equals in politics and the need for young people to be activists on

good governance. For example, as Secretariat of the National Peace Committee, the Centre facilitated the signing of the Peace Accord between candidates during presidential or governorship elections, to conduct peaceful campaigns and accept the outcome of the elections once it is adjudged to be free, fair and credible, and to resort to the courts in cases of disagreement.

Kukah Centre's vision for supporting good governance in 2019 is to contribute to Nigeria's effort in consolidating the gains of democracy. The Centre envisions a Nigeria founded on peace, justice and equality, and that can only be achieved through good governance – a government that treats its citizens as equal and remains committed to the rule of law and constitutionalism.



## High-level Strategic Planning Meeting

The Kukah Centre hosted a high-level strategic planning meeting to support the activities of the National Peace Committee in facilitating peaceful elections in Nigeria. The meeting was attended by His Lordship, Most Rev Dr Mathew Hassan Kukah; the Foreign Policy Adviser to President Bill Clinton, Mr Amitabh Desai and his team; the Head of the Commonwealth Secretariat Electoral Support Section, Mr Martin Kasirye; Political Officer of

the Kofi Annan Foundation, Mr Sebastian Brack, Senior Political Adviser to the Swiss Embassy, Mr Pascal Holliger; and delegations from The Presidency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Society





## Signing of Peace Accords

The Kukah Centre facilitated the signing of Peace Accords to support peace elections and non-violent transition in Nigeria. Two Peace Accords were signed. The first was to commit all political actors to conduct peaceful rallies and campaigns devoid of violence, incitement and hate speech. The second Peace Accord was to commit key presidential candidates to accept the outcome of the vote as long as it is adjudged to be free, fair and credible. The 1st 2019 National Peace Accord was signed on 11 December, 2018 at the International Conference Centre Abuja, with President Muhammadu Buhari and about 65 other presidential candidates. However, the main opposition leader, His Excellency, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, the Presidential Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, was conspicuously absent. Although he came to sign on December 12, 2018, at the NPC Secretariat, the concerns raised by his absence were palpable.

This made the case for the 2nd signature Accord more important than before. The 2nd Peace Accord generated more excitement in bounds and importance. Both local and international agencies came to accept that the Accord was necessary. The 2nd Signing took place 13th February, 2019 at the International Conference Centre. At this event, the President, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, the key opposition candidate, His Excellency, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar and about 55 other presidential candidates from the 91 registered political party were in attendance. The international dignitaries, political parties, the diplomatic community, civil society groups and many other people were present during the signing. Gifts were presented to Her Excellency, Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary General, and Alan Doss, the President of the Kofi Anan Foundation for their support during the event.





## State Based Interventions

The outcome of the presidential elections, with varying degrees of violence, and abuse of the process meant that the Peace Committee had to intervene in various states to forestall any outbreak of violence. The Kukah Centre in partnership with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), coordinated the intervention of the Peace Committee in various states. Most of the interventions were carried out in January 2019 in states such as Kano, Benue, Kwara and Kaduna. However, most of the states were still considered as vulnerable and prone to electoral violence. Subsequently, before the governorship and state houses of assembly elections fixed for March 9, 2019, the

Committee Secretariat held strategic meetings with International Republican Institute and National Democratic Institute to plan for the state-based interventions. The first meeting was held from February 28 - March 2, 2019 to design the framework of intervention, agree on the outcomes to be achieved and decide on the target audience in the various states. On the basis of this meeting, successful peace advocacy was carried out in Adamawa, Gombe, Kano, Imo and Anambra states. The success greatly limited the outcome of violence. Other interventions were carried out in Kogi and Bayelsa November 2019 state elections.





## Kogi and Bayelsa State Intervention

The outcome of the presidential elections, with varying degrees of violence, and abuse of the process meant that the Peace Committee had to intervene in various states to forestall any outbreak of violence. The need to carry out state-based interventions both before and during the governorship elections, was also informed by the evidence-based analysis and conflict mapping conducted by The Kukah Centre. In both Bayelsa and Kogi states, reports indicated that it was highly likely that violence would emerge in the November 2019 governorship elections in the two states. It was also likely that the elections could be plagued with irregularities, violence, voter intimidation, vandalism and other forms of electoral misconduct. Equally important was the perception of high levels of voter apathy, trust deficit in the electoral system, as well as low voter turn-out. These challenges made the intervention of the National Peace Committee necessary and significant.

The Kukah Centre, Secretariat of the National Peace Committee, in partnership with the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, and the International Republican Institute, IRI, held a strategic meeting on the best possible ways of supporting peaceful elections in Kogi and Bayelsa states. In Kogi State, the NPC, in partnership with the Search for Common Ground and INEC, organized a one-day peace conference on November 7 2019 while in Bayelsa state, the NPC organized the conference in partnership with the Niger Delta Dialogue Centre on November 11, 2019. The conference involved all the political parties, the governorship candidates, INEC, security agencies, traditional rulers, women and youth groups including the United National Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). Both events culminated in the signing of a Peace Accord by all political parties participating in the elections.





