

KADUNA OUTLOOK

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As Kaduna State banishes violent crisis in 2024

Most followers of developments in Kaduna State will not fail to appreciate the recent report by the Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC) that the state has emerged from the year 2024 free of any violent crisis that in a few years gone by had claimed lives and property in huge figures.

To the residents of Kaduna State, the Commission's report was just an official attestation of what they have experienced in 2024: peace of mind, free of fearful thoughts about when "it" will happen again as they conduct their daily sustenance chores.

If anything, what the average citizen of Kaduna has grappled with in 2024 is the concerns of every other Nigerian: how to come to terms with the harsh economic realities occasioned by the new economic reform measures of the federal government which has spared only a negligible few.

It is true that in 2024 there have been pockets of kidnapping and banditry in the state some affecting hapless and vulnerable young ones the easy targets for bandits and their ilk who were always on the prowl for such soft targets that fetch ransom. But even such tendencies had been curtailed during the year mostly through non-kinetic approach.

What then could have made 2024 a significant year for Kaduna State free of echoes of war cries of the ethno religious type or its farmers-herders clonage?

The magic wand has simply been the new approach to tackling violent conflicts propelled by a strong political will that carried

all along on the road to the attainment of a peaceful coexistence where everyone was an equal stakeholder. The approach entailed dialogue amongst all segments of the society where old foes were convinced it would pay them better to sit down on peace mats or at tables to dialogue. They concurred with the current leadership, the result being the peace that has returned to most of the communities in Kaduna State that were at daggers-drawn a situation which even made it impossible for them to confront common enemies in the twin monsters of banditry and kidnapping. Now all those communal animosities have given way to an atmosphere of forgiveness, cooperation and empathy for one another which is translating into noticeable rise in the tempo of commercial activities. This is evident in, for instance, the reopening of the popular Kara livestock market in Birnin Gwari LGA and the Kidandan market in Giwa LGA, both closed down for nearly a decade over security concerns which are now open to business and are beehives of commercial activities already.

A member of the **Kaduna Outlook** Editorial Committee, Nasir Dambatta has followed with keen interest the KSPC pronouncement of a clean slate of violent events in the state during the year and had drawn his conclusions as to why 2024 has been significant for Kaduna State and in particular its number one citizen whose political sagacity as manifest in the peace dialogues he initiated appears to have banished, at least for now, the wind of violent conflicts that does not blow anybody any good:

How Kaduna achieved zero violent conflicts in 2024

By Nasir Dambatta

Kaduna State has achieved a milestone that many regions in Nigeria and beyond can only dream of: a year entirely free from violent conflicts. This unprecedented feat, as disclosed by the Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC), offers valuable lessons on peacebuilding, communal harmony, and conflict resolution. Here are five takeaways from Kaduna's exemplary record in 2024:

1. Community Ownership of Peacebuilding Efforts

The active involvement of communities in resolving disputes was central to this achievement. In Birnin Gwari, for example, farming and herding groups were brought together to reconcile differences and unite against criminal groups. This collective effort ensured that inter-communal misunderstandings were resolved, proving that

empowering local stakeholders fosters lasting peace.

2. Strategic Collaboration Among Institutions

The success of 2024 is a testament to the power of partnerships. The synergy between the KSPC, the Kaduna State Bureau for Interfaith, religious groups, and peace-focused organizations highlights how collaboration among institutions can transform conflict-prone areas into bastions of peace. When all actors work in unison, peace becomes an attainable goal.

3. Focus on Addressing Root Causes of Violence

Kaduna State avoided violent confrontations by addressing root causes, such as boundary disputes, political tensions, and chieftaincy disagreements. Instead of reacting to conflicts, the state preemptively tackled potential flashpoints through dialogue and proactive engagement. This approach underscores the importance of preventing conflicts before they escalate.

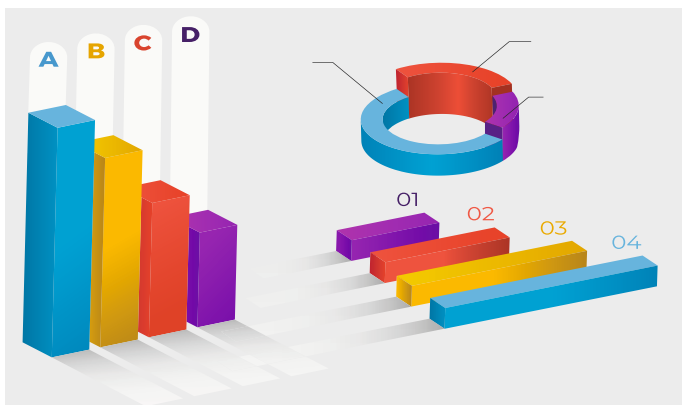
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Accurate data drives KDSG's successful development plans

"The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice what we never expected to see" – John Tukey.

By Emmanuel Ado

Governor Uba Sani's first action on assumption of office was the signing of an Executive Order for the immediate financial inclusion of the over 2.1 million underserved and vulnerable citizens of Kaduna state who, hitherto, had been excluded from financial services. This action left no one in doubt about the governor's determination to frontally and consequentially address the problem which had denied his citizens access to



Social Intervention Programmes of the state and federal government and which affected its efforts at poverty alleviation.

The programme is one of the focal directions of his government's broader economic empowerment agenda.

But without the survey by the Kaduna State Bureau of Statistics into the Kaduna State Financial Inclusion Programme, Governor Sani would never be in an authoritative position to assess the success or otherwise of the programme and the bottlenecks if any that need to be addressed to ensure the attainment of the objective.

This is the justification for statistics which according to Stephen Senn, tells you "what you have done wrongly or how you could have done it better".

This is exactly what the Kaduna State Bureau of Statistics has done for Governor Sani by undertaking surveys, not just into the Kaduna State Financial Inclusion programme, but into other critical areas like the Kaduna State Population Dynamics which will provide invaluable data on the state's demographic patterns, and serve as a solid foundation for effective resource allocation, and long-term planning; the Annual School Census of 2023/2024, which looked not only into the government's efforts in improving the educational

sector but enrollment, school performance, infrastructural development, and other critical challenges that government needed facts to urgently address to ensure quality learning.

The survey into Citizen Perception of the Kaduna State Contributory Health Management Authority (KADCHMA) Health Contribution Scheme 2024, which is key to improving the state's health contribution scheme, and ensuring better healthcare access for all, and the SDGs Watch 2023 which has tracked the state's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and ensuring that the states efforts remained aligned to the global standards, are all geared towards the same objectives.

Kaduna State Government has no rival in Nigeria in waging a sustained war on the dearth of figures for planning due to the numerous advantages it has gained. This explains its continued investment in establishing a vibrant State Statistical System. For example, Kaduna State using concrete evidence drew valid conclusions in drawing up its Development Plan which reflects its policy priorities, and the government aspirations to be the investment destination and food basket for Nigeria. In line with the survey that about 80 to 85 percent of its 15 billion GDP is accounted for by agriculture, which also accounts for 42.7 percent of total employment of its people, the government has unequivocally anchored its development strategy on agriculture due to its capacity to provide employment for its teeming youth population, ensure food security and as a source of raw materials for agro-processing industries.

The point is that Kaduna State's economic development strategy is based on reliable statistics. So what would the state gain from understanding its demographic structure? Apart from helping it in critical planning and governance, the report provides essential data on its growing population, migration patterns, and the characteristics of households. Armed with dependable data, the Governor Sani administration is better positioned to anticipate future needs in education, healthcare, housing, and infrastructure. In the preparation of the annual budgets, resources are allocated more effectively to ensure that no one is left behind and that incidences of abandoned projects are a thing of the past.

For the Uba Sani administration, education remains a top priority. The benefit of the Annual School Census for the state is that it would help the government to objectively monitor the state of the schools, including student enrolment, teacher availability, and infrastructural needs.

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Keying Up Kaduna

By Shuaibu Gimi

Governor Uba Sani's clear desire is to make Kaduna State fully functional by unlocking and nurturing the potentials that are necessarily required for development. As the governor and therefore the holder of the key to the future of the state, he is in a position to push it up to the desired level.

The governor is, in other words, effectively keying up Kaduna State to enable it recover lost grounds in the areas of security, peaceful co-existence and infrastructure. All his efforts are geared towards the attainment of unprecedented success in the delivery of critical services that can guarantee salvation and prosperity for the state.

