

KADUNA OUTLOOK

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Gov Uba Sani receives rescued Kuriga students, cautions against unguarded statements

By Our Correspondent

Kaduna State Governor Uba Sani on Monday 25th March 2024 received the rescued abducted students of Kuriga in Chikun LGA with a caution to members of the public to desist from giving undue publicity to incidents of insecurity to curb the menace.

He said that the unnecessary publicity to the cases often emboldened the perpetrators and hindered effective operations by security agencies.

Gov Uba Sani who received the rescued students in company of Deputy Gov Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, the Speaker, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Liman, and other senior government officials at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House extended a hearty welcome to the 137 Kuriga school children who were rescued after spending 16 days in captivity. A teacher, Malam Abubakar who was abducted along with the students however lost his life in captivity due to some health challenges he suffered.

General Officer Commanding 1 Division Nigerian Army, Major General Mayirenso Saraso who formally handed over 131 of Kuriga school children, comprising 76 girls, and 51 boys, said six of the students were on admission at a hospital being treated for some health issues.

The Governor had said at the reception for the children “only one person has not returned, and that is the teacher. But all of the 137 children are safely back.”

He thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu who has played a major role in organizing and supporting the entire security agencies in Nigeria to ensure the children are back.

The Governor explained that the school children were rescued by the military, in collaboration with local authorities from neighboring Zamfara State.

He expressed sadness that the teacher could not make it alive, following health complications while in the hands of his abductors.

Gov Uba Sani thanked the National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu, the Service Chiefs, Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Christopher Musa and the Corps Marshal of the Nigerian Civil Defence who have all made important contributions.

“It is an organized effort by all the security agencies and Nigerians, who have been praying day and night and today God has answered our prayers.” Gov Uba Sani said.

He stressed the need for caution, over the matter of security. “Since the return of the children on Sunday evening when I visited them, a lot of people have been asking questions on how this children were released, what happened.

“For us in Kaduna, what is more important to us is the safe return of our children.

Today, the children are here, they will soon join their parents, families and that is more important as our role is to protect lives of citizens of the state.” he declared adding that security remained number one on the agenda of his administration and should not be politicized.

“We have to be cautious, we should not publicise the issue of security in Nigeria, because any attempt to undermine security in Nigeria in the name of politics is jeopardizing the lives of citizens,” he warned.

Uba Sani assured that the rescued children who had undergone medical checks upon arrival will continue to undergo psychosocial counseling and proper medical supervision for sometimes.

The General Officer Commanding 1 Division Nigerian Army, Major General Mayirenso Saraso had said that both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches were adopted in the rescue operation of the children.

According to him, the sustained and coordinated application of both kinetic and non-kinetic efforts by the security agencies under the strategic guidance of the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR through the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), paid off.

“The students were initially received and administered first aid at the Nigerian Army Troops

Forward Operating Base Dansadau, in Zamfara State before being served refreshment and subsequently conveyed from there under escort to Kaduna Sunday afternoon, the GOC added.

The 137 students of the Govt Secondary and LEA Primary Schools Kuriga in Chikun LGA of Kaduna State were successfully rescued from captivity around Dansadau Forest in Zamfara State and safely brought back to Kaduna.

“The breakdown of the figure of the rescued children shows that 76 were Females and 61 Males making a total of

Quality control authority harps on quality education

Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe has been briefed by the State Schools Quality Assurance Authority on the activities and strides made by the authority in enhancing quality education in Kaduna State.

During the briefing which she chaired, for agencies under her supervision, Dr Usman Abubakar, the Director General of the Authority, spearheaded the presentation, showcasing innovative measures taken to bolster the quality of education in both public and private institutions throughout the region.

Accompanied by the management team of the Authority, Dr Usman Abubakar unveiled a series of proactive initiatives geared towards raising the standards of education across Kaduna State through the adoption of technological innovations in monitoring and ensuring compliance with standards.

How my visit to Qatar will benefit Kaduna State – Uba Sani

Governor Uba Sani in company of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu had a two-day visit to Qatar, described by many observers as a successful visit in view of its promise in the efforts to attract investment to Kaduna State. A key highlight of the visit was the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Nigeria and Qatar across multiple sectors. Governor Uba Sani throws more light on the Qatar visit and its economic prospects:

On the Visit

The state visit afforded the Kaduna State Government the opportunity to strengthen its existing partnerships with the Qatari Government and the state-led humanitarian organization, Qatar Charity. We also explored new areas of cooperation.

Solid Minerals, Agric and Power

We held fruitful meetings with investors in the areas of solid minerals, agriculture, energy and infrastructure development. CGK GLOBAL, a waste management company with capacity to generate hydrogen and electricity wants to set up a plant in Kaduna with the possible injection of 350 Million Dollars. Two ABU DHABI based companies, Masdar and Taqa expressed interest in collaborating with the Kaduna State Government in the areas of power

generation and distribution using gas.

On Establishment of Mining Infrastructure Fund

PASKO Limited, a South Korean international mining company with specific interest in lithium wants to invest in Kaduna State. Another international mining consortium, TROVEC Group expressed interest in collaborating with the Kaduna State Government in prospecting, exploring and exploiting different mineral deposits, as well as the establishment of a Mining Infrastructure Fund.

Boost to Health Care Delivery

Together with the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof. Ali Pate, we paid a visit to one of the leading hospitals in Qatar, Sidra Hospital located in Doha, to study its healthcare model and explore the possibility of

forging a partnership with the Hospital to boost healthcare delivery in Kaduna State. In particular, we held discussions on a cooperative agreement in respect of the running of the state of the art 300-bed Kaduna Specialist Hospital.