## High level Consultation on Promoting Social Cohesion in Benue State

The National Peace Committee envisages a Nigeria that is built on Peace, Justice and Equality; where every citizen has the right to democratic participation and can live freely in any part of the country, contributing to its growth, development and stability thus, the need for this High-Level Consultation on Promoting

Social Cohesion in Benue State. We are glad to have the United Nations and Independent Electoral Commission as partners in this vehicle of Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Social Cohesion.





## High Level Consultation in Kaduna State

This event held on the 3rd and 4th of October 2019 at Hotel 17 Kaduna. The Deputy Director of The Kukah Centre Mr. Duke Anoemuah was present, while the event was organized by the

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) in collaboration with the National Peace Committee and the Kaduna State Peace Commission.



## President Sirleaf visits The Kukah Centre

The Kukah Centre played host to the Former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who is heading the ECOWAS Observer Mission for the upcoming General Elections. She was received by The Founder, Most Rev Dr Matthew Hassan Kukah, the Director Rev. Fr. Atta Barkindo, PhD and other members of staff.

The Kukah Centre is giving technical support to the National Peace Committee as its secretariat.





## The Kukah Centre meets Guinean National Group for Dialogue and Peace

On the 12th of November, 2019, The Kukah Centre organized an engagement session between the National Peace Committee (NPC) and the Guinean National Group for Dialogue and Peace, led by Dr. Saran Daraba Kaba, the former Guinean Minister for Science, Research and Education. The meeting, facilitated by The Kukah Centre, Secretariat of the Peace Committee, was aimed at providing support to the Guinean Dialogue and Peace Group in

facilitating peaceful and non-violent elections in Guinea. The meeting demonstrated the recognition given to the efforts of the National Peace Committee Members in supporting the growth of democracy in Nigeria. It also showed the growing regional role the Committee is willing to undertake for peace and stability in Africa.





## TKC Roundtable

Since Nigeria's return to democratic rule in 1999, every period preceding general elections is characterised by intense apprehension and a certain level of uncertainty as to Nigeria's future. Political party campaigns are not only characterised by acerbic and vitriolic personal attacks freely deployed, ethnic and religious rhetoric also rise to a level Nigeria had never witnessed.

In certain cases, the situation remains the same, if not worse, after elections are concluded. There accumulated grievances that result in violent attacks, increased personal insults and

continuous incitement to violence. Conducting research, documenting data and designing policy strategies for managing post-election issues are always necessary. But importantly, crafting policy recommendation on the electoral processes that led to the grievances and violence is always needed. It is as a result of this that after the 2019 general elections, the Kukah Centre organized a Roundtable on the theme: Finding A Place for Nigeria's Elections Spillovers, to find ways of managing post-election issues, as well as, reforming electoral processes to ensure peaceful elections and transition.



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Nigeria is at a point where the office holder is ready to die to protect his office but not for the nation that has given him or her that office

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The development and progress of any nation is tied to intellectual curiosity, development capacity, competence and commitment of its leadership. Additionally, the loyalty of leadership to the ideals of progress, growth and unity is non-negotiable. However, these values do not drop from heaven. They are taught, learnt, imbibed and cultivated over time. The Kukah Centre believes that for Nigeria's

progress, a deliberate strategy for leadership development of its young population is needed. Through some of its interventions in 2019, the Centre implemented initiatives for the training and capacity building of young people in leadership and education.

Leadership is a skill. The vision of the Kukah Centre is to ensure that these skills is taught to future leaders who will steer the ship of the state. It is important that young people learn the skills of negotiations, consensus building, sacrifice, and the willingness to die, not for an office, but for the nation.





## Plan International and Training of Peace Ambassadors in Kaduna State

Community Engagement with KSYPA Rigasa and Sabon Gari Zaria Cohort Officials in Kaduna state on their success stories recorded in their last activity (centered on peace building and religious tolerance) and their plan for the next activity.





## A 5-day training for Coaches/Champions of the ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project in Abuja.

12 Northern states, over 123,000 primary school pupils and more than 5,000 teachers are to benefit from the initial phase of the project, implemented by The Kukah Centre. Founder of The Kukah Centre and Bishop of Sokoto Catholic Diocese, Matthew H

Kukah, as well as the Director of the Centre, Fr. Atta Barkindo, addressed participants at the 5-Day training on the ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project. Official launch of the project will come up in the weeks ahead.







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healing the memory of victims is an important component in peace-building

## MEMORY PRESERVATION, ADVOCACY & KNOWLEDGE PROMOTION

In the last several years, Nigeria has experienced series of conflicts which have ravaged its population and further complicated its already precarious development indicators. The activities of Boko Haram insurgents in the Northeast have pushed the country towards the verge of a failed state. Virulent conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, random

kidnapping of citizens by criminal gangs across most states of the country. However, victims of these atrocities die in numbers without names and ties. Responses to the conflict marginalize and downplay the trauma and memories of what victims have lived through. This particular intervention of The Kukah Centre.