His approach to all the issues about the governance are both logical and result-oriented from which the people of the state are deriving maximum satisfaction. It is all part of his unique style that he has now adopted the real non-kinetic method as a solution to the security problems in some parts of the state which resulted in the peace accord that has now brought the protracted attacks and counter-attacks in Birnin Gwari and environs to an end.

The cessation of the violence that lasted for about a decade and to which several hundreds of human lives and material wealth worth hundreds of millions of naira were lost is a product of an effective coordination, by Governor Uba Sani, of a sustained engagement among the security agencies, community leaders and the non-state actors. Some of the huge benefits of the initiative is the re-opening of two famous livestock markets in Birnin Gwari-Giwa Federal Constituency and the resumption of economic activities in that axis and even beyond.

A lot of communities in the neighboring Niger, Katsina and Zamfara States are already beneficiaries of this strategy and are therefore fully thankful to the governor who is

continuously credited with a rare mastery of both peace-making and confidence-building processes. The Kaduna Peace and Security Model has unarguably become an idea that strongly appeals to several governments and organizations that are genuinely interested in the protection human lives, wealth and environments.

Quite apparently, Governor Sani rightly considers peace and security as the foundation of progress and therefore consistently works for the creation of an atmosphere that will allow for an unhindered performance of government. He also believes that it is only when such an atmosphere prevails that the civil populace can play the role of a government's willing partner in the enhancement of opportunities for all.

In fact, the results of his effort towards the restoration of communal peace in various parts of the state are reflected in the report of the Kaduna State Peace Commission which shows that no communal violence occurred in the state in the out-going year, 2024. In the report which was presented by the Commission at a recent joint meeting with the United States Institute for Peace in Kaduna indicates that throughout the year there was no single either a farmers-herders conflict, political violence or a clash over such sensitive issues as chieftaincy and boundary.

This is a development that is desperately needed for the implementation of the 2025 budget that has just been signed into law by the governor. The sustenance of the rural transformation drive on which the budget focuses will be possible only in an atmosphere that is devoid of hostilities and resultant violence.

In less than two years that he has been in power, Governor Sani has resuscitated dashed hopes and repaired broken hearts thereby making the entire state a highly prosperous environment towards which all seekers of peace and fortunes have continued to gravitate. What is happening in Kaduna State is a speedy return of activities in both formal and informal sectors, thanks to all the efforts of the governor who has vowed to make it greater; far greater than it has ever been.



Gov Uba Sani commissioning network of 12 Kaduna township roads recently

INTERVIEW

Rehabilitation of bandits for the good of the state - Uba Sani

Uba Sani was recently at TVC where he responded to questions on the state's amnesty programme for bandits:



TVC Anchor: *Thank you for joining us today, I would like to dive right into the controversy surrounding the State government's amnesty program for bandits. One of the major arguments by critics is that this program ignores the victims of these terrorists and their actions. And instead provides incentives to the bandits themselves. How do you respond to these concerns?*

Gov Sani: Thank you very much for having me, I can see that what they are talking about is more of a speculation and hearsay, because i was watching you people talk about the amnesty, but none of them bothered to enquire about the process; probably i would have called them insecurity merchant but i wont call them that, for now. The most important thing is that this process has been in place for the last six months. The day we had the first agreement in Birnin Gwari local government, I made it clear to everyone, that the process started about six months ago and of course if you watched what we did that day, you could see that there was a representative of the office of National Security Adviser and a representative of the Chief of Defence Staff... All the relevant security agencies were there but some people are not really conversant with the law, the country and the Constitution. Of course they want to quickly come out and make statements without verification, without information. Maybe they responded to or made their position out of ignorance, I don't want to say it's mischievous but out of ignorance. The most important thing is it was a result of alot of negotiations. We met at the palace of the Emir of Birnin

Gwari and it's a procedure that is done local government by the local government in Kaduna state.

The other day another team went to Giwa local government. We will head to Kachia local government in the next two weeks so there are a lot of local governments that have security challenges in Kaduna state. There are about six local governments. But there are also many local governments in Kaduna State that have never known banditry and have no idea about the insecurity of the other local governments in Kaduna state. Just six local governments in the state are effected by insecurity and if you go to some local governments you talk to them about insecurity, they will have no clue what you are talking about, because they go to their farm and run their businesses no kidnapping, no banditry. Of course government did not just go in there, the communities sought it.

In Kaduna State since i was elected we have State Security Council where traditional rulers, religious leaders, all the security agencies, local government chairmen, elected members of the state assembly, youth leaders, women leaders, community leaders are members who always hold meetings both at the local government level and at the state level.

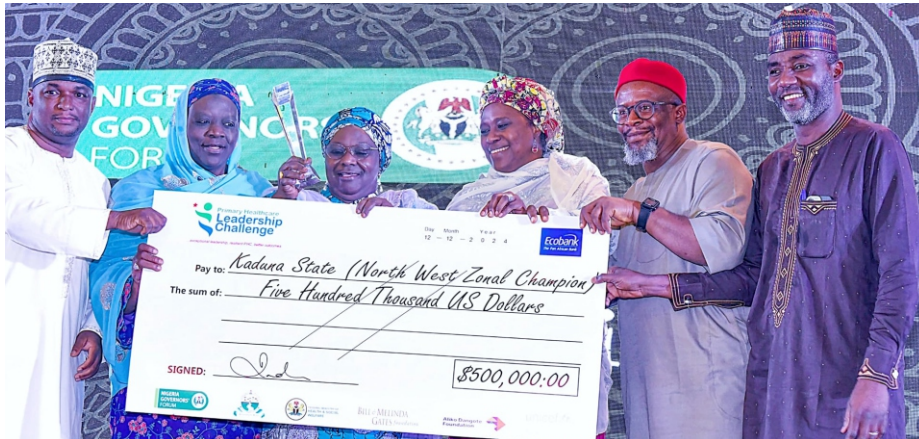
So it is as a result of that the communities particularly in Birnin Gwari approached me and complained that they were one of the local governments in Kaduna state that have a lot of farmers but in the past two years they could not go to their farms, so were suffering. They wanted a way out, knowing my powers under the Constitution, approached the office of the National Security Adviser and all the necessary security agencies, and asked for the security reports and the intelligence put in place.

I am the Governor of Kaduna state but as the Constitution of Nigeria stipulates I as the Governor don't have power over the military or the police. But as Chief Security Officer of the state, what is more important to me is the peace of the people in my own state, that is what informed my decision.

I don't care about the people that complained, they do not engage with the victims, I engaged with the victims in Birnin Gwari just as I'm going to other parts of Kaduna State to sit down with other communities on the way forward.

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Kaduna State tops at the 2024 PHC Leadership Challenge, Wins \$500,000 Award



Deputy Gov Dr Hadiza Balarabe (4th right) commissioner of Health Hajiya Umma K. Ahmad and other officials display the prize money of the PHC Leadership Award.

ABUJA - Kaduna State has been honored as the best-performing state in the northwest region at the 2024 Primary Health Care (PHC) Leadership Challenge, receiving international recognition and a \$500,000 award for its exceptional healthcare investments and leadership.

Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, accompanied by the Commissioner of Health Hajiya Umma K. Ahmad and the Executive Secretary of the Primary Health Care Board, accepted the prestigious award at a gala night hosted by the Nigerian Governors' Forum at the Banquette Hall in Aso Villa, Abuja.

The award highlights the Governor Senator Uba Sani administration's strong commitment to transforming the state's healthcare sector, particularly at the primary healthcare level. It recognized Kaduna State's significant investments and strategic approach to improving public health infrastructure and service delivery.

The PHC Leadership Challenge, a flagship program initiated following the Seattle Declaration of 2019, aims to strengthen the governors' commitment to primary healthcare. The program is a collaborative effort involving the Nigerian Governors Forum, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, Aliko Dangote Foundation, and the

National Primary Health Care Development Agency.

Originating from a 2019 declaration where state governors renewed their political commitment to improving primary healthcare outcomes, the leadership challenge encourages states to prioritize and invest in their healthcare systems.

For Kaduna State, the award represents more than just financial recognition. It stands as a testament to the state's dedicated health team and their tireless efforts to enhance healthcare services for residents.

