



# CHURCH OF NIGERIA

(Anglican Communion)

**THE MOST REV'D HENRY C. NDUKUBA**, MA, BD, MA (Ed.)  
Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria.

**THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) HOSTED BY THE DIOCESE OF LAGOS, AT ARCHBISHOP ADEBOLA AND OLURANTI ADEMOWO RESOURCE CENTRE, FAITH PLAZA, BARIGA, LAGOS STATE, FROM MONDAY, 20TH TO FRIDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2021.**

**PREAMBLE:** The Standing Committee meeting of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) which was held from Monday, 20th - Friday, 24th September, 2021 was presided over by the Most Reverend Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, the Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria, accompanied by his wife, the National President of the Women Ministries, Mrs Angela Eberechukwu Ndukuba, attended by 163 Bishops, 151 Clergy and 97 lay delegates. Also in attendance were 3 Bishops from the Province of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), led by its Primate and Chairman of the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON), the Most Reverend Dr Foley Beach.

The Standing Committee received guests at the opening ceremony, including His Excellency, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-olu, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, Barr. Chief Nyesom Ezebunwor Wike, CON, the Executive Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu (SAN), the Executive Governor of Ondo State, represented by his Deputy Governor, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Ayedatiwa, His Excellency, Prince Dr Dapo Abiodun, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, represented by the Most Reverend Michael Fape, Archbishop of Lagos Province and Bishop of Remo, and Hon. Prof. Emmanuel Akinola Abayomi, the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Lagos State, all of whom were recipients of the Primatial awards for their courageous and outstanding leadership in our nation at this challenging times.

**THEME:** The theme, "Abiding in Christ: God's Panacea in an Unstable World," was taken from John 15: 1 - 8. The theme was exhaustively exposed through the Primatial Address, Bible Study and Sermons. The meeting calls on Christians to abide in God as the only panacea in an unstable world.

## **ST MATTHIAS HOUSE:**

**INSECURITY AND INSTABILITY IN NIGERIA:** The Church expresses its sympathy to the communities affected by violence and insecurity in various dimensions, spreading all over the country. The Church laments the gruesome killing of one of its Clergy in the Diocese of Orlu, the Reverend Emeka Merenu. It calls on the Government at various levels to take actions that would restore confidence in its ability to protect lives and stem the tide of despair and hopelessness, urging them to ensure that the killers are identified and brought to book. The unabated kidnapping of school children in the country portends grave danger not only to the education of our children but also to the nation's development. The Church condemns the fragile state of insecurity in the nation due to religious extremism, terrorism, violence, attacks and killings all over the country; and urges the Government to urgently rise to address the situation.

**NEW WAVE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC:** The Standing Committee bemoans the unfortunate situation which the 'Corona Virus December 2019' (COVID-19) pandemic brought to the world. The Church appreciates the Government's efforts to vaccinate the people against this pandemic and urges that efforts should be taken to make it available in all parts of Nigeria. The Standing Committee therefore calls on everyone to take precautionary measures and observe all protocols of COVID-19 and its variants.

**EDUCATION AND JOB CREATION:** The Church calls on the Government to make efforts at addressing issues of youth unemployment. The Standing Committee, therefore, urges the government to make Nigeria attractive to Foreign Investors. It proposes a re-orientation in our educational system that will be relevant in the contemporary world. In this direction, the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) has decided to establish the Anglican University of Technology.

**ECONOMY AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS IN NIGERIA:** The Church notes that the regularity of industrial actions in Nigeria is alarming, adversely affecting the economic development of Nigeria. The Standing Committee recommends that all stakeholders involved in industrial relations should adopt Conciliation/Mediation and other Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. The Standing Committee urges the Government to endeavor to keep the agreements reached at the roundtable conference between them and various organisations.

**INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The Standing Committee commends the Federal Government on diversification of the nation's transport system by the introduction of rail transport and the ongoing construction of the second Niger Bridge. It calls on the Government to expedite actions to complete the projects. However, the Church is worried over the durability of some of the roads constructed.

**EXTERNAL DEBTS:** The Church is concerned at the rate at which Government is borrowing, thereby increasing the national debts portfolio. The Standing Committee urges Government to exercise restraints in further borrowing so as not to jeopardise the future of all Nigerians.

**ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA:** The General elections will hold again in Nigeria in 2023. The meeting encourages all Christians to be involved in the electoral processes. The Church admonishes the National Assembly to revisit the issue of Direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting system. As the gubernatorial election approaches in Anambra State, the Standing Committee, enjoins all stakeholders to embrace equity, justice, fairness, and good conscience in all political permutations and engagements.

**AGITATIONS:** The Church observes that many are clamouring for self-determination because of varying forms of injustice in governance in the country. It therefore urges Government to initiate dialogues and inclusive governance to address the reasons for the agitations and stop gagging people with opposing views.

**HEALTHCARE:** The Standing Committee calls on the Government to urgently redress the lapses in the country's health system. It urges the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to as a matter of urgency, establish functional centers in the six geopolitical zones.

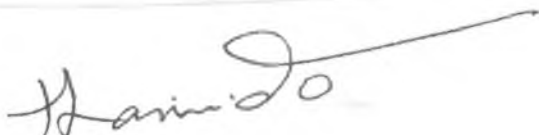
**WAR AGAINST DRUG ABUSE:** The Church observes with grave concern one of the monsters confronting our nation as drug abuse and addiction. Nigeria is fast becoming a major drug hub in the world. The Standing Committee commends the Federal Government for efforts of 'National Drug Law and Enforcement Agency' (NDLEA), in curbing drug trafficking. The Church has gone further in supporting the efforts of the Government by declaring a War Against Drug Abuse and Addiction through her initiative called 'Anglican Compassion and Development Initiative' (ACADI).

**AFGHANISTAN:** The Church stands with the Christian believers in Afghanistan, and calls on the international community to prevail on the powers in Afghanistan to respect the peoples' Fundamental Human Rights of Freedom of Religious Faith and Practices.

**CONCLUSION:** In line with the theme of the Standing Committee, it is necessary to die to sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our LORD and the obedience to the Word. This will enable all Christians to abide in Christ in this unstable world and in our nation Nigeria that is passing through a very challenging time.



**The Venerable Dr Gershinen Paul Dajur,**  
General Secretary, Church of Nigeria.



**The Most Reverend Dr Ali Buba Lamido,**  
Dean, Church of Nigeria.



**The Most Reverend Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, MA, BD, MA (Ed),**  
Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria.