



# INTERFAITH DIALOGUE FORUM FOR PEACE

## PRESS BRIEFING

### ADDRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES: URGING PATIENCE AND UNITY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION

Gentlemen of the Press,

The Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) is an interreligious peacebuilding organization made up of 120 Christian and Muslim religious and traditional leaders from across Nigeria. The Forum (IDFP) believes that religious and traditional leaders are effective peacemakers and support their efforts in educating the public on the importance of maintaining a peaceful and safe nation.

Nigeria is navigating through a period of significant economic hardship. This situation has arisen following crucial policy changes implemented by the President. These policies, although in the view of the Government are necessary for the long-term improvement of our economy, have unfortunately resulted in immediate and substantial challenges for many of our citizens.

Recognizing the desperate need for peace, IDFP acknowledges the frustrations and hardships experienced by the masses. The planned protest scheduled for August 1, 2024, under the slogan "End Bad Governance," reflects the urgency and desperation felt by many.



While we respect the right of citizens to express their grievances, we urge all the parties to embrace dialogue in the spirit of Nation building.

Sequel to this, we call on the Government to re-access its interventions and policies such that it will make immediate meaning to ordinary citizens of the country by way of cutting cost of governance, providing enabling environment for ease of doing business, cutting cost of production of goods and services.

In the same breath, while acknowledging the valid concerns of the citizens, we ask for your understanding and patience. We feel the frustrations that many are expressing, and we empathize with the struggles faced by ordinary Nigerians. However, we urge patience and unity in these difficult times.

Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) while appreciating the effort of religious and traditional leaders in trying to calm fraying nerves, urges them to maintain their roles in the promotion of peaceful coexistence, national cohesion and mutual understanding among citizens.

In conclusion, IDFP stands committed to fostering peace and unity across Nigeria. Let us work together, support one another, and remain hopeful for a brighter future.

Thank you.



Rev. Abainitus Akila Hamman  
Co-Chair, IDFP



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Co-Chair, IDFP