The \$500,000 prize is expected to further support Kaduna State's ongoing healthcare initiatives and continued improvements in primary healthcare delivery.



Alhaji Sani Liman Kila facing the press flanked by officials of the committee

Tsangaya committee honours Sani Kila for contribution to Islam

The Chief of Staff to the Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Sani Kila, MFR has been decorated as Khadimul-Islam by the Kaduna State Tsangaya School Committee.

The Committee said the appointment of Alhaji Sani Kila was in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the development of Tsangaya System of Education and propagation of Islam in general.

Receiving the Award at Arewa House Kaduna on Wednesday, Alhaji Sani said the Tsangaya system of Islamic education has been in existence in Nigeria, centuries before the amalgamation of the Country, which has contributed immensely to the development Islam through memorization, writing and teaching of the Qur'an.

He said it was in recognition of the importance of the Tsangaya System of education to inculcation of morals in the society, that the Governor Uba Sani is committed to its improvement, development and standardization.

Gov Uba Sani's 2024 budget performance and the 2025 budget

"The only reason to be in politics is public service".

Malcom Turnbull

By Emmanuel Ado

How has Governor Uba Sani's 2024 budget of "Rural Transformation for Inclusive Development" performed? It's imperative that Governor Sani's budget is subjected to a rigorous performance analysis viz-a-viz the lofty objectives - as articulated in his SUSTAIN AGENDA- of using the budget to "bridge the gap between the rural and urban areas, revitalise the rural economies and promote social inclusion" before taking a hard look at the proposed N790 billion 2025 budget of "Sustained Rural Transformation and Inclusive Development". Governor Sani has described the 2025 budget as a true reflection of his "steadfast commitment to drive an inclusive development, create jobs, improve infrastructure, and invest in the people of Kaduna State and the resolve to build a state that is safe, prosperous, and equitable for all".

Governor Sani equally maintained that the 2024 budget was formulated to address infrastructure deficits and lopsidedness which has been in favour of the urban areas to the disadvantage of the rural areas, accelerate human capital development, boost agriculture and food security towards making Kaduna State more secure for the citizens, investors and their investments.

Why is a budget performance analysis of Governor Sani's 2024 budget critical? The main justification for subjecting the performance of the budget to an analysis is because it would assist the administration to track progress and eliminate errors or mistakes, and in making informed decisions in the preparation of the subsequent budget. It would also help the government evaluate whether it got value for money or not in delivering the outcomes (social contract) promised its citizens in the year under review. Performance review equally offers the government a basis for comparisons, between the anticipated desired results and the actual performance.

Having laid the foundation and concluded that analyzing past performance serves as a take-off point for the succeeding budget because it offers Governor Sani a veritable opportunity to evaluate and to further improve in the subsequent budget let's attempt an honest assessment of Governor Uba Sani's 2024 budget which had a budget size of N458,271,299,477.66, a capital expenditure of N318,836,576,588.28 and recurrent expenditure of N139,434,722,889.38, a 69.57% capital to 30.43% recurrent expenditure ratios.

Governor Uba Sani despite the rising debt overhang has without no doubt performed creditably by innovatively delivering on his inclusive development by providing critical infrastructure, especially to the rural communities that had suffered neglect and in enhanced security. Governor Sani, like his favorite Liverpool football club that's sitting on top of the

Premier League and the UEFA Champions League has the bragging right to declare that his administration has kept its promises.

Like every other governor in the North-West, the security challenge confronting the region would always be a yardstick on which they would be assessed. So how has Governor Uba Sani fared in protecting his citizens even though he is constitutionally handicapped and being addressed in borrowed robes as the Chief Security Officer?

On 29th November, 2024 Governor Sani not only visited Birnin Gwari the hotbed of the terrorists activities but reopened the renowned Kara livestock market for commercial activities after more than ten (10) years closure a signal that peace had finally returned to the troubled area. The resumption of commercial activities in the area that hitherto passing through was tantamount to suicide was obviously possible because of the success of the ongoing dialogue with non-state actors brokered by the Peace Dialogue Group, which was established by the Kaduna State Government in collaboration with federal agencies and the security services aimed at achieving a peaceful resolution to the prolonged crisis in the area.

Governor Sani was no doubt emboldened to make the daring move because the major bandit leaders and their foot soldiers had agreed to lay down their arms and embrace peace. As part of the process they are currently undergoing a rehabilitation programme to ensure that they don't go back to their old ways. The Southern Kaduna area which was equally a flashpoint has also been quiet. The investment, the recruitment and training of 7,000 Personnel of the Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS) to enhance security, the acquisition of 150 Hillux Security Vehicles and 500 Patrol Motorcycles for the security agencies and the construction of a Forensic Laboratory and Training Center have no doubt helped in achieving the success the people long for.

The Kaduna Peace Model anchored on the non - kinetic approach has so far proved to be a model that can be replicated by other troubled Northern States.

So on security Governor Sani who since his days at the Senate has been at the forefront in the agitation for the establishment of Community Police deserves a decent A.

On health, Kaduna State was recently honored as the best-performing state in the northwest region at the 2024 Primary Health Care (PHC) Leadership Challenge, an initiative of the Seattle Declaration of 2019, which aims to strengthen Nigerian governors' commitment to primary healthcare. The state received not just a well-deserved international recognition, but in addition a \$500,000 award for its exceptional healthcare investments and leadership.

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World Bank praises Kaduna's Livestock Project

The World Bank has praised Kaduna State's implementation of the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRESS) project, highlighting the state's exceptional progress in the agricultural development initiative.

During a courtesy visit to Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, World Bank Nigeria Operations Manager Tiammir Sammad and his team met with Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe and senior state government officials to assess the project's implementation status.

Mr. Sammad noted that Kaduna State has become the first among 20 participating states to advance to the second stage of the project, attributing this achievement to the administration of Governor Uba Sani's unwavering commitment.

The L-PRESS project aims to provide strategic interventions beyond traditional livestock support. A critical component of the initiative involves developing infrastructure in 19 sedentarized pastoralist communities across the state, specifically designed to mitigate the long-standing conflicts between herders and farmers caused by cattle movement.



A well-tended herd of goats

Additionally, the National Coordination Office has contributed to the state's livestock health by providing 450,000 doses of anthrax vaccines, enabling the vaccination of 300,000 animals and thereby improving animal health and state resilience.

In a further demonstration of commitment, Kaduna has been recognized as the sole state to provide its full counterpart funding for the year, a move that has expedited the project's progression to its next implementation stage.

The project's primary objectives include enhancing livestock productivity and

strengthening the country's capacity to respond to potential crises. It targets beneficiaries in cattle, goats, poultry, and piggery value chains. According to the National Coordinator Sanusi Abubakar, these efforts are crucial for sustainable agricultural development.

Deputy Governor Dr. Balarabe expressed gratitude to the World Bank for their partnership, emphasizing that the project aligns closely with the state government's vision of improving livelihoods, promoting economic empowerment, and revitalizing the rural economy through strategic agricultural interventions.

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How Kaduna achieved zero....

4. Engaging Media as Catalysts for Peace

The role of journalists in promoting peaceful coexistence cannot be overstated. The Network of Peace Journalists (NPJ), comprising 50 peace-focused media organizations, actively created narratives that fostered unity and tolerance. By harnessing the media's power to shape public opinion, Kaduna demonstrated how storytelling can be a tool for harmony.

5. Holistic Approach to Security Challenges

Despite challenges posed by criminal groups, Kaduna State adopted a comprehensive approach to security. By distinguishing between innocent community members and criminal elements, the government and security forces were able to focus their efforts on genuine threats. This precision

has been pivotal in isolating criminal gangs and restoring order in volatile areas like Igabi, Birnin Gwari, and Giwa.

Conclusion

Kaduna's achievement is more than a local success story—it's a model for sustainable peacebuilding. The lessons from 2024 underscore the importance of unity, dialogue, collaboration, and a proactive approach to resolving disputes. As the state sets its sights on an even more peaceful 2025, these principles can serve as a blueprint for other regions grappling with conflict.

Kaduna's journey to zero violent conflicts is a reminder that peace is not just an ideal; it is a result of deliberate and consistent effort.