On Leyland assembly Plant, Mando Mechanic Village, Commercial Rice Farm

In the area of Agriculture, we held a meeting with the Managing Director of

STALLION GROUP Nigeria to finalize discussions on the establishment of a 100,000 - hectare rice farm, as well as the setting up of an Assembly Plant for Ashok Leyland in Kaduna. We also held a meeting with representatives of a Qatar based Real Estate Company, Dream Construction, that expressed interest in partnering with the Kaduna State Government to develop the Mando Mechanics Village.



Governor Uba Sani (first left) with Qatari officials at one of the sessions during the state visit.

Kaduna State, Kuwait face similar developmental challenges – Uba Sani

In a show of solidarity and friendship, Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has extended heartfelt congratulations to the Kingdom of Kuwait on the occasion of the commemoration of its 63rd Independence Anniversary and 33rd Liberation Day. The message was conveyed by Deputy Governor Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe at a reception held at the Royal Hall of Duncce Center in Maitama, Abuja. **Peter Ibrahim** reports on the event:

The Deputy Governor expressed gratitude for the invitation extended to Kaduna State and conveyed Governor Uba Sani's warm wishes to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Ambassador, and the people of Kuwait on the significant occasion. Highlighting the historical significance of Kuwait's journey towards independence and liberation, Dr Balarabe

praised the nation's resilience, determination, and unity in overcoming challenges, drawing parallels between Nigeria and Kuwait's colonial past, she emphasized the potential for solidarity and collaboration between Kaduna State and Kuwait in their common pursuit of growth and sustainable development.

Acknowledging Kuwait's support for educational initiatives, particularly in reaching out to school

children, the Dep. Gov. noted the longstanding

friendship between the two regions dating back to the

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Deputy Gov. Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe (right) at the Kuwaiti event (centre) with Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim Minister of Youth, with the Charge D' Affairs of the Embassy of Kuwait in Nigeria, Abdurahman Merdhi Alazmi,

KDSG to boost fiscal transparency, credible citizen's engagement

Kaduna State Government is poised to improve the credibility and participation of citizens in its audit process and ensure consistency in fiscal transparency.

The Auditor-General of the State, Abubakar Abdullahi, dropped the hint while hosting members of the Kaduna State Open Government Partnership Citizens Engagement Technical Working Group in his office.

He assured the OGP Team of his readiness to work with the Civil Society to ensure fiscal transparency in the state through an open audit process.

He also explained that the Office of the Auditor-General will collaborate with civil society and media to evolve a framework for participatory auditing. He added that he will consider the establishment of a civil society desk officer to sustain the chain of communications in the partnership.

Kaduna State commences construction of 2,326 state-of-the-art classrooms, rehabilitation of 707 existing ones.

Kaduna state has embarked on the construction and rehabilitations of classrooms, designed to establish safe and suitable learning environments for all children in the State.

Furthermore, the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (KADSUBEB) is set to construct 918 VIP Cubicle Toilets. This measure is implemented to safeguard the well-being of both

students and educators, constituting a pivotal aspect of the efforts to enhance the teaching and learning atmosphere, according to a statement by KADSUBEB. It said that Governor Uba Sani's administration was dedicated to curbing the number of out-of-school children. The primary objective is to foster a society founded on the fundamental principles of quality, affordable, and inclusive education.

Kaduna State, UNODC partner on drug challenges

The Country Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Mr. Oliver Stolpe was recently in Kaduna where he held discussion with the Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe and Secretary to the State Government Dr. Abdulkadir Meyere, signifying a promising partnership to tackle drug-related challenges in the state.

Mr. Stolpe also held

discussions with the Kaduna State Bureau for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment KADBUSA and other key stakeholders in a joint effort to tackle drug use and related challenges.

He also participated in the formal inauguration of the Harm Reduction Technical Working Group to be inaugurated by the government to provide focus and direction in fighting drug use and abuse in the state.

Deputy Governor, other Officials meet on implementation of School Feeding Programme

The Deputy Governor Dr, Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, and other senior government officials, have met to discuss the implementation of Federal Government National Home Grown School Feeding Programme in public primary schools in the state. The meeting was attended by key government officials, including the state coordinator for the program, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on the

Social Investment Program, and the Special Assistant to the Governor on School Feeding.

The National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, is one of the social investment programmes of the federal government which aims to tackle the issue of hunger, increase and retain school enrolment and stimulate economic activity by engaging local farmers.

VP empowers 500 Graduate Farmers

The Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, joined the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima at the presentation of farm inputs to beneficiaries of the Graduate Farmers Scheme at Murtala square, Kaduna. This initiative, spearheaded by the Kasim Shettima

Foundation, aims to equip graduates with the skills and resources necessary to thrive as agricultural entrepreneurs.

Through this program, the Vice President has generously provided 500 graduates with essential farm inputs and working capital to launch their own agricultural enterprises.



Vice President Kashim Shettima (centre) flanked on his right by the Dep Gov showing some of the items

By Our Correspondent

Governor Uba Sani has launched the second phase of the distribution of palliatives in the state announcing that the state Government was spending cumulatively over N11.4bn on palliatives under the phase.

Launched at the Murtala Square on Monday (18/3/2024) were 128 Trucks of Rice and Maize worth N3.4bn for distribution to the poor, vulnerable and underserved citizens of Kaduna State. Nearly one million persons in 200,000 households would benefit from the assorted grains distribution which had since left for the various Local Government Areas, the Governor added.

He announced other intervention programmes aimed at bringing succour to the less privileged in the state to include cash grants, agricultural inputs and implements to small-holder farmers, small and medium scale enterprises

Governor Uba Sani launches 2nd phase palliatives worth N11.4bn —3rd phase commences in two months

(MSMEs) Persons With Disability, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Orphans, Market Women and Youths at the total cost of N4.2bn.

The Governor said that a total of 9,800 poor and vulnerable households including 1000 persons living with disability have started drawing N50,000 each from the money earmarked for them, while release had also commenced of grants to 7,500 MSMEs with beneficiaries receiving between 100,000 to 1,000,000 naira depending on the sizes of the businesses. A total of 5,091 farmers, he further said, were receiving fertilizer and other farm inputs under the second phase of the exercise.