Development approach should not be the sole determinant of government and non-governmental responses to conflict. There has to be a humanitarian responses founded on forgiveness, love and reconciliation. 2019 projects at the Kukah Centre was dedicated to supporting communities heal memories of the conflicts they have lived through. The aim was to prepare communities for forgiveness, reconciliation and eventual reintegration and resettlement for victims.



## TKC and Unveiling Africa Roundtable: Colonial Legacies and Social Exclusions in Nigerian Secondary Schools

The Kukah Centre and Unveiling Africa organized a one-day roundtable that provided an account of the Nigerian secondary school system from the perspective of students. Despite the fact that Nigerian youths account for 63% of the country's population and are the major 'consumers' of the education system, their voices are often excluded from education reform conversations. Disturbingly, the mainstream education discourse often negates issues relating to colonial legacies, social injustices, minority rights and indigenous knowledge systems. As a result, the Nigerian secondary education system struggles to be inclusive,

culturally relevant and responsive to the diverse needs of students and the society at large. The roundtable was able to put a spotlight on the diverse ways the education system exclude students and perpetuate societal injustices. Beyond raising awareness of these issues, the deliberations at the roundtable led to the development of strategic policy recommendations for advocacy and capacity building. The focal data at the roundtable drew from Dr. Chizoba Imoka-Ubochioma's (University of Toronto, Canada) doctoral research findings on student experiences in Nigerian secondary schools.





## The Kukah Centre Gender Desk at the THE SCREENING OF #SEXFORGRADES BBC DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS with Kiki Mordi.

The Kukah Centre in her quest to promoting societal values, was present at the screening of #sexforgrades BBC Documentary and discussion sessions with kiki mordi. It was a hour-long documentary which focused on lecturers in higher institutions who demand sex from their students in return for grades. Kiki Mordi mentioned in the documentary she gained admission into

one of the best schools in Nigeria, just after the death of her father. According to her, she was a medical student with her gaze on the bright future ahead, only for her dreams to be truncated by a certain lecturer who wanted to have sex with her. She is currently an Africa Eye Reporter for BBC and she has been hailed a hero across the country for exposing the randy lecturers.



## TKC Public Lecture: “Reconstruction and its Discontents: The International Development Regime in Post-War Sri-Lanka”. “Beyond Universal Health Coverage: “Free Health in Sri-Lanka”

In May 2019, The Kukah Centre organized two public lectures on “*Reconstruction and its Discontents: The International development Regime in Post-war Sri Lanka*” and “*Beyond Universal Health Coverage: 'Free Health' in Sri Lanka*”. The lectures were delivered by two visiting Sri-Lankan university lecturers: Dr. Ramya Kumar and Dr. Ahilan Kadirgamar, of the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

The first paper critiqued the dominant international post-conflict discourse, and tried to articulate possibilities for South-South dialogue and collaboration towards alternative forms of post-war

reconstruction grounded in visions of social justice within the Sri Lankan Context. The second paper looked at the contradictions and political tensions surrounding Sri Lanka's journey towards Universal Health Coverage. These lectures drew attention to the ways in which economic exigencies, corporate interests, and the very definition of UHC embraced by international health and development agencies limit the adoption of truly equitable health reforms in Sri-Lanka. These lectures are in line with The Kukah Centre's core strategic objective being a research and policy formulation institute.





## Community Engagement, Reconciliation and Forgiveness In the Northeast - The place of The Kukah Centre

The Kukah Centre (TKC) on 29th of August, 2019, hosted four members of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). They were put through on the Centre's activities thus far in the areas of “Community Engagement, Reconciliation and Forgiveness”. They expressed their appreciations for TKC's dynamics as they looked forward for more encounters between the two organizations.

Community Engagement, Reconciliation and Forgiveness in the Northeast is a timely intervention and a brave initiative by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the peaceful co-existence of victims and perpetrators of violent extremism.

The Kukah Centre over the years has been engaged in activities and programmes that speak to and impact the lives of common Nigerians. Our Mission as a Centre is guided by our core areas of engagement: Faith, Leadership, and Public Policy. The Centre carried out community assessment in 9 LGAs, three each in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in 2017. We prepared communities to understand the nature of the conflict and the need to forgive and prepare for eventual reintegration of both victims and perpetrators. As a think tank Centre, we believe that it is vital to make community reintegration as part of the National School Curriculum.



## Day of the African Child

“ Governance has become a massive fraud and a heinous crime scene. The easy question is to ask, how do we get out of this self-inflicted mess where we continue to feed our children yesterday's barf?

Commemoration of the Day of the African Child (DAC) held on Monday June 17, 2019 at the Arewa House organised by PLAN INTERNATIONAL in Partnership with THE KUKAH CENTRE through the Kaduna State Youth Peacebuilding Academy (KSYPA)





## INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Ongoing tensions between the adherents of different religions in Nigeria have further worsened the already little faith left in managing diversity and building a pluralistic society. Communities are more divided than ever before. Citizens have withdrawn into the wombs of their religion seeking protection and safety from the very state that was supposed to protect them. The Kukah Centre's 2019 inter-

faith dialogue interventions were meant to build bridges, facilitate peaceful co-existence and support social cohesion in all communities.