“Uba Sani deserves praise for peace, calm in Kaduna”

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris Malagi has said that Uba Sani deserved praise for the calm atmosphere of Kaduna State because of the administration's commitment to peace building and inclusive governance.

“Everybody in Kaduna State appears to belong to the same family,” he said further stating that people in the information ecosystem are paying close attention to Kaduna State because of its strategic place in the politics and economy of the North and Nigeria in general.

The Minister stated this during a courtesy call by members of the National Council on Information on Gov Uba Sani at the Govt House Kaduna.

In his remarks, Gov Uba Sani thanked the Minister and members of the National Council for choosing Kaduna to host the 48th edition of its meeting.

Kaduna is synonymous with learning and information management. It is home to some of the famous media institutions in Nigeria such as Federal

Radio Corporation (FRCN) Kaduna and New Nigerian Newspapers which are household names in journalism and broadcasting in Nigeria,” he observed.

He said for decades, they were the centers for the production of communicators and have made immeasurable contributions to the growth and development of Nigeria. At a point in Nigeria, there were two major media centers, Lagos and Kaduna, the Governor further pointed out.

He implored members of the National Council to structure the country's information management system in a way that information will reach different audiences, thereby raising their consciousness and eliciting support for government's policies, programmes and projects.

“The National Council on Information and National Orientation has a strategic role to play in our economic revival efforts. They have a responsibility to devise effective strategies to mobilize Nigerians to selflessly contribute to the Rescue Mission of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Another major task



Minister of Information
Alh. Mohammed Idris Malagi

before the National Council on Information and National Orientation is how to frontally tackle the degeneration of moral values in Nigeria. Moral rejuvenation is key to reinventing our country and placing it on the path to sustainable growth and development.” Governor Sani stressed.

He said however that it was fundamental for the National Council to fashion and effectively implement strategies to counter forces that have been demarketing Nigeria and creating divisions in Nigeria. “We have a responsibility to keep our country united. Let us wage sustained battles for the hearts and minds of our citizens.” The Governor admonished.

Gov Uba Sani offers medical professionals automatic employment

In a significant move aimed at enhancing healthcare services and promoting inclusivity in education, Governor Uba Sani has announced the automatic employment of 35 newly graduated medical professionals. He announced the decision during a courtesy visit by the Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board, to Sir Kashim Ibrahim House.

The graduates, led to the govt house by the Executive Secretary, of the board Professor Yahya Saleh Ibrahim, came with their parents. The beneficiaries comprised 20 medical doctors who completed their studies in Cuba, 14 nurses that finished from the Islamic University of Uganda, and a BSc Cybersecurity graduate from the University of Wollongong Dubai, identified as a person with disability. Governor Sani's initiative reflects his

administration's commitment to bolstering healthcare services and promoting human capital development. In his remarks the Governor emphasized the importance of inclusivity, stating that “our government is dedicated to ensuring that every individual, regardless of his or her background and challenges, has the opportunity to succeed and contribute to society.”

The highlight of the visit was the Governor's announcement, granting automatic employment to the newly graduated medical students; a move that is expected to not only enhance the state's healthcare system but also provide job security for the young professionals. This decision was greeted with applause, especially from the graduates, who expressed their gratitude.

Mal Muhd Salisu Abdullahi Maiphysics, speaking on behalf of the parents,

expressed profound appreciation to Governor Sani for his timely intervention in settling all the outstanding school fees of their wards. “Without your support, our children would not have been able to graduate. We are grateful for your commitment to their education and future,” he stated, highlighting the impact of the Governor's actions on the students' lives. Governor Uba Sani's intervention is a testament to his administration's focus on creating an all-inclusive government that prioritizes human capital development and the enhancement of the public service.

As the state looks to the future, the integration of these new professionals into the workforce is expected to yield significant benefits for the community and the healthcare sector at large.

KDSG cracks down on illegal schools

By Halima Sadiya Abubakar

The Kaduna State Schools Quality Assurance Authority (KSSQAA) has embarked on actions to address the challenge of schools operating illegally in the state. Those affected are unregistered and schools operating without valid licenses. These actions align with the broader commitment of Governor Uba Sani, to prioritize education as a cornerstone of Kaduna State's development.

Governor Uba Sani has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to education by allocating 25% of the 2024 budget and 26.14% of the 2025

budget to the sector.

His administration has built and commissioned numerous educational facilities, significantly expanding access to learning opportunities across the state. However, beyond access, the Governor is equally committed to ensuring that the quality of education met both national and international standards.

The KSSQAA action followed the observation that despite robust advocacy and sensitization campaigns through various media, some school proprietors remained resistant to standardizing their operations. These unregistered and substandard schools undermine efforts to elevate Kaduna's educational standards and exploited parents by charging exorbitant fees for inferior services.

"Many of these schools lack essential infrastructure, employ unqualified teachers, and disregard approved curricula," said Prof. Usman Abubakar Zaria, Director-General of KSSQAA. "They fail to provide conducive learning environments, compromising the future of our children."

Kaduna State has recorded improvements in education outcomes, with 67% of learners achieving five credits, including Mathematics and English, in their NECO Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations

(SSCE), up from 54% before 2023.

While commendable, Prof. Abubakar Zaria emphasized that this progress is not enough. "We aim to be the leading state in educational performance, and this requires strict adherence to quality guidelines by all schools," he further said.

KSSQAA has completed Phase 1 of its enforcement exercise, targeting unregistered schools to ensure they either complied with regulations or cease operations. Preparations for Phase 2 are already underway, signaling the Authority's unwavering commitment to providing a safe and high-quality learning environment for every child in Kaduna State. In the coming weeks, KSSQAA will close down illegal schools that fail to meet the required standards, *Kaduna Outlook* has gathered.

KSSQAA has urged all stakeholders to join hands in safeguarding education in the state and called on parents and community members to report any suspected illegal schools to KSSQAA. It also called on registered schools to renew their annual operating licenses promptly. "Education is the most powerful equalizer in society," said Prof. Abubakar Zaria, adding that: "It is a sacred trust we must protect together. Let us work to make Kaduna State a beacon of educational excellence in Nigeria."



A locked-up school which fell foul of the government's standards.

Some of the 35 beneficiaries of the government scholarships abroad now offered automatic employment with their parents when they called on the Gov Uba Sani at the Government House. (See story on page 9)



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INTERVIEW

TVC Anchor: Mr. Governor the program you made reference to earlier, is an independent program on TVC and i saw that interview myself, one of the issues raised by one of the stakeholders i believe is the consultation process you talked about and particularly with Christian leaders, they are saying before embarking on this program, I'm sure you are aware there's a perceived religious undertone to the attacks on churches. Many religious leaders are against the pardon and armnesty... Is that something that you are willing to address?

Gov Sani: Okay as we speak just an hour ago the chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Kaduna State branch was in my office, he is fully involved. You see maybe one or two people are not involved and they concluded that nobody was involved. The CAN Chairman of Kaduna State and I had a lot of consultations. Let me tell you since I became Governor of Kaduna State there has never been any community or religious crisis and some people are not happy about that, they want to couse religious tension.

Can they mention anybody from Birnin Gwari who has approached them and told them that, because I'm a Christian or a Muslim one of my persons has been killed, I want to challenge them to tell me one person, don't speak for the victims when you don't have facts.

When I went to Birnin Gwari the Emir of Birnin Gwari in his wisdom gathered everyone together and presented the security intelligence available. I looked at the report and spoke on it to everyone, nobody talked about religion. Those talking about religion are religious bigots in Kaduna.

TVC Anchor: Mr Governor I think the bone of contention here really has to do with the armnesty and pardon

component of the Kaduna model program, many have questions... For instance how you intend to achieve sustainable peace without justice for previous crimes, what do you have to say for instance to victims of crimes by the beneficiaries of this peace agreement, what measures are in place to ensure justice at for the victims?

Gov Sani: We have a committee jointly between the Kaduna State government, the National Security Adviser, all the relevant security agencies in Kaduna State and the federal level... what we are doing is, if anyone comes out with cases about injustice against him, the government not only of Kaduna State but the Federal Government, jointly will look at the issue critically and address the issue but as at this moment, no one has come to me. Tell me one person you are aware of who has killed anyone. I've spent the most part of my life as a civil rights activist. Most of the people speaking, don't know my antecedent, I've fought for democracy, I've fought for justice, I've fought for Nigeria. I went to detention so many times fighting for the less privileged and the vulnerable and voiceless in Nigeria. That is my record, most of them never had something like that in their life so what I'm talking about is if there's any case of injustice someone should report to me... I will always insist that those that are responsible for loss of lives and property be brought to justice.

And I have made it clear that instead of people going to the media to talk, they should approach me with the facts. I'll repeat, please if there's anybody that has any issue that wants us as a government to take actions... But I cannot do anything without information let us know. I've fought hard for my people even before I became Governor.

Uba Sani raises retirement age for Kaduna academics

Gov Uba Sani of Kaduna, has issued an executive order increasing the retirement age of the academic staff of some Kaduna state-owned tertiary institutions to 65. Prof Muhammad Sani Bello, the state's commissioner for education, said that the decision followed a meeting with the governor, tertiary institutions managements, and the leadership of academic staff unions of all state-owned tertiary institutions.

The commissioner, while speaking during a news briefing on Friday, said

the retirement threshold is subject to some requirements.

He said the academics made five demands that the governor pledged to fulfil over time.

He said this included the issue of retirement age which he said would be resolved within 48 hours.

The order, he said, raised the retirement age of academic staff of Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Zaria, College of Education Gidan Waya, and School of Nursing and Midwifery to 65 years.

Prof. Bello said the Kaduna state government was committed to ensuring the smooth implementation of the policy across state-owned tertiary institutions.

He said the order came into effect last

Thursday, the day it was signed.

Recalling the other issues discussed at the meeting, the commissioner said that the governor noted that a series of the requests had been lingering before the coming of his administration.

"There were five fundamental requests. Number one had to do with outstanding salaries and welfare benefits of the staff of these institutions. On that, His Excellency has graciously agreed to consider those outstanding payments and benefits," he said.

"But of course, given the financial constraints that the state is facing, affordable amounts would be paid in staggered form until the outstanding liability is redeemed. That was the resolution," he said.

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KADUNA

Photo

1. Gov Uba Sani signing the 2025 appropriation bill
2. Gov. Uba Sani on Wednesday, 11th December, 2024, conferred with an award of the most "outstanding" Governor of the Year by Today Magazine. The PPS to the Gov Prof. Bello Ayuba (right) and Prof. Mike Ozekhelome (left) receiving the award
3. Artists performing at the traditional Southern Kano Festival (SKFEST) event
4. Gov Uba Sani (2nd right) shares a joke with Gov Dora Alimoni (2nd left) at the SKFEST event
5. Gov Uba Sani (2nd left) performs the ground-break for the Zaria. The emir of Zazzau (1st left), the speaker House of Representatives Kaduna state Alhaji Ramalan Yero (1st right) lend support to the project
6. Minister of Information and National Orientation Arewa House of the Nation Council on Information with Gov Uba Sani
7. The Gov speaking at the 2024 Unity Christmas Carol
8. In the midst of officials of the Fityanul Islam group in Kaduna
9. Governor Uba Sani with Vice President, Senator Kabiru Kogi, Sultan Bello Mosque Kaduna during the wedding Planning, Senator Atiku Bagudu.



"Kaduna State Civil Service one of the most vibrant"



Participants at the workshop

Kaduna State has one of the most vibrant civil services in the country as other states regularly send delegations to understudy some of the operations of key areas especially accountability.

This was disclosed at a two-day capacity building workshop which was organised by the office of the Head of Service and the Principal Private Secretary to Governor Uba Sani, held from 4th to 5th December in Kaduna.

A communique issued after the workshop noted that Kaduna State Public Service is strictly guided by "Scheme of Service, Stores Regulations, The Guide to Administrative Procedures and Financial Instructions."

The communique recommended that the Department of Printing Services (Government Printer) should produce these Statute/Regulatory Books for sale to Public Servants at affordable fees to enable more civil servants acquaint themselves for the continuous knowledge and growth of the service.

The communique jointly signed by Alhaji Waziri Garba and Malam Ibraheem Musa, the Senior Special

Assistant on Administration and the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor respectively, stated that the capacity building was organized for employees of Government House as ambassadors of government to equip them support the government in its bid to deliver on its campaign promises.

Participants at the workshop commended Kaduna State Government, under the leadership of Senator Uba Sani, for organising the workshop, which they described as "the first of its kind in the history of the state."

Governor Uba Sani was particularly applauded for his leadership style which emphasises inclusion, pro-people policies, workers' welfare and training, adding that trainings and workshops should be conducted for all categories of civil servants on a continuous basis.

Academics, technocrats and bureaucrats as well as senior government officials presented papers at the workshop on diverse topics and interactive sessions followed the presentations.

According to the communique, Kaduna State Government is a

"trailblazer in reforms but notwithstanding, the Civil Service Commission and the office of the Head Of Service are still improving on the recruitment process and the service generally."

The communique disclosed that "Kaduna State has one of the most robust Procurement Laws in the country, which is in line with international best practices.

"Kaduna State and Lagos States are the only sub-nationals that have a Gender Responsive Policy, which waives the Kaduna State Public Procurement Authority (KADPPA) registration fees for women-owned businesses.

"The KADPPA non-refundable Tender Fees have also been reviewed downwards by 50% for all women-owned businesses. Also, women-owned businesses are only required to pay 50% of the registration fees for Ministries, Departments and Agencies," The communique said Political Appointees were also advised to "desist from random and irresponsible posts on social media because such comments can be misconstrued as the viewpoint of Government, thereby causing reputational damage or public outcry."

The communique stated that "Public Servants must be disciplined, loyal to the Government of the day, show courtesy in the discharge of their duties, cooperate with one another and be honest in all their official engagements.

"It is also essential for Public Servants to adhere to laid down procedures in the conduct of Government business as failure to do so leads to systemic decay of the service and corruption."

The communique noted that "Information and Communication

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Gov Uba Sani unveils "PocketMoni" product

Governor Uba Sani has unveiled the 'pocket moni' product by e-transact plc, thus formally introducing the product to the Nigerian market.

He said at the unveiling in Kaduna recently that he was determined to addressing the exclusion of the poor, underserved and vulnerable from financial services and ensuring that they benefit from social intervention programs of Kaduna State and the Federal Government.

He said that it was for that reason that upon assumption of office as Kaduna State Governor, the first Executive Order he signed was on Financial Inclusion.

He said "Pocketmoni" would help support the financially excluded population in Northern Nigeria by giving them access to mobile wallets and banking services which include access to credits and donor agencies intervention programs.

In another development, Gov Uba Sani assured of improved healthcare system in Kaduna State.

Governor Sani gave the assurance when he received in audience a delegation from the Maternal and Reproductive Health (MRH) Collective led by Professor Bosede Afolabi at the Kashim Ibrahim House Kaduna.

The Gov and the delegation held discussions centered around addressing child and maternal mortality in Kaduna State.

The visitors later presented a framework for collaboration with the State Government to tackle the challenges.

Solar Energy Society of Nigeria confers excellence award on Gov Uba Sani.

The Solar Energy Society of Nigeria has at its Forum held December 11th 2024 at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) conferred on Gov Uba Sani an award of excellence in recognition of his contribution to the solar energy industry.

The Forum was hosted by **Major General J.O Ochai**, Commandant of the Nigerian Defence Academy, and chaired by **Prof. Abubakar Sani Sambo**, OON.

Governor Uba Sani, as the chief host, was represented by Engr. Idris Aminu Idris, FNSE, the Managing Director of Kaduna State Power Supply Company (KAPSCO).

In a keynote address to the occasion, Governor Uba Sani highlighted the immense opportunities within Nigeria's renewable energy sector, urging stakeholders in the solar energy industry to explore these prospects. He emphasized the steps being taken in Kaduna State to address power supply challenges through sustainable solutions.

"The Kaduna State Government is partnering with the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) through its Renewable Investment Platform for Limitless Energy (RIPLE) to establish



a 2.5MW solar system to support our Teaching Hospital, Kaduna State University, and the Kaduna State Water Corporation (KADSWAC)," the Governor stated.

The Forum brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and academics from across the country, fostering important discussions on strategies to advance solar energy development. Governor Sani called for collaboration among governments, the private sector, and academic institutions, emphasizing innovation as a key driver of socio-economic transformation.