The Governor recalled that the sum of N3.3bn had been released for payment of pension and gratuities, and death



Governor Uba Sani

benefits to a total of 1,338 beneficiaries who had since been receiving their entitlements adding that civil servants have also started benefitting from a N500m revolving loan scheme introduced by government to ease the burden on deserving workers.

“We shall continue to take measures necessary to bring succour to the poor and vulnerable in our state”, Governor Sani assured and

emphasized that “In the next two months, we shall commence the implementation of the 3rd phase of our palliatives programme”.

The Governor warned that while the trucks conveying the assorted grains to various locations in the state were on their way, any attempt to divert or tamper with the consignments will be met with the full force of the law.



Scenes at the launching of the palliatives distribution

Uba Sani, others sympathise with Kuriga community

Governor Uba Sani was on a visit to Kuriga in Chikun Local Government Area where bandits had abducted primary school pupils and secondary school students to sympathise with parents and elders of the community. Other prominent people have either visited the community or the Governor to express their sympathies on the sad incident:

I was at the Palace of the District Head of Kuriga, Alhaji Lawal Abdullahi to receive full briefing on the March 8th unfortunate incident at LEA Primary and Secondary School, Kuriga. I also addressed members of the community who came out in large numbers to welcome us and express their grief. I learnt from members of the community that a valiant Vigilante member who confronted the bandits unfortunately lost his life. I have briefed Mr. President and the National Security Adviser on the Kuriga situation. I received strong assurances from them that all measures are being taken to bring back the pupils and students. A Security Committee will be established in Kuriga, with

membership drawn from key stakeholders in Kuriga community, Security Agencies, and the State Government. I will make a strong case to the Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Army Staff for the establishment of a Military Base in Kuriga to strengthen security in the area.

The unfortunate Kuriga incident reinforces our positions in support of the establishment of State Police. With State Police, there will be a standing Police Force in Kuriga drawn from members of the community who understand the terrain, the people and the issues at play. They can gather intelligence with ease. They will also be constitutionally empowered to bear arms, including sophisticated

ones. This is important because Vigilante Groups are not allowed to carry arms. They are always at the mercy of these criminal elements who have scant regard for human life.

I have spoken with the IGP Inspector General of Police, as you know there is no single police station in Kuriga community and as you know the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria even as a Governor you cannot establish a police station without the approval or permission of the IGP, and so I have spoken with him and I have showed him why we need permission to go and build a police station and he has approved of that.

Secondly, I have spoken with the Chief of Army Staff General Lagbaja to bring military base that



Governor Uba Sani

will cover the areas from Birnin Gwari, Buruku and Kuriga and he has also agreed with that. So, all these things as Governors we must seek approvals before we can do it because of nature of the constitution of our country.

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President Tinubu assures of safe return of Kuriga Kidnap victims

President Tinubu has assured the government and people of Kaduna State that no stone will be left unturned in the effort to bring back the abducted school children safely. While restating his administration's total commitment to the security of lives and property, the President said that he has given marching orders to security agencies to move decisively against criminal elements wherever they may be.

The President's message was delivered by Vice President senator Kashim Shettima at the Sir Kashim

Ibrahim House.

Gov. Uba Sani in response thanked Mr. President for his show of sympathy, solidarity and support demonstrated since the unfortunate abduction of the Kuriga school children. He said that Mr. President was not only worried, but vowed not to rest on his oars until the Kuriga school children return safely to their parents. He thanked Mr. Vice President for always identifying with Kaduna State and its people, and never hesitating in coming to the aid of the state.

The Governor informed the Vice President that the state government had been

working closely with security agencies to ensure the safe return of the children. He said that he and other Government officials and security agents had visited Kuriga community to comfort the people and to carry out on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

He said he was also in constant touch with the leadership of Chikun Local Government, the Etsu Chikun, the District Head of Kuriga Community, parents of the abducted children and other key stakeholders. "All hands are on deck to ensure that there is a safe ending to this most distressing situation."

Governor Uba Sani also reiterated the fact that the issue of security must not

be politicized, and therefore called on the media to be cautious in their reporting so as not to jeopardize the efforts of government and the security agencies. Gov. Sani thanked the President and Vice President for the support shown in this difficult time for the state government.



Gov Uba Sani with the President at the State House Abuja

Uba Sani, others sympathise with Kuriga community



Left Speaker HR Hon. Tajuddeen Abass with Governor Uba Sani at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House during a sympathy visit

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United States Government

Meanwhile, the United States Government has condemned the abduction of scores of school children and women in Kuriga 1, located in Chikun Local Government area of Kaduna State; it also declared support to government's rescue operations. While calling for prosecution of all perpetrators involved in the attack of the innocent pupils and students, the US expressed hope about "the immediate safe return of all taken".

The United States position was contained in a media statement issued by its Consulate in Nigeria.

"The United States strongly condemns the kidnapping of schoolchildren in Kaduna and displaced persons in Borno.

"Our hearts go out to the victims' families. We stand with you in demanding the perpetrators face justice and the immediate, safe return of all taken.

"We support Nigeria's efforts to secure their release," the statement added.

Nigeria Police Force

Gov. Uba Sani similarly

received a high-powered delegation from the Nigeria Police Force led by the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun who visited to commiserate with the government and people of Kaduna State over the abduction of the Kuriga school children. He assured him of their unrelenting efforts in collaboration with other security agencies to ensure their safe return.

While commending the Kaduna State Government for its sustained support to the Nigeria Police Force, IGP Egbetokun disclosed that a Special Police Squad will be deployed to Kuriga community to give the people a sense of security and safety.

