

Oseni knocks *Boko Haram*

The Dean of Arts and Chief Imam of Auchi, Prof. Zakariyau I. Oseni, has described the doctrine of *Boko Haram* as an aberration while noting that Islam as a way of life is knowledge-driven, with scholars having the grace of being “heirs of the prophets, the models of piety, the trustees of God on earth.”

Prof. Oseni gave this disclosure in a Friday sermon entitled “Of the contributions of Muslims to world scholarship” delivered recently in Auchi, a copy of which was made available to *Unilorin Bulletin*.

According to the Professor of Arabic, since the inception of the historical Islam in 610 C.E., many Muslim scholars have risen in different fields, contributing meaningfully to world scholarship, the examples of who he gave as:

Khalil b. Ahmad al-Farahidi was a first-class philologist who wrote on grammar, prosody and lexicography. His Arabic dictionary, *Kitab l-‘Ayn*, was one of the first to appear in world history. Sibawayh is one of the greatest grammarians the world had ever produced. His encyclopaedic work on grammar is simply known as *al-Kitab* (The Book).

Other Muslim scholars who have left their footprints of scholarship on the sands of time, according to Prof. Oseni, are Ibn Sina’, Ibn Rushd and Imam al-Ghazal who were great philosophers who studied Socrates and Plato and who European scholars immensely benefitted from; Jabir b. Hayyan, known as Geber to Europe, was a great chemist; Muhammad b. Zakariyya al-Razi, known as Rhazes, was a great scholar of chemistry, philosophy and mathematics while Abdul-rahman ibn Khaldun is regarded as the father of sociology due to his contributions to the social sciences, and whose *Muqaddimah* (Prolegomena) and *Kitabu al-Ibar* (A Book of Reflections) are still relevant today.

While noting that the Arabic numerals used in the West today serve as a testimony of what Islam further contributed to scholarship, the Dean urged Muslims to allow their children to study Islam, the sciences, arts and technology as they shun ideas that suggest to the contrary.