Prof. Bello Ayuba PPS to Gov Uba Sani (right) receiving on behalf of the Governor the award of "Senate Ambassador" conferred by the Senate Press Corps at the NICON Hotel in Abuja



Tudun Biri gets state-of-the-art healthcare facility, modern skills acquisition centre

One year after the erroneous military drone attack on Tudun Biri village in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna, Governor Uba Sani has commissioned a 25-bed Primary Healthcare Centre, skills acquisition centre, and comprehensive medical, surgical and ophthalmological care in the community.

The occasion also witnessed the administration of 300 bags of 50kg rice, 300 bags of 50kg maize, and 500 bags of 50kg NPK fertilizer by the Gov to the people of Tudun Biri community and surrounding villages.

Governor Uba Sani in the course of these activities pledged to provide social amenities like roads, water, schools, hospitals, and a skills acquisition center for the community.

Commissioning the 25-bed Primary Healthcare Centre with Ambulance, the Skills Acquisition Centre, and comprehensive medical, surgical, and ophthalmological care on Sunday, Governor Sani promised the villagers who lost their loved ones to the error bombing that, he will continue to follow up until the perpetrators of the error attack are brought to justice.

According to the Governor, “A number of activities have been lined up to mark the first anniversary. We shall commission a Primary Healthcare Care

Clinic and Skills Acquisition Centre. We shall also flag off Free, Comprehensive Medical, Surgical, and Ophthalmologic Care in the community.

“Our administration has prioritised human capital development because it is the surest path to lifting people out of poverty. The Skills Acquisition Centre will equip Tudun Biri youths with the skills to be employable and even be employers themselves. The Primary Healthcare Center will cater to the health needs of the people and enhance their productivity.

He said that the “Tudun Biri Community occupies a special place in our hearts. That is why we wasted no time in creating access road to this community and commencing the construction of other projects. The Kaduna State Government is constructing houses in Tudun Biri to resettle those affected by the unfortunate incident.

Governor Uba Sani listed other benefits that had accrued to the community since the incident including various social intervention programmes including palliatives distribution, entrepreneurship initiatives, and distribution of vital agricultural inputs.

“We have also prioritized Tudun Biri in the implementation of Federal Government's social intervention programmes in Kaduna State as a

number of projects are being executed here” adding that more of the projects are coming.

” We shall ensure that we fulfill our promises to the community. We are also following up on all the pledges made to the community by individuals, institutions, and corporate organizations” he further said stressing that: “The security of Tudun Biri Community is also one of our major priorities. We shall continue to work with security agencies and key stakeholders from Tudun Biri to enhance the security of this community. We shall continue to count on your support and cooperation as we work assiduously to better the lives of the people of this great community.”

While inspecting the 6-kilometers asphalt road being constructed by the state government to link Tudun Biri with the Kaduna International Airport, Governor Sani expressed satisfaction with the progress of work, pledging that the road will be completed in the next four months.

Speaking on behalf of Tudun Biri Community, Magaji Aliyu Adamu expressed appreciation to Governor Uba Sani for keeping to his promises, saying that the people of the Tudun will never forget him.



The State-of-art healthcare facility commissioned at Tudun Biri

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Accurate data drives KDSG's....

With this data, the government is better positioned to tackle the challenges of access and quality, that would ensure that every child in Kaduna State receives the qualitative education that they deserved to become part of the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

budgets fail. The reports on abandoned projects have squarely showed that the lack of statistics for planning, not funding, is the main culprit. For instance, there is no denying the fact that infrastructure is crucial to Africa's growth prospects, nor can one ignore or deny the ever-growing need for the infrastructural improvement in Nigeria. But what we have constantly worked with are approximations, and not hard facts that are critical for planning. Despite the estimated shortfall of nearly \$100 billion in infrastructure investment in Africa, lack of financing is certainly not the biggest problem.

It will make a great difference to hear other state governments speak authoritatively that only 30 percent of the population has access to electricity and that only 10 percent has access to safe water and sanitation, like Kaduna State does, in the areas that it has embarked on survey. It is only then that budgets would achieve their objectives.

The Bureau is currently working on attracting more local and foreign investment to the agricultural sector with the

survey on Re-Validation of Agricultural Investment Plan which would help government provide the much-needed impetus in the area of infrastructure, land availability and financing for both small-holder and large-scale farming in the state. To fill the gaping hole in the State's data, the Bureau has concluded plans to conduct a range of innovative new surveys in critical sectors – health, labour, living standards.

Kaduna State deserves commendation for institutionalizing the role of data in planning and monitoring of government policies because its objective is to improve the lives of the residents of the state, by providing comprehensive targets for all aspects of development and coordinating the efforts of all actors. If all goes well, Kaduna hopes to achieve its potentials by the 2030. The modest gains Kaduna State has recorded in its desire to achieve inclusive economic growth and socio-economic transformation that translates into substantial improvements in the quality of lives of citizens, through higher productivity and competitiveness are attributable to planning and planning with hard facts

Emmanuel Ado is a public Affairs commentator resident in Kaduna.

Christmas Message: Uba Sani extols Kaduna people for peace, understanding

Christmas message: Uba Sani extols Kaduna people for peace, understanding Gov Uba Sani has urged people in the state to strive to consolidate on the peaceful atmosphere prevalent in the state. He said in a Christmas message that the state had faced numerous challenges which the people had surmounted and appealed to the "indomitable spirit of the Kaduna people" to keep it up. Gov Sani recalled that the state had made progress towards restoring peace especially in conflict prone areas which was facilitated by the Peace Dialogue Group. "The Kaduna peace model is now being understudied by other states with a view to replicating it" the Governor enthused. He further said: "we are fully committed to running a pro-people, pro-poor and all-inclusive government, with equity, justice and fairness as the foundation for peace and progress". Gov Sani recalled efforts government was making to engage various interest groups in the state to address development issues and the

current effort at opening up the rural areas and revamping the health, education and agriculture sectors for the benefit of the people, adding that government was bringing succour to the underserved through its social intervention programmes. The Gov also urged the people to appreciate the efforts of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led federal government which is "

courageously steering our country to economic stability" and therefore needs our understanding and support. "As we celebrate Christmas and cross over to the new year, let us make a conscious effort to let peace reign in our hearts, homes and communities", Governor Sani said adding: "let us strive to be instruments of peace, spreading love, kindness and compassion to those around us".



KDSG, Fifth Chukker resolve dispute

By Helen Kafoi

In line with Governor Uba Sani's commitment to resolve all land disputes and encourage private sector investment, Kaduna Geographic Information Service KADGIS has taken a bold step to resolve the long-standing dispute between the KDSG and Messers Fifth Chukker Limited.

At a meeting presided over by the Director General KADGIS, Dr Bashir Garba Ibrahim with the State's Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice Sule Shuaibu SAN, with the Chairman and CEO of Fifth Chukker Limited, Adamu Attah, the parties amicably resolved to settle the matter out of court. This is in view of the investor's commitment and choice of Kaduna State as primary constituency for its

investment, and considering, the Governor's tireless efforts and determination in making the State investor friendly as well as to sustain its ranking on the Ease of Doing Business Index in Nigeria.

Consequently, the State Government has, through KADGIS agreed to commence the processes towards reinstatement of the revoked titles held by Fifth Chukker Limited, while the investor has committed to abide by all terms and conditions contingent upon the restitution.

The Chairman Fifth Chukker Limited lauded the transparent and professional disposition of KADGIS as demonstrated by the Director General, the urged for consistent support and cooperation of all staff and management of the Agency to enable efficient delivery of its mandate.

KADSIPA briefs Emir of Zazzau on cash transfer

Executive Secretary of the Kaduna State Social Investment Programme Agency (KADSIPA), Umar Sani Maikudi has led a delegation to the palace of the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli, where he briefed the royal father on the ongoing Renewed Hope Conditional Cash Transfer Card distribution across Kaduna State.

The delegation, which included the Senior Special Assistant on Energy, the Senior Special Assistant on Social Investment Programmes, and the Senior Special Assistant on Financial Inclusion, sought the counsel of the Emir for the success of this impactful initiative being implemented by the State Cash Transfer Unit (SCTU).

The Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of the Emir's guidance and prayers in ensuring the program's success in uplifting the poor and vulnerable households across the state. He added that KADSIPA remained committed to fostering partnerships with traditional institutions and other stakeholders to ensure the effective delivery of social investment program in the state.

Ex-chairman Kaduna South LGA Kabiru Jarimi now Special Adviser, LG Affairs to Uba Sani

The Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani has appointed the immediate past Chairman of Kaduna South Local Government, Kabiru Yakubu Jarimi as his Special Adviser on Local Government Affairs.

Kabiru Jarimi is expected to bring his wealth of experience in Local Government Administration to bear on his new assignment.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor Malam Ibraheem Musa said that Governor Uba Sani urged Kabiru Jarimi to approach his responsibility with commitment, dedication and fairness and wished him Allah's guidance and

protection.

The appointment is with immediate effect.

Kabiru Yakubu Jarimi is an accomplished public official and strategic leader. He served for two terms as the elected Executive Chairman of Kaduna South Local Government Area. He is recognized for pioneering community-centered policies, fostering sustainable development, and enhancing public service delivery.

His leadership stands out for building cross-sector alliances to advance security, education, healthcare and social services.

Through innovative governance and

ethical leadership, the appointee has successfully empowered youth and vulnerable groups while driving transformative progress across Kaduna South.

Kabiru Yakubu Jarimi holds a Master of Science Degree in Information Technology, a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science, and Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

The new Special Adviser has skills and competences in strategic governance and leadership, public policy and community engagement, conflict resolution, youth empowerment and economic development, as well as financial management.

KDSG, AGRA stimulate \$100m Investment in Rice, Maize Value Chain

The Kaduna State Government says it is collaborating with the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to strengthen the state's Agricultural Policies to boost smallholder farmers' ability in the maize and rice value chain.

Alhaji Murtala Dabo, the state Commissioner for Agriculture, made this known while hosting a one-day Stakeholders' and Media Engagement on the State's Policy and Agricultural Systems Strengthening (PASS) project.

Alhaji Dabo, represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Abubakar Abba, said the project, being funded by AGRA, would guide the ministry in policies that would foster the harmonisation of initiatives for the growth of the agriculture sector into an agribusiness.

That, the official added, would attract both local and foreign investment. According to him, the PASS project would consolidate the gains of the Capacity Strengthening Project for the Kaduna State Ministry of Agriculture earlier funded by AGRA between 2019 and 2021.

He said the previous AGRA project led to the revival of the State Committee for Agriculture, the development of the first agricultural policy, and the evolution of an inclusive and participatory planning and budgetary process.

He explained that the project also led to the establishment of a database and the flagship initiative of the sector in the state.

Alhaji Dabo said: "The objective of PASS is to improve the state capability of local actors to implement evidence-based policies and strategies; implement programs, monitor them, and build resilience.

"It will establish an enabling and



Alhaji Murtala Dabo

inclusive environment that stimulates markets for agricultural products and services that support smallholder farmers in the value chain for rice and maize.

"AGRA's effort improved the gaps in coordination, planning, monitoring evaluation, and data collection that revived the ministry's ability to deliver on some of its key mandates.

"This is even as the PASS project aims to improve the state capability of local actors to implement evidence-based policies and strategies."

The commissioner noted with delight that the project would implement programmes, monitor them, build resilience, and establish an enabling and inclusive environment that would stimulate markets for agricultural products and services.

Alhaji Dabo added: "The PASS project would ensure that the government drives agriculture through a business development strategy to catalyze the Ministry's ability to respond to farmers' needs.

"The project would be instrumental in driving sustainable growth to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the state."

Somali delegation on study tour of Kaduna

A high-powered delegation from the Federal Republic of Somalia led by the Ambassador of Somalia to Nigeria, Mr. Jamal Mohamed Barrow and the Accountant General, Mr. Abdirahman Mohamed Anas has visited Kaduna state on consulting mission.

The Accountant General and his team who are in Nigeria to look at existing fiscal responsibility policies, as well as accountability and transparency mechanisms in Nigeria, selected Kaduna State as a case study.

This is a clear indication that Governor Uba Sani's open government processes and procedures have not gone unnoticed even outside the shores of this country.

The team paid a courtesy call on Governor Uba Sani who warmly welcomed them and wished them a fruitful study tour of Kaduna State.



Members of the Somali delegation

Gov Uba Sani launches distribution of free drugs, medical equipment

Governor Uba Sani has promised that all the 255 Primary Healthcare Centers in Kaduna State will be remodelled and upgraded to Level 2 status as part of his administration's overhaul of the health sector.

The Governor further pledged that the upgraded PHCs will undertake management of uncomplicated diabetes, uncomplicated hypertension, resuscitation of severe asthma and assisted delivery as well as other essential services.

Governor Uba Sani disclosed this at the flag off of the distribution of free essential drugs and hospital equipment for the entire PHCs in the 23 local governments in Kaduna State, at Kachia town.

The Governor who said that the present 255 Primary Healthcare Centers in Kaduna State are the best in the country, added that his administration wants Kaduna State to be the leading subnational in healthcare delivery in the country.

"Last Thursday, Kaduna State emerged

the best performing state in Primary Health Care in the North West zone, by the PHC Leadership Challenge in Abuja," he recalled.

Governor Uba Sani also said that the upgraded PHCs will be digitalized and linked to General Hospitals across the state, in a bid for Kaduna State citizens to have access to healthcare at all levels. The Governor pointed out that those eligible for free drugs included children from the age of one to five years, pregnant women and the underprivileged.

He warned against the pilfering of the health commodities and equipment, adding that traditional rulers, community leaders and health personnel should keep an eye on the items.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of Kachia Local Government, Dr Manzo Maigari, thanked the Governor for personally attending the occasion, describing him as a son of the soil.

In her remark, the Commissioner of Health, Hajiya Umma K. Ahmad, said that the distribution of free drugs is a

significant milestone in the administration's efforts to reposition healthcare sector.

According to her, the distribution of free drugs will strengthen the Primary Health Care and improve the health sector generally.



Gov Uba Sani with Officials at the launch of the free medical essentials



Display of the drugs and equipment for distribution free

National Council on Communication recognizes Kaduna's ICT advance

The Kaduna State Government's ICT initiatives has been recognized at national level with an award as second runner-up on ICT Human Capital Development by the 12th National Council on Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy which held at Makurdi, Benue State.

The Kaduna State delegation which was led by the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Business Innovation and Technology, Dr Yusuf Saleh, included the Special Assistant to the Gov on ICT Musa Bello and other government officials.

The council meeting, which took place from 2nd December to 6th December, 2024, brought together key stakeholders from all over the country to discuss policies and strategies for advancing Nigeria's digital economy and technological ecosystem.

The high-profile event featured notable personalities, including the Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy-Dr. Bosun Tijani; the Governor of Benue State, Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Alia; the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy; various state Commissioners; Permanent Secretaries; Directors; Heads of Parastatals; Security Agencies; Private organizations; Tech Entrepreneurs; and other experts.

This year's theme, "Accelerating the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence through Policy and Innovation for Sustainable Development," underscored the critical role of technology and innovation in driving sustainable national development.

The Permanent Secretary showcased Kaduna State's progress in ICT, emphasizing projects aimed at improving ICT literacy & e-governance, fostering tech

entrepreneurship, and building a resilient digital infrastructure. He also highlighted efforts to integrate digital tools into e-governance policies across the State.

The delegation from Kaduna State also engaged with policymakers, industry leaders, and tech experts to explore opportunities for collaboration and funding. These engagements were geared towards accelerating Kaduna State's digital transformation and positioning it as a leader in Nigeria's technological advancement.

The Council concluded with actionable recommendations, including policies to promote Artificial Intelligence adoption, responsible internet use, investment in digital skills development, and stronger public-private partnerships. Kaduna State remain committed at the forefront of Nigeria's technological revolution.

Under the leadership of Senator Uba Sani, Kaduna State is solidifying its reputation as a trailblazer in harnessing Science and Technology for sustainable development. The participation at the Council further cemented the state's position as a critical player in Nigeria's Innovation and Digital economy.

Kaduna state has reduced its debt burden by N58.7 billion within a year during which it made sacrifices and pooled savings to find space within the budget to embark on many keu significant projects

This was achieved in spite of financial challenges inherited from previous administrations, Gov Uba Sani stated this much during his budget presentation.