The Gov. thanked the IGP and his team for their show of sympathy and support in this difficult time. He assured them that the State Government will sustain its support to the Nigeria Police Force to enable them discharge their responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

The Inspector-General of Police, was accompanied by the DIG in charge of the Force Intelligence Department, Habu Sani, DIG Department of

Operations Ede Ayuba Ekpeji, AIG Police Mobile Force Yekini Adio Ayoku, and other senior officers

Minister of State for Education

The Minister of State for Education, Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu also visited the Gov and showed support and solidarity over the Kuriga school children's abduction. He expressed the deep concern of the Ministry over the unfortunate incident, stating that it is a major setback in the efforts at reducing the number of out - of - school children. He assured the state government that the Ministry will deploy more resources to help with psychosocial support to victims and parents in Kuriga community.

Gov. Sani in response reiterated that Education is one of the priorities of the state administration, and reducing the number of out-of-school children is a key aspect. He assured that the actions of bandits rather than slow down our educational drive, will make us to redouble our efforts in giving our children quality education. "We shall work assiduously to make our schools safe for learning. We shall work with security agencies to secure our schools. He thanked the Minister for his visit and show of sympathy.

UNICEF

Also a delegation from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) led by the Field Officer, Dr. Gerida Birukila was in Sir Kashim Ibrahim House to sympathise with the Gov. over the Kuriga school children abduction and to lend their support towards

the strengthening of the state's educational system and protection of pupils and students.

The Field Officer expressed the willingness of the UNICEF to compliment the efforts of the Kaduna State Government in providing educational and psychosocial support to LEA Primary and Secondary School, Kuriga, and the parents and victims of the bandit attack. She also presented a device through which school children can continue learning while at home, pending the reopening of the Kuriga school.

The Gov. expressed his appreciation for the support the state has been receiving from UNICEF since the unfortunate incident. He reaffirmed his commitment to improving educational standards in Kaduna State and making the schools safe for learning.

Southern Kaduna Elders Forum

In their response to the unfortunate incident, the Southern Kaduna Elders Forum were in Sir Kashim Ibrahim House to express their sympathy over the Kuriga school children abduction and to strategise with government on the appropriate measures to tackle the strange ginger disease that has been destroying ginger farms in the southern part of Kaduna State.

The group led by Ishaya Akau commended the state government for fostering peace and unity among the good people of Kaduna State. The Gov. while thanking the group for the visit, assured them that

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Sir Kashim Ibrahim House holds maiden Ramadan Iftar, Tafsir

By Our Correspondent

For the first time in Kaduna the Kaduna State Government under the leadership of Senator Uba Sani hosted Kaduna State Government House Staff to an Iftar (breaking of fast) at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House. The Ramadan Tafsir also started at the Government House for the first time ever.

This initiative started since the beginning of the Ramadan fasting on 11-3-2024 and would last for the whole Ramadan period.

The Staff expressed their joy and thanked the Government for this initiative, which has brought

much relief to them considering the economic hardship faced throughout the country. The Ramadan Tafsir also commenced Monday and would last to the end of the period, to be conducted by learned Islamic Scholars both from within the house and other sources.

The staff prayed to Almighty Allah to bless the Kaduna State Government and Uba Sani for sponsoring the events. The staff also prayed for the Masjid committee led by Alhaji Muktar, Jarman Zazzau, and particularly the PPS, Profesor Bello Ayuba for spearheading the Ramadan activities,

Uba Sani, others sympathise with Kuriga community

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government was doing its best to ensure the safe return of our children. I have also set up a committee to advice government on the best way to tackle the ginger disease. "We are determined to wage war on the disease because it is a big threat to our people's source of livelihood", the Gov. added.

USAID

In a similar solidarity, a delegation of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) led by the Mission Director, Ms. Melissa Jones visited to sympathize with the Govt. and offer support in respect of the abducted Kuriga school children.

The United States, the Mission Director said, condemns in the strongest terms the abduction of the Kuriga school children. She pledged the assistance of USAID in ensuring the safe return of the abducted

children, psychosocial support for the victims and parents of the abductees, and safety of the school. While stating that our leadership style and demonstration of political will prompted USAID to prioritize Kaduna State, Ms. Melissa Jones commended our administration's efforts in improving primary healthcare, education, as well as agriculture in the state. She further expressed the willingness of the agency to continue its partnership with Kaduna State.

The Governor in response, thanked the agency for the show of support and solidarity, and also reaffirmed the state government's commitment to strengthening the partnership with USAID in addressing some of our developmental challenges.



Kaduna State, Kuwait face similar developmental challenges – Uba Sani

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establishment of Sheikh Sabah College (now Sardauna Memorial College) in 1967 by the then Emir of Kuwait. She expressed optimism for strengthened partnerships and collaborations in the future, aiming to deepen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Kuwait and Kaduna State.

Dr. Balarabe extended the state's best wishes for freedom, democracy, and prosperity to guide both states towards a brighter future for generations to come. She expressed heartfelt "63rd National Day" to the people of Kuwait, an occasion symbolizing the shared values and aspirations between the two regions.

"I extend Governor Uba Sani's warm felicitations and best wishes to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Excellency, the

Ambassador and the People of Kuwait on this joyous occasion.

"We extend sincere appreciations for Kuwaits support for Reaching Out of School Children",

which underscores our long history and friendship dating back to when the Sheikh Sabah College now Sardauna Memorial College was established in 1967 by the then Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

"This occasion I believe, provides yet another important platform for us to reaffirm our commitment to continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation that has existed between Kuwait and our dear state of Kaduna. We are hopeful of even bigger and better partnerships/collaboration in the nearest future", Dr Baalarabe said.

How a dollar will be N160 in Nigeria: A blueprint for economic resurgence

By Ahmed Adamu

The recent free fall of the Naira, plummeting from N460 to a staggering N1,600 at the official rate, has cast a dark shadow over Nigeria's economic landscape. With inflation soaring from 22% to 30% within a year, the consequences are dire – exacerbating poverty, fostering frustration, desperation, and fueling a surge in insecurity. The value of the Naira is the economic heartbeat of the nation, impacting the lives of every Nigerian. As the Naira weakens, so does the economic well-being of the average citizen.