The vision of the Kukah Centre is to support efforts in managing diversity, promoting inter-faith conversations and facilitating initiatives that build peace and social cohesion.

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As Nigerians, we are not just made up of just Muslims or Christians, Men or Women, Rich or Poor, Happy or Sad, Young or Old. We are citizens with different tastes and different convictions even within these same categories. There is so much more to define each one of us.



## CARITAS Germany: Leaders for Peace in Nigeria (LPN)

Leaders for Peace in Nigeria (LPN): Supporting Religious Leaders Against Extremist Violence is a project of The Kukah Centre in collaboration with Caritas Germany in the Wauru Jabbe community of Adamawa State. The aim of the project is to build peace through the intervention of selected Religious Leaders and Community member who are in most cases the gate-keepers in their communities. The pilot phase was successfully carried out

by the Centre. There was monitoring and evaluation team from The Kukah Centre as well as the external Evaluators: Bjeorn Eser and Eva Disedna from Caritas Germany who were also on ground in Nigeria from Germany to monitor the progress of the project. The action is a follow-up on previous interventions for better understanding among people in the locality.





## Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI): Supporting Leaders Nigeria Project: Generating a Joint Community Action Plan

The Supporting Leaders Nigeria (SLN) Project is one of the very impactful interventions carried out by The Kukah Centre. Tony Blair Institute for Global Change has been the funder for this project which sees us as a Centre promoting the values of peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims in Yobe, Kano, and

Gombe. This intervention has witnessed remarkable collaborations in areas of commerce, interfaith dialogue, security, education, and in the social lives of Christians and Muslims in our focal communities in these states.



# Part Three

TKC SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

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TKC INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

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TKC'S PARTICIPATION IN FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

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TKC INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

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FRIENDS OF THE KUKAH CENTRE

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BISHOP'S CORNER



## The Kukah Centre Specific Interventions



Beyond interventions funded by donors, the Kukah Centre also deploys its funds to carry out activities in support of good governance, peace, leadership development and knowledge preservation. Such interventions included

partnership with YAHAAB Initiative to provide health services to IDP communities around Abuja. Additionally, it partnered with the Mandela Washington Fellows to support public sector initiatives in peacebuilding.

The aim is to demonstrate that The Kukah Centre also focuses on its ideals, vision and mission. It creates partnerships and collaborates with likeminded organisations to carry out interventions that that impact on the lives of ordinary Nigerians.



## TKC Support for Yahab Initiative

The Yahab Humanitarian Initiative with the support of The Kukah Centre carried out a medical outreach at the RUGA VILLAGE on the 23rd November 2019.

Ruga Village is within the heart of Abuja along Lugbe road, this community lacks every basic amenity that makes life function optimally. The community has a population of about 10,000 people and due to lack of proper amenities especially of a health

Centre/Clinic, community member are facing tremendous health challenges such as malaria, typhoid, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS.

The outreach provided immediate medical tests and medications for RUGA community members. Cases which our medical team could not handle were referred to the nearest hospital for further diagnosis and treatments.

### AIMS OF THE OUTREACH

- This outreach aims at meeting the basic health needs of 500 community members in the RUGA village as well as providing them with free medical care.
- To help improve the mental and physical health status of the people living in that community.
- The health talk session will educate and enlighten the community members on the importance of sanitation and keeping a good environment. The sessions will also motivate the community members to improve and maintain their health, prevent diseases as well as reduce risks of getting diseases and infections.

### List of other Specific Interventions

- TKC Support for Catholic Youths
- TKC Support for Mandela Washington Foundation





## REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

**201**

Persons were able to see the Medical Doctors on ground for medical consultations.

**45**

persons were given ulcer relief drugs

**322**

Person were tested for malaria and

**188**

of them were given anti-malaria tablets.

**242**

Person checked their blood level.

**352**

persons were tasted for HIV 1&2 respectively

**100**

pieces of mosquitoes Nets were distributed to community members

For the medical test conducted, malaria medical aids were administrated immediately when require and for cases beyond the control of the team, patients will be treated properly at hospital during the cause of the week.



## CONFERENCE FOR INNOVATIVE PUBLIC LEADERSHIP IN NIGERIA: Repositioning Nigeria's Public Service Leadership for Peaceful Elections

Between 10 and 11 June 2019, the National Peace Committee in partnership with the Mandela Washington Fellows organised a training for Public Servants on Repositioning Nigeria's Public Service Leadership for Peaceful Elections. This was a two-day conference that examined innovative ways of making the public service more effective in its functions and in contributing to peaceful elections and transition in Nigeria. The significance of this theme is linked to the fact the agencies set up to facilitate peaceful elections and transition draw most of their workforce from the Public Civil Service. The members of the civil service drawn to help conduct peaceful elections in Nigeria can arrive with a work culture, ethic and transition already available in the civil sector. In most cases, the public civil service has remained 'analog', not upgraded and reformed for years. As such, the Peace Committee recognised their relevance and influence, and hence the need to partner with them in ensuring peaceful elections.

