

Pressure Mounts on Katsina Governor To Introduce Sharia

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The people of Katsina State have continued to mount pressure on Governor Umaru Musa Yar'adua to introduce Sharia laws in the state. As part of the pressure, a rally was convened last Saturday [23 October] at the Katsina Township Stadium in which hundreds of Muslims both within and outside Katsina State were in attendance as [a] mark of solidarity with the people of the state. The rally was organised by a new organization known as Association for the Application of Sharia in Katsina State.

Only last week, the governor inaugurated a six-member committee to examine the 1999 constitution and advise the state government on the possibility or otherwise of Sharia application in the state. The rally was organised by the association to show dissatisfaction with the steps so far taken by the Katsina State Government on the sharia issue as it affects the state. Katsina Township Stadium, venue for the Rally, witnessed an unprecedented crowd. As early as 9:00 am all available seats at the stadium were occupied. Among those who spoke on the occasion include the former Grand Khadi of old Kaduna State, Ghadi Muhammadu Dodo, former Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Abdullahi Aminu and the son of a renowned Islamic scholar, Sheikh Dahiru Banchi, Dr. Hadi Dahlim Bauchi as well as the Katsina State chairman of the Jama'atul Izalatul Bid's Wa'ikhamatul Sunnah, hamat Li Samidi, [name as received] Sheikh Yakubu Musa Hassan among many other Ulama.

The speakers were unanimous in their resolve for the application of Sharia law, saying that a Muslim would not be considered complete without sharia laws as enjoined in the Holy Qu'ran and the Hadith. He further stated that if democracy means government of the people by the people, then denying the people what they consider a legitimate right was tantamount to dictatorship. The speakers called for prayers by all the Muslim Ummah as a tool for achieving their agitation and also prayed to Allah to give our leaders the wisdom to surmount the deceptive tendencies of Satan and follow the path of righteousness by allowing Sharia law to take its rightful place.

Addressing a press conference at the end of the rally, the leader of the association which convened the rally, Malam Aminu Ibrahim Maigari said the association first studied the 1999 constitution and discovered the existence of many sections that said Sharia could be established by states with a larger percentage of Muslim population.