In this critical moment, the responsibility to protect and restore the Naira rests not only on the government but on the shoulders of every Nigerian. While the government bears a significant share of the blame, the path to redemption lies in collective action. Drawing inspiration from past experiences in countries like Germany, Zimbabwe, and Venezuela, the key out is straightforward and common. Here's a comprehensive blueprint for restoring the Naira to a value of less than N200 per USD1.

Nigeria should first leverage foreign investment for large-scale agricultural production and solid minerals development. The oil sector is bringing foreign exchange because there is a massive foreign investment in the sector, so also, if we want to grow the

Agricultural and Solid mineral sectors, large foreign investment must be injected into the sectors. Leasing agricultural fields to foreign investors, particularly for products with global demand, can stimulate economic growth. The federal and state governments must take the lead in the large-scale production of these global cash crops. We have high-potential cash crops that can generate a significant inflow of foreign exchange to Nigeria.

For example, in 2022, Thailand generated up to \$9 billion from exports of Cassava alone. While Nigeria is the largest producer of cassava worldwide, a lack of storage and processing facilities results in the loss of more than 30% of the cassava produced, with the rest being consumed, contributing very little to our export basket.

There's no need to focus only on famous cash crops like Cocoa, Cotton, Ginger, Sesame, and Maize; there are other products like Cassia tora seeds, soybeans, palm oil, and others that also have high global demand. We can allocate a specific target of certain crops for some states, keeping a target export destination and quantity in mind.

Regarding solid minerals, state governments must play a vital role in attracting large investors to exploit the licenses they hold for large-scale mining. They also need to address illegal mining, which drives away legitimate large-scale

producers. The mining sector should be standardized, similar to the oil sector. One reason why state governments are not so active in the mining sector is the monthly allocation they receive from the federation, providing no incentive for the development of solid minerals. Allowing states more access to resources and powers and discontinuing or reducing federation allocations could encourage states to maximize the untapped potential in agriculture and solid minerals.

Another strategy is reducing importation through import substitution to reduce the importation of non-essential goods that can be produced locally so that we can conserve foreign exchange. For example, within just last year's second quarter (three months), we spent N3 trillion importing manufactured goods. Most of this bill could be substituted for locally produced goods or alternative demand. Within these three months, Nigerians spent N734 billion importing used cars. If we can build adequate mass transport systems, the demand for importation of used cars will reduce.

Currency swap is an option too, but in a different way. This type of currency swap arrangement is where Nigeria receives foreign currency at an agreed-upon rate in exchange for access to agricultural and mineral resources, addressing both economic and resource needs. No

country will agree to swap its currency for Naira, but many countries will accept swapping currency for agricultural and mineral resources.

Nigerians must stop treating the dollar like a commodity. Purchasing dollars not for any foreign transaction but solely to store value must be stopped. Nigerians, especially the wealthy and those in government, must refrain from converting their excess Naira to dollars for storage. Nigerians must be patriotic and sacrifice these illusion gains to save the Naira. The hoarding of dollars must be stopped by limiting the Naira in circulation, encouraging digital currency, and strictly monitoring cash movement.

There are more dollars in the hands of people than in the banks, which is why the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) cannot control the market. Since the CBN has limited control, Nigerians should only demand the dollar when there is a genuine need for it, specifically for foreign goods or services.

Increased productivity, import substitution, and strict adherence to genuine demand for the dollar are essential. By doing so, the black market for dollars can be eliminated, as there will be enough dollars in the banking system to meet all legitimate demands.

The government must cut its spending and prioritize key areas. A reduction in the deficit will free up more foreign exchange for market control. The government must cease borrowing, as the burden of debt makes it difficult to control the exchange rate when some of the available

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Strategic Interventions: Governor Uba Sani's Masterstroke

By Mohammed Rabiu Bako

In a steadfast commitment to combat poverty head-on and heed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's call for urgent action, the Kaduna State Government, led by Governor Uba Sani, has swiftly implemented a series of measures. These proactive steps aim to alleviate the plight of citizens across the state.

Firstly, the administration has initiated the distribution of 128 Trucks loaded with Rice and Maize, valued at an impressive N3.4 Billion. This initiative directly targets the impoverished, vulnerable, and underserved populations of Kaduna State, spanning approximately 200,000 households and impacting the lives of over 1 million individuals.

Secondly, a substantial sum of N4.2 Billion has been

earmarked for the comprehensive distribution of cash, grants, fertilizer, and essential farm inputs. This extensive support network extends its reach to vulnerable households, smallholder farmers, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Persons With Disabilities, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Orphans, Market Women, and Youths.

The Uba Sani administration further extends financial aid to 9,800 impoverished households, including more than 1,000 persons with disabilities, who are receiving N50,000 each. The drive to also provide 7,500 MSMEs with grant disbursements ranging from N100,000 to N1,000,000, depending on enterprise size, recognizing the vital role small businesses play in economic stability is a testament of the

administration's commitment towards economic growth and prosperity.

Critical agricultural support is being provided to 5,091 farmers through the distribution of fertilizers and essential farming implements. One could tell that the hundreds of tractors to be distributed is a show that agriculture deserves all the necessary attention.

Simultaneously, N3.3 Billion has been allocated for the prompt disbursement of pension, gratuities, and death benefits to 1,338 beneficiaries, including families of deceased civil servants. Indeed this level of empathy cannot be quantified.

Lastly, civil servants are now accessing the benefits of a N500 Million Revolving Loan Scheme, further bolstering economic resilience within the state. Cumulatively, the Kaduna State Government has

committed a substantial N11.4 Billion towards the second phase of palliative distribution, underscoring its unwavering dedication to uplifting the poor and vulnerable. Looking ahead, plans are underway to launch the third phase of the Palliatives Programme within the next two months, representing a comprehensive approach to addressing socio-economic challenges.