The first day of the Seminar discussed the topic - Rethinking Public Service through Innovation, Value Reorientation and

Servant Leadership for Peace in Nigeria. This session highlighted ways in which the public service can be reformed so that civil servants can embody a culture of creativity, innovation, honesty and integrity wherever they may be deployed, thus contributing to a culture of peace and stability in Nigeria. The second day dwelt on 'Servant Leadership: A Perspective on Culture Re-evaluation and Mentorship.'

This discourse assessed how public service institutions can mentor the younger generation and ensure smooth transition in the quality of public servants produced in Nigeria. It also discussed ways in which public service can become more inclusive, gender sensitive and supportive of younger talents for peace and stability in Nigeria.





## The Kukah Centre Internal Capacity Building

The Kukah Centre provided capacity building and training for its staff on areas that will add value to the intervention activities of the Centre in terms of delivery and project implementation. The training was from late August to Early September, 2019. Areas covered under this training include:

- Project management
- Grants writing
- Media Proficiency
- Secretariat Administration
- Database management
- Account Management
- Work Ethics
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Gender Ideology
- Public Speaking

The Kukah Centre believes that for effective service delivery and professional project management, all staff must continuously be trained. Besides, the vision of the Kukah Centre is geared towards self-development and it always encouraged.



## TKC General Staff Training

The Management of The Kukah Centre (TKC) in her quest to maximally utilize the capacity of her staff organized a three weeks capacity building workshop for all the staff of the Centre. Two weeks in August and a week in September, 2019 were set aside to achieve this objective as a Centre. There were personnel from ServeLead Global, a capacity building firm to facilitate each session during these very engaging and resourceful three weeks. The following were the areas of focus: Design thinking, Grant, Writing, Media proficiency, Public speaking, Basic Accounting,

Programme Management, Gender Ideology, Database, Monitoring & Evaluation and finally, Work Ethics. The Kukah Centre is not relenting in becoming the best in all of her undertakings both locally and internationally. AS a Centre with core values of Faith, Leadership, and Public Policy, all she does is geared towards achieving the impact of these core values on the society.













## TKC's Participation In Forums and Conferences

In furtherance of the importance of partnership and collaboration, The Kukah Centre believes in engaging with all categories of organisations and agencies that share the vision and mission of the Centre. Consequently, the Centre takes time out to participate in other similar activities to its own but facilitated by other organisations. For example, The Kukah participated in the 2019 Funding Space Conference, Lagos. It was held from September 12 - 14, 2019. It is an annual event that brings together funders and service providers to deliberate on

the brightest and most innovative ideas in social and humanitarian intervention. Considering the socio-cultural context of Nigeria, Fr. Atta spoke on the relevance of faith-based investment. He reminded donors on the need to invest in promoting peace and social cohesion. When there is peace, security and stability, development and progress will be achieved.

The vision of The Kukah Centre in this aspect is that other organisations possess the expertise that the centre may not have at that very moment. Consequently, it is easier to create greater impact on the lives of citizens by way of collaboration and partnership.

## A High-Level Roundtable on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, (DDR) Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in the Northeast of Nigeria.

The Kukah Centre participated in a High Level Forum on Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration (DDR), Peace Building and Reconciliation in Nigeria. The conference, co-sponsored by the NEEM Foundation and the Nigeria Army Resource Centre, Abuja, discussed the need for a coordinated effort in rebuilding the Northeast.

Fr. Atta Barkindo, the Director of The Kukah Centre and Head of Secretariat, National Peace Committee, presented his paper on "DDRR in Nigeria Today: Examining the Strengths and Weaknesses". The presentation provided an overview of the

current state of DDRR process in Nigeria, highlighting more effective ways that take into consideration contextual narratives and community-led-approaches.

Present at the event were Major General Yusuf Burutai, Chief of Army Staff, Major General PC Tarfa (RTD), Chairman of the Northeast Development Commission, NEDC, His Excellency, Mr. Georg Steiner, Swiss Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Fatima Akilu, Founder NEEM Foundation, Major General Martin Agwai (RTD), the Guest Speaker.





## TKC's presence at The Funding Space

The Director of The Kukah Centre, Fr Atta Barkindo, participated in the 2019 Funding Space Conference, Lagos. It is an annual event that brings together funders and service providers to deliberate on the brightest and most innovative ideas in social and humanitarian intervention. Considering the socio-cultural context of Nigeria, Fr. Atta spoke on the relevance of faith-based

investment. He reminded donors on the need to invest in promoting peace and social cohesion. When there is peace, security and stability, development and progress will be achieved.





## TKC in Taraba State University

Forming partnership with other research institutes and centres, particularly institutes of higher learning is at the core of The Kukah Centre activities. It is for this reason that the The Kukah Centre formed a partnership with the Institute of Peace Studies and Conflict Management (IPSCM), Taraba State University to conduct research and provide data that will inform policy recommendations. Following this established partnership, The Kukah Centre and IPSCM, Taraba State University, organized a Peace Forum on November 14 2019 at the Taraba State University. The objectives of this intervention by the Kukah Centre in Taraba state was to highlight the nuances of the Taraba

state conflict, and provide policy recommendations for mitigating the conflict. Importantly, it was meant to engage young people to create awareness regarding the Taraba conflict, and also educate the youth (particularly women) on means through which they could become peace builders in the state. The Kukah Centre, as Secretariat of the Peace Committee, also agreed to work with the Taraba State Peace Institute to conduct research and design evidence-based policy recommendations that will assist the government, NGOs and International Development partners in facilitating sustainable peace in Taraba.