Governor Uba Sani highlighted that the state was previously incurring monthly payments of 4.7 billion towards inherited debts, which hindered timely salary payments and

financial stability.

This reduction he said reflected ongoing efforts to improve fiscal management and accountability in the state's debt reduction, which was primarily driven by several key factors as follow:

Fiscal Discipline: The government implemented strict budgetary controls and prioritized essential spending, reducing unnecessary expenditures.

Improved Revenue Generation: Enhanced tax collection and revenue strategies contributed to increased state income, allowing for more funds to be allocated towards debt repayment.

Debt Restructuring: The state may have engaged in refinancing existing loans to lower interest rates and extend repayment terms, easing the debt burden.

These measures collectively facilitated the significant reduction in debt over the past year.

The Governor announced a budget package of N790billion for the 2025 fiscal year with N553billion of 70% of the budget earmarked for capital expenditure and N237 billion earmarked for the recurrent expenditure.



Mrs Patience Fakai,
Commissioner, Ministry of Business,
Innovation, and Technology

As insecurity eases in B/Gwari, Giwa Kara livestock, Kidandan markets reopen



Alh Sani Liman Kila (holding mic) at Kidandan market with local officials

The Kara livestock market in Birnin Gwari LGA, closed for over a decade due to security concerns has reopened following the easing off in the security challenges in the area.

Governor Uba Sani had initiated stakeholder engagement leading to the eventual signing of peace agreement between the Fulani community and residents of Birnin Gwari which was geared towards restoring peace in the area

The Governor at the occasion extolled the huge advantages that peace would confer on the people in the area following their decision to live in harmony and urged the residents to abide by the peace agreement for

posterity

In a similar development, the Chief of Staff, Malam Sani Liman Kila represented Governor Uba Sani at the reopening of Kidandan Market, marking a significant milestone after its closure for years due to insecurity. Both events underscore the governor's ongoing efforts to restore peace in communities affected by security threats which had rendered them incapable of conducting economic activities with the resultant losses in means of livelihood.

The Chief of Staff was accompanied by the Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Barrister James Kanyip.

The reopening of Kidandan Market

"Kaduna State Civil Service....

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Technology enhances service delivery in Public Service but should not negate procedural matters in the management and documentation of Government activities."

It advised that the "communication skills of Government House employees should be upscaled because they are closest to the seat of power. For this reason, they are seen as the Ambassadors of the administration. So,

they should be able to communicate Government's policies clearly."

Public Servants were also advised to rededicate themselves to the actualization of the Governor Uba Sani's SUSTAIN Agenda, which is aimed at providing dividends of democracy to the good people of Kaduna State, whose mandate he is holding in trust.

was also the result of continued dialogues with non-state actors aimed at achieving a peaceful resolution to the prolonged crisis in the area. The peace dialogue group facilitated a peace agreement, established through collaboration between the Kaduna State Government, federal agencies, and security services.

As part of this process, several senior bandit leaders in the two communities have laid down their arms and embraced peace along with their followers.

The individuals are now enrolled in a rehabilitation program developed by the Kaduna State Government in partnership with the Federal Government.

Uba Sani raises retirement age

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"But of course, given the financial constraints that the state is facing, affordable amounts would be paid in staggered form until the outstanding liability is redeemed. That was the resolution," he said.

"The next issue had to do with funding the institutions. We all know that since the implementation of the Treasury Single Account system in Kaduna State, tertiary institutions have been affected.

"They complained about funding which they require to run the day-to-day activities of the institutions.

"As a prelude to a complete reversal of the inclusion of tertiary institutions from TSA, His Excellency has also graciously agreed to commence sharing of the total revenue being collected by these institutions.

"There will be sharing formula within the first quarter of next year, that will be mutually agreed which will be fair to all parties."

Multiple health awards sign of KDSG's effective management

By Affiong Edim

The recent recognition of Kaduna State at the 2024 Primary Health Care (PHC) Leadership Challenge marks a significant achievement for the state, reflecting its dedication to improving healthcare services. The accolade, which comes with a \$500,000 award, signifies effective leadership under Governor Senator Uba Sani and the collaborative efforts and hard work of the Commissioner of Health Hajiya Umma K Ahmed as well as the Executive Secretary of the Primary Health Care Board. The PHC Leadership Challenge emerged from the Seattle Declaration of 2019, which calls for Governors to prioritize the strengthening of primary healthcare systems, aiming to adopt a proactive approach to enhance public health. As one of the leading states in the Northwest zone.

Kaduna State's acknowledgment is a testament to its substantial investments in healthcare infrastructure, innovative approaches, and a clear focus on service delivery.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Health and the Executive Secretary, Primary Health Care Board, the Deputy Governor accepted the award on behalf of the State at the gala event at Aso Villa, which featured notable figures from organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UNICEF, which emphasizes the importance of collaborative endeavors in achieving healthcare objectives.

This award not only recognizes Kaduna's advancements on an international platform but also provides crucial funding to enhance ongoing healthcare initiatives.

Moreover, Kaduna State's Health Supply Management Agency (KADHSMA) has also received accolades for its outstanding performance at the 2024

Annual Supply Chain Summit. Garnering multiple awards from prominent pharmaceutical firms and international supply chain organizations underscores the dedication, hard work, and effective leadership within Kaduna's health sector. The recognition from industry leaders—such as FIDSON, JUHEL, EMZOR, UNIQUE, NEMEL, SAM, BOND CHEMICAL, JAWA, KAIZEN INSTITUTE, ISCA, and ARCESM—reflects the support of Governor Uba Sani and the commitment to excellence in health supply management led by the Health Commissioner Hajiya Umma K Ahmed.

This level of recognition not only underscores the effective strategies employed by the entire health team but also highlights the critical importance of quality in healthcare delivery. Together, these accolades position Kaduna State as a leading example of effective healthcare governance and investment in Nigeria.

2024 Hajj: Uba Sani praises Pilgrims Agency for great performance

By Yunusa Abdullahi

Governor Uba Sani has commended the Kaduna State Pilgrims Welfare Agency for its exemplary performance during the 2024 Hajj exercise, which earned it praise across the board.

The Governor made the commendation when the Board members of the Agency submitted the Hajj 2024 report recently. The Governor, while receiving the report, pointed out that the Pilgrims Agency completed the evacuation of all intending pilgrims to Makkah ten days before the closing of King Abdulaziz International Airport, which he described as unprecedented.

The Director-General interfaith, Barrister Tahir Tahir in an interview with the Government House media

crew, recalled that all of Kaduna State's pilgrims landed directly at Madinah, spent four days in the city, and visited holy sites and historical places before proceeding to Makkah.

Barrister Tahir also pointed out that the pilgrims spent about a week in Makkah before going to Mina and subsequently proceeding to Arafat, adding that "His Excellency, Governor Uba Sani, was happy with this seamless process."

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State Pilgrims Welfare Agency has commenced the payment of N61,080 to each of the 6,239 pilgrims who performed Hajj through the state in 2023. These refunds were received by the agency from the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

NAHCON has explained that the refunds are due to an interruption in the electricity supply during the pilgrims'

stay at Mina, which affected the cooling systems and consequently caused inconvenience to the pilgrims.

A statement from by the Agency explained that each pilgrim will receive the sum of N61,080, and these funds will be disbursed directly into the accounts of the affected pilgrims. "We will do everything possible to ensure only verified pilgrims with bank account details receive the refunds," Malam Salihu S. Abubakar, at a meeting with the Local Government Pilgrims Registration Officers today.

The statement called on the affected pilgrims who have not yet submitted their details to approach their Local Government registration officers for documentation and verification. The details required for verification include international passports and bank account details.

Africa Investment Forum (AIF) Market Days 2024, in Rabat, Morocco.



Gov Uba Sani (First right) along with Dr Adeshina President of African Development Bank (3rd right) and other prominent personalities at the above event in Morocco.



Gov Uba Sani and wife of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu Senator Oluremi Tinubu arriving the Umar Musa Yar'adua Hall Murtala Square Kaduna to kick-start the distribution of Christmas and New Year palliatives



Gov Uba Sani among a host of members of the National Council on Information when they paid a courtesy call on him after rising from their 48th meeting in Kaduna

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