By every measure, one could tell that previous administrations haven't done this much. Arguably, Uba Sani is running the most people-friendly administration.

These concerted efforts exemplify his visionary leadership, signaling a brighter future for Kaduna State and its citizens.

*Mohammad Rabiu Bako
Elder-statesman and Senior
Citizen, Kaduna State.*

Kaduna strategises against floods

By Saminu Abdullahi Umar

The Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has taken proactive steps to safeguard Kaduna city from potential flooding. Dr. Usman Hayatu Mazadu, SEMA's Executive Secretary, recently convened a meeting with the Flood Assessment Committee which focused on crucial aspects of flood preparedness:

* **Learning from the Past:** Reviewing reports and recommendations from last year's floods to identify areas most vulnerable.

* **Collaborative Action:** Brainstorming on effective strategies to mitigate flood risks and ensure the safety of residents and businesses.

* **Building Awareness:** KASUPDA (Kaduna State

Urban Planning and Development Authority) received a strong reminder to address unregulated construction in flood-prone areas.

* **Sharpening Skills:** Stakeholders had their questions answered and received a renewed commitment to consistent disaster mitigation efforts.

Dr. Mazadu emphasized the importance of shared responsibility and unwavering commitment. He pledged SEMA's unwavering support to the Flood Assessment Committee as they work tirelessly to create a "disaster control circle" for Kaduna.

"By working together, informed by past experiences, we can significantly reduce flood risks and ensure a safer Kaduna for all", he said.

KDSG releases N3.3bn for payment of Gratuity/Death benefits for State/LG retirees

Sequel to the approval by Governor Uba Sani for the release of the sum of 3.3 billion Naira to the Kaduna State Pension Bureau, the Bureau has released the list of beneficiaries in both the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) and Contributory Pension Scheme. The final list consists of batch 21 LG and batch 23 State beneficiaries of gratuity and death benefits. The payment verification exercise will commence on Monday, 25th March 2024, for State retirees and families of the deceased, while that for the Local Government Councils will commence on Wednesday, 28th March 2024. The requirements for the payment verification according to a statement from the Bureau, include: The beneficiaries are to come along with all the necessary documents which

include;

- i. Death Certificate (for the deceased only).
- ii. Next of Kin Affidavit (for the deceased only).
- iii. Valid means of Identification (voter's card, national identity card, among others,
- iv. Employment letter.
- v. Affirmation Letter of Retirement/Death/Resignation/Withdrawal.
- vi. Personnel Sub-Head Number (PSN).
- vii. Bank details containing the Bank name, Account number, BVN verification slip from the Bank, and a recent statement of account/one-year statement of Account after retirement
- viii. Passport photograph of Self/Next of Kin.
- ix. Letter of Administration (for deceased) and Estate Account details.
- x. Original copy of computation amount sheet.

Follo wing the consistent support to security forces by Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, a major breakthrough has been recorded in Nigeria's fight against banditry and terrorism, with the death in a gun battle of the notorious bandit, and ruthless killer, Boderi Isyaku. He was killed along with some of his fighters by troops of the Nigerian Army around Budu/Riyawa general area of Chikun and Igabi LGA's, recently.

Notorious bandit, kidnapper, Boderi killed

generated shock waves and massive

panic around the country, as dozens of young students were whisked away and their families left to deal with unimaginable turmoil. He was also said to have masterminded another deadly attack, on the Afaka campus of the Nigerian Defence Academy, Igabi LGA. Two officers were killed and another abducted in 2021; weeks later, on 14th September 2021, Boderi led his gang of bandits in the kidnapping of the Emir of Bungudu, Alhaji Hassan Atto, around Dutse village, Chikun LGA, during which the Emir's Police Detail was killed.

Receiving the report, Governor Sani expressed his relief and happiness at the development, which he described as a pointer to the bravery and professionalism of the troops involved. The Governor commended Major General Okoro, for his stellar leadership, and praised the troops for their assertive victory.

Governor Sani assured security forces in Kaduna State of his unflinching support and readiness to sustain the current cooperation, for the successful achievement of their objectives. The statement alerted the authorities and members of the public that some of Boderi's associates and gang members sustained gunshot injuries during that decisive encounter. Citizens in the general area and beyond are therefore enjoined not to render assistance (medical or otherwise) to individuals carrying such suspicious injuries, but to immediately report these persons to security agencies, on the following phone lines 09034000060 and 08170189999, all day.

The statement further said that, in the ensuing confrontation, Boderi chose to resist the troops and

engaged them in a fierce gun fight. He was ultimately subdued, and his reign of terror ended in a burst of bullets and eternal ignominy. Two of his associates were likewise killed, the report added.

After the operation, the troops recovered two AK47 rifles, 300 rounds of ammunition, nine AK47 magazines, one magazine carrier, one Baofeng radio set and five motorcycles, it was gathered.

stiff challenge to law enforcement agents, who, at various times were only a whisker away from apprehending this menace. Boderi was said to be involved in a range of deadly attacks spanning Sabon Birni, Rigasa, Buruku, Gwagwada, Rijana and Kateri general areas, the Kaduna-Abuja Road, the Kaduna-Birnin Gwari Road, as well as Shiroro, Alawa, and Mangoro general areas of



Boderi

Many see the elimination of Boderi Isyaku, as a notable milestone in the ongoing fight against terrorism and banditry and demonstrated the effectiveness of determined and coordinated efforts by security forces in confronting those who seek to spread fear and chaos.

Boderi, known for his ruthlessness and cunning, had long eluded the grasp of security forces, while orchestrating the kidnappings of prominent figures, innocent civilians, school children and students with impunity. His activities not only caused untold pain to thousands of victims and families, but also posed a

neighbouring Niger State. His activities included vast and elaborate operations in cattle rustling and gun-running. He was also known to have built a close rapport with terrorist groups, collaborating with them towards establishing footholds in these areas. Recent intelligence reports revealed his plans to attack a school in his sphere of operation which his death has now truncated.