## TKC's International Influence

The Kukah Centre has, through its partnerships and engagements, increasingly carved a niche for itself in influencing national policies through its interventions. This influence on international policies can be seen in the area of peacebuilding,

countering violent extremism, leadership development, good governance, peaceful elections, education, research and documenting on violent conflict as well as creating awareness on human rights issues.

The vision of the Kukah Centre is to see how to support the Nigerian government in building a Nigeria that is diverse, peaceful and successful.



## TKC in Accra, Ghana

The Kukah Centre, Secretariat of the National Peace Committee, was invited by the Commonwealth to participate in a conference of Peace Councils and Committee from across Commonwealth countries. The conference was held from June 21-26, 2019 in Accra, Ghana. The NPC highlighted its interventions in the Nigerian elections and the NPC model and structure was selected as a framework to be used in designing peace architecture for Commonwealth countries. The Director of the Kukah Centre and NPC Head of Secretariat, Fr. Atta Barkindo, outlined the history, structure and framework that guides the operation of the Peace Committee. He presented the independence and non-partisanship of the Committee, highlighting the convening power of members and their capacity

to work with government officials in an uncompromising way. The NPC presentation was well received. It was chosen as the model to be adopted by the Commonwealth in designing Peace Architecture for Commonwealth Countries. The NPC Head of Secretariat was selected by Commonwealth to help design this architecture in line with the Nigerian model. A challenge which emerged from this event was that some of the countries - Cameroon, Guinea and Gambia - invited the NPC to support their countries' peace processes. This is especially challenging with regards funding and how the NPC can address this. Importantly, there is no clear idea on how the NPC can frame this request into its work-plan before the 2023 elections.



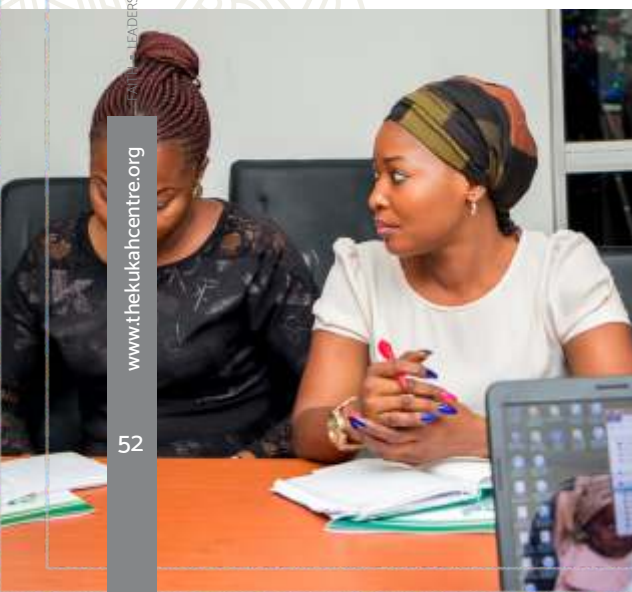
## TKC in Nairobi, Kenya

The Kukah Centre was in Nairobi, Kenya, to attend the Insight Forum organised by the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. The Insights Forum brought together over 170 religious leaders, national and international civil society actors, representatives of UN organisations and regional bodies, diplomatic and donor communities, government representatives and academics to discuss how we can better evidence the impact of working with religious actors to build peaceful and stable societies. Over 100 local and national organisations were represented and 75% of individuals and organisations were from the global South, ensuring the focus remained on local actors with knowledge of

relevant policy issues and country-level experience. Significantly, over 95% of participants stated that they were likely to use learnings from the Insights Forum in their work, and noted the value of the event for networking, sharing expertise and new partnerships with other organisations across the sector.











## Friends of the Kukah Centre

The Kukah Centre is always open and welcoming to all visitors, researchers, experts and consultants who require some briefing from the Centre on its areas of research and policy formulation.

The vision is to transform The Kukah Centre into a national and global policy Think Tank, a reservoir of data and information. This should be made available to all scholars and researchers worldwide.



## MARY JO GRETSINGER, S.T.L, J.C.L VISITS THE KUKAH CENTRE

Mary Jo Gretzinger is an American who has fallen in love with Nigeria and her people. She is a Missionary, an Academic, a lover of humanity, a dedicated Catholic Theologian and a Canon Lawyer who has spent over ten years in Kaduna, Nigeria, teaching and forming priests for the Catholic Church. Mary is set to return to San Diego University, a Jesuit-Catholic University based in the United States. Today, Mary Jo paid a courtesy visit to the Kukah Centre to see for herself the programme interventions of the Centre in the areas of Peacebuilding, Inter-faith Dialogue and Leadership Development, particularly for women and

young girls. Already, Mary Jo is working to design a partnership programme between The Kukah Centre and San Diego University, California, USA. The Executive Director Fr. Atta Barkindo, Ph.D. and all the staff of the Centre are delighted that institutions outside the country are taking note of the tremendous contributions made by The Kukah Centre in policy formulation and national development. Safe journey back home mama Jo.