Some of the acts of banditry perpetrated by Boderi includes 11th March 2021 abduction of 39 students of the Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, Afaka, Igabi LGA, which



The Comm. Human Services & Soc. Dev. Haj. Rabi Salisu representing Gov. Uba Sani reviewing NYSC batch A inauguration in Kaduna

KADUNA

Photo



From left SSG, Dr. Abdulkadir Meyere, country rep. of UNODC Mr. Oliver Stolpre, Deputy Gov. Dr. Hadiza S. Balarabe & Comm. of Health Haj. Umma K. Ahmed (third from right) at an event on drug abuse reduction



Gov. Uba with HSCL Consulting team on the Kaduna State Healthcare Transformation Project. led by Dr. Nkata Chuku, Founding Partner at HSCL (3rd right) in a meeting on a possible cooperative agreement that will contribute to the achievement of advanced healthcare supply chain transformation, especially at the primary healthcare level. Comm. of Health Haji Umma is 2nd



A significant milestone was reached recently when Kaduna State Government, represented by Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe, signed a mining partnership agreement with Trovec International Ltd. The partnership's primary objective is to promote sustainable development of the mining sector in the state, establish a mutually beneficial relationship between both parties, create job opportunities and boost the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the state.

SSG, Dr. Abdulkadir Meyere, (2nd righth) is seen in a handshake with rep. of Trovec



Gov Uba Sani joined the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, Presidents of some African countries, former Presidents of Nigeria, Governors and a host of other important dignitaries at the 2023 Obafemi Awolowo Prize for Leadership Conference in Lagos where Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) (in handshake with the VP) was also honoured.

OUTLOOK

News



Gov. Uba Sani being conducted round the AMA medical manufacturing facility in Kudenda industrial layout, where He performed the groundbreaking ceremony. The AMA facility would produce lifesaving intravenous fluids (IVFluids) among other medicals.



A delegation from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) led by the Field Officer, Dr. Gerida Birukila was in Sir Kashim Ibrahim House to sympathise with the Govt over the Kuriga school children abduction



A delegation of the National Assembly led by the Speaker Hon. Tajudeen Abbas 4th left during a sympathy visit to Govt House Kaduna



On Thursday, 14th March 2024, Governor Uba Sani (centre) attended an Emergency Security Meeting of the Northern Governors Forum with the National Security Adviser (NSA) over the insecurity in the region. The meeting had the Defence Ministers and Heads of Security Agencies in attendance.



Gov Uba Sani hosted Muslim Ulama and CAN members to separate Iftar at his Residence. The Ulama and the Gov above at prayers before the Iftar



KADSIPA in collaboration with the Kaduna Social Protection Accountability Coalition (KADSPAC) and Save the Children International's ESPID project, hosted a one-day dialogue in Kaduna State for International Women's Day. Umar Maikudi, the State Coordinator of KADSIPA is 3rd from right



A delegation of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) led by the Mission Director, Ms. Melissa Jones visited Kaduna to sympathize with the Govt and offer support in respect of the abducted Kuriga school children.

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dollars are used for debt servicing.

The CBN must halt the production of more Naira; making the Naira scarce could help improve its value. The scarcer the Naira, the more valuable it becomes. A scarcer and more valuable Naira will be critical in this strategy.

Redenominating the Naira notes could also be an option only after improving the export sector. This could be achieved by removing one zero from each Naira note to restore confidence in the currency. This would mean that a N1000 note would become N100 at its face value. If implemented today, the value of the dollar would become N160. This step could help build confidence in the Naira.

How a dollar will be N160 in Nigeria: A blueprint for economic resurgence

People must have confidence in the Naira, regardless of the amount they possess. Confidence in the Naira is an essential feature of a strong currency. Other countries that faced similar challenges resorted to even reintroducing a new currency and, at some points, demonetizing their currencies, allowing any desirable foreign currency to be used as a means of exchange in their countries. This is the worst-case scenario.

There are no two ways about it. The art of saving a currency is the art of production. No monetary or

fiscal policy will work if we don't produce for exports. A stronger Naira is possible only with stronger patriotism. Those hoarding dollars and using sentiment to inflate the value of the dollar are the true enemies of the economy; by hoarding the dollar, they are increasing inflation and thereby reducing the purchasing power of poor people's income and the purchasing power of what they will eventually gain in Naira value. So, they are digging a hole for themselves, too. With patriotism, increased production for exports,

reduced importation, and adequate dollars in the banking system, the dollar could be pegged at below N200.

Ahmed Adamu is an Associate Professor of Economics Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja

Gov. Sani appoints Musa Kali honorary adviser, special duties

Governor Uba Sani has appointed Musa Aliyu Kali as his Honorary Adviser, Special Duties.

Mr. Kali has extensive and diverse work experience that spans various government ministries and agencies. He served as Principal Executive Assistant, Local Government Staff Pension Board, Kaduna State, and Personal Assistant to the Director General, Ministry of Education, Kaduna State.

He was Special Adviser to the Governor of Kaduna State on Youth Mobilization (2003), Senior Special Adviser on Youth Mobilization, Kaduna State (2007), Special Adviser on Youth Mobilization and Relations, Kaduna State (2011), and Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Kaduna State on Stakeholder Relations (2018).

Mr. Kali holds the Higher National Diploma (HND) in Human Resources Management, Ordinary National Diploma (OND) in Business Administration, and another OND in Marketing. He is currently a Fellow, Institute of Management Consulting.

A statement by Muhammad Lawal Shehu Chief Press Secretary to the Governor said Gov Sani has congratulated Musa Kali on his appointment and urged him to discharge his responsibilities with utmost dedication, integrity and fairness. He wished him Allah's guidance in his new assignment.

KDSG launches social protection management system

By Jummai Nuhu

In a landmark move toward enhanced social welfare, Kaduna State has unveiled its pioneering Sub-National Integrated Social Protection Management Information System. The event, held at the Conference Hall of the Planning and Budget Commission, saw the participation of various stakeholders, including the Commissioner of Planning and Budget, Hon. Mukhtar Ahmed, representing Governor Uba Sani. Developed in collaboration with Kaduna State Social Investment Programme Agency and with support from Save the Children International (SCI), the launch marks a significant milestone in Kaduna's efforts to streamline and integrate its social protection initiatives. Hon. Mukhtar Ahmed, speaking on behalf of

Governor Uba Sani, emphasized the transformative potential of the system. Once fully operational, it will consolidate all social protection programs across ministries, departments, and agencies, while integrating the social register for more efficient implementation.

The software, aligned with the Expanding Social Protection for Inclusive Development (ESPID) initiative funded by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), underscores the commitment to bolstering social protection in Nigeria.

Furthermore, the launch of the platform aligns with the Kaduna Mutual Accountability Framework (KMAF) between the Kaduna State Government and the UK Government, highlighting the

collaborative spirit driving progress in the state.

Umar Sani Maikudi, Coordinator of Kaduna State Social Investment Programmes Agency (KADSIPA), emphasized the transformative impact of the system. By addressing fragmented information and enhancing coordination, it promises to revolutionize social protection efforts in Kaduna State, he said.

With a focus on targeted interventions and improved collaboration among stakeholders, the system heralds a new era of efficiency and effectiveness in social welfare provision. As Kaduna State continues to prioritize the well-being of its citizens, the launch of this innovative management system signals a brighter future for vulnerable populations across the state.

The Kuriga kidnapping incidence: Where The PUNCH erred

By Muhammad Lawal Shehu

The attention of the Kaduna State Government has been drawn to an outrightly mischievous and false report in the Punch Newspaper of 9th March 2024 stating that the Kaduna State Government has hired a private negotiator to facilitate the safe return of school children abducted in Kuriga community, Chikun Local Government of Kaduna State.

We wish to state

categorically that the Kaduna State Government did not hire any private negotiator, neither is the government contemplating making such a move. The hiring of a private negotiator only exists in the infantile imagination of the Punch Newspaper reporter. The Kaduna State Government has a clear policy on non-negotiation with terrorists, bandits and other criminal elements.

We urge members of the Press to be cautious in the way they craft and publicise their stories on security in order not to

jeopardize the efforts of government and security agencies in degrading criminal elements laying siege to our communities. If the Punch Newspaper had made efforts to contact the Kaduna State Government, it would have gotten the correct information. The Press are our partners in progress. Our doors are always open to them.

Muhammad Lawal Shehu is the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State.

Primary Healthcare Board, Staff, Participate in BudgIT's PHC Facility Award Event

In a pivotal collaboration between BudgIT and the Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board, dedicated staff members actively participated in the "Strengthening Community Engagement and Accountability for Primary Healthcare Project: PHC Facility Award" event. This significant gathering aimed to recognize and applaud the commendable efforts of Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in the community, underscoring the importance of community engagement and accountability in advancing primary healthcare initiatives. Mariam Bukola Oyewo reports on the event:

The event, organized by BudgIT in collaboration with the Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board, serves as a platform to honor PHC facilities that have demonstrated excellence in service delivery. The staff from the Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board, through their attendance, exemplify a commitment to staying informed, fostering partnerships, and actively contributing to the continuous improvement of healthcare services in the state.

BudgIT's initiative not only spotlights outstanding performance in PHC facilities but also aligns with a broader vision of enhancing community engagement and

accountability. By acknowledging and awarding these facilities, the event seeks to strengthen the bond between healthcare providers and the communities they serve, fostering a collaborative approach to healthcare delivery.

The collaborative effort between BudgIT and the Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board signifies a shared commitment to transformative healthcare practices. The event stands as a testament to the importance of recognizing and celebrating the crucial role that PHC facilities play in community well-being.

As the event unfolds, it is anticipated that the insightful discussions,

recognitions, and awards will contribute to the overall improvement of healthcare services in Kaduna State. The dedication of the Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board staff in attending this event emphasizes the value placed on acknowledging excellence and driving positive change in the healthcare landscape.

This collaboration underscores the proactive approach taken by both organizations in fostering community-focused healthcare initiatives. Through events like these, the collective aim is to create a more engaged, accountable, and resilient healthcare system for the benefit of Kaduna State's residents.

Kaduna State prioritising Corps members' welfare – Uba Sani

Governor Uba Sani has assured youth corps members deployed to the state that their welfare was top priority just as the state government will work with relevant security operatives to ensure that all residents of the state, including corps members slept with their two eyes closed.

The Governor who stated this in an address read on his behalf by the commissioner, Human Services and Social Development, Hajia Rabi Salisu at the swearing in of batch A of NYSC posted to the state, commended the NYSC Management for a job well done in the areas of national integration and development over the years and urged them to maintain the tempo as it was fostering national unity and cohesion among Nigerians. Earlier in his welcome address, the State coordinator NYSC, Kaduna Mr Hassan Mahmud Taura said "these young energetic Nigerians are well prepared to take their Oath of Allegiance today to fully qualify them as Corps members and prepare them for the tasks ahead".

Mr. Taura reminded the youth Corpers that white Collar Jobs were no longer readily available and therefore encouraged them to take part in the skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) training programme which would help them acquire skills that they will need to enable them become self-reliant at the end of their service year.

Showcasing Kaduna's Grand Debut in ICT Super Highway

By Nasir Dambatta

With ICT being virtually the main driver of the global economy of the current times, keying into everything about it and its value chain has become one of the wisest things to do by every level of the human society.

One of the most-critical components of the ICT value chain is