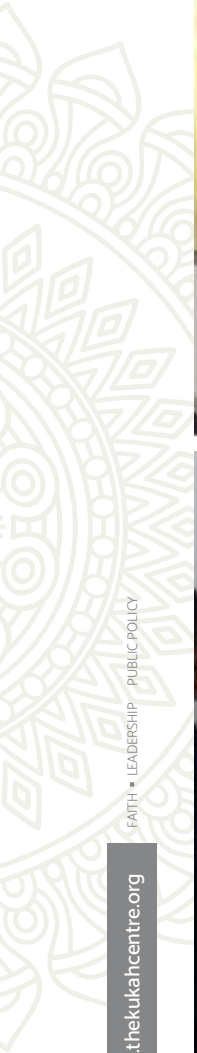
## A new mission for Pascal Holliger

The TKC staff was excited to say their goodbyes to a dear friend of the Centre; Pascal Holliger of the Swiss Embassy was invited by the Centre for a send forth party. During his stay he touched

every single person in a unique way. We will miss him. Nigeria will miss him without knowing it.









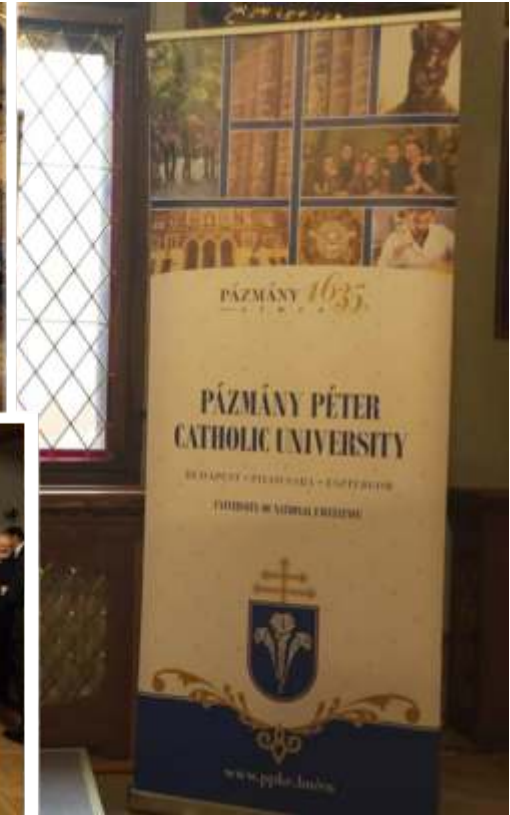


## Bishop's Corner

The founder of the Kukah Centre, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, is a household name in Nigeria. He has, throughout 2019, been involved in so many activities in Nigeria and beyond to promote a vision of peace, prosperity and development. This

part of the report captures the activities and interventions of the Bishop in 2019.

The vision of this part of the report is to showcase the contributions of Bishop Kukah not only to the activities and interventions of The Kukah Centre, but also the humanity at large.



## Growing Among Thorns: Challenges to Evangelization in Sokoto Diocese

A public Lecture at the Pazmany Peter Catholic University, Sofitel, Budapest, on Monday, 13th May 2019.

Under the organization of The State Secretariat for the Aid of Persecuted Christians and the Hungary Helps Program, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah (Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria) & Rev. Dacholom Datiri (President of the Church of Christ in Nations, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria) both

delivered public lectures on the themes: "Growing Among Thorns: Challenges to Evangelization in Sokoto Diocese" and "Crushed but not Destroyed" respectively at the Pazmany Peter Catholic University, Sofitel, Budapest, on Monday, 13th May 2019.



## Introducing the Kukah Centre to the Prime Minister of Hungary

Bishop Kukah Handing The Kukah Centre (TKC) 2017 Annual Report to The Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Victor Orban, in Budapest, 14th May, 2019. The Kukah Centre is in demand.





## Civic Responsibility

His Lordship, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, exercising his civic responsibility at the J-Allen, Sokoto State during the 2019 presidential elections held on the 23rd February 2019.

#NigeriaDecides2019

“

Our 'democrats' have had no problems with what Noam Chomsky would refer to as resorting to manufactured consent when it comes to elections. They have rented the same crowds, contrived the same outcomes as the old order, seducing the people by bribery rather than persuasion and debate.



## Students get New school bus

Today, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari CFR (Executive Governor of Katsina State) presented the gift of a school bus to Bishop M. H. Kukah, as encouragement to the Church in her support of education in Katsina State. The products of the schools run by the

Catholic Church in Katsina state have stood out in learning & character as one of the best. God bless the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, God bless the government of Katsina State and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.





## Bishop Kukah with the Catholic Lawyers

Founder of The Kukah Centre, Bishop Matthew Kukah gave a talk at the 2019 National Association of Catholic Lawyers (2019) themed: The Role Of Catholic Lawyers In The Church And Nation.

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Law making is a serious business and it demands high moral standards of honesty on the lawmaker. No citizen should be compelled to obey bad laws. Patriotism is not a commodity of exchange.





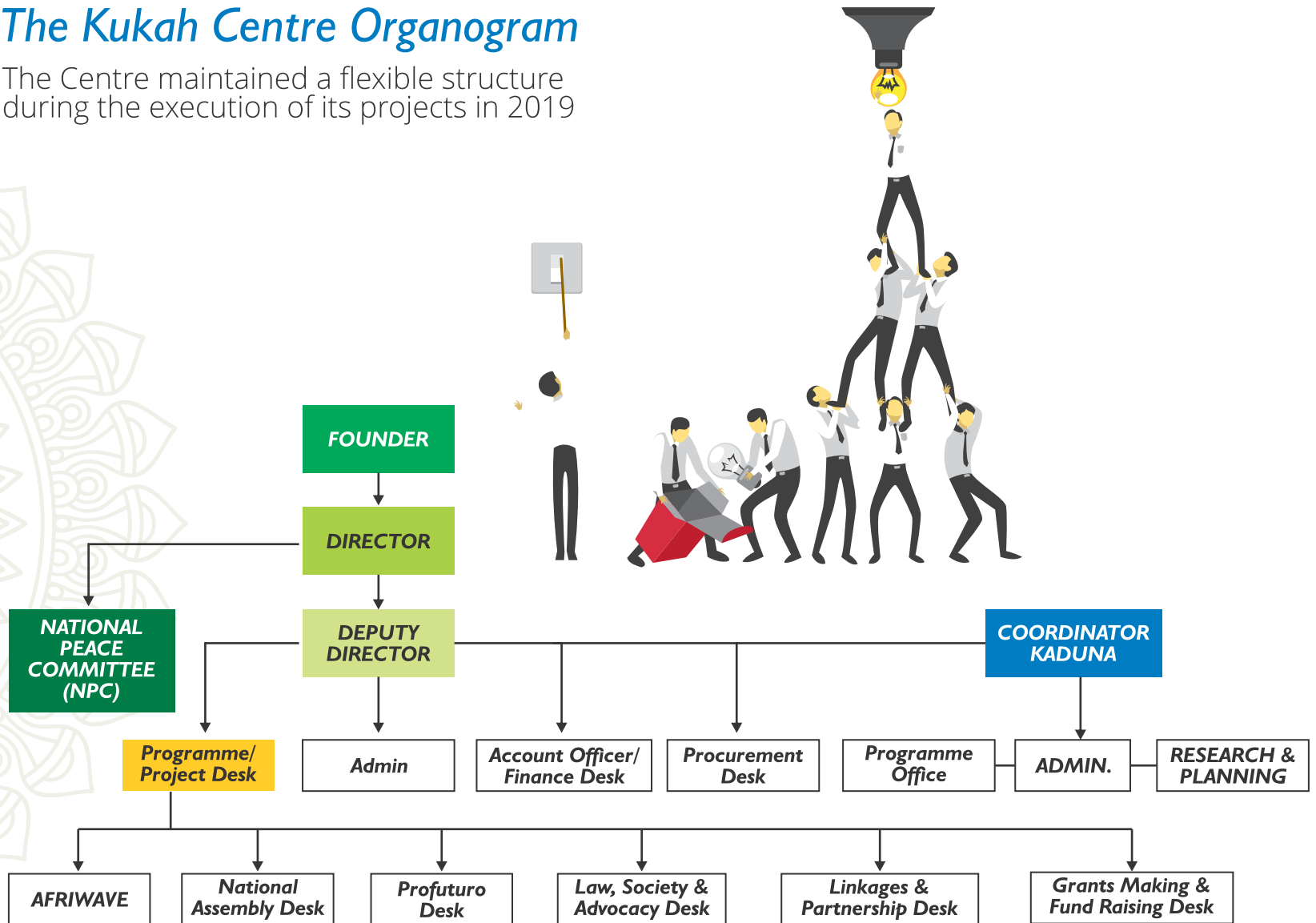
## *Looking Forward to the Future*

Following the successes recorded in 2019, the Kukah Centre looks forward to a bigger, better and brighter future of engagement in project intervention and public policy participation to engineer change in all areas of national life. The Centre will be more focused on the areas of women empowerment, protection of the environment to support citizen livelihood, policy recommendation on countering violent extremism, leadership development and education for the underprivileged and out of school children.

The Centre also looks forward to designing strategies that facilitate skills acquisition for youths, with particular target areas such as the Middle Belt Region of Nigeria. The Centre also aspires to partner with Donors, raise more funds and intervene in areas that are marginalise, excluded and remain on the fringe.

# The Kukah Centre Organogram

The Centre maintained a flexible structure during the execution of its projects in 2019



The Centre intends to maintain a lean and flexible core structure, with all positions filled by top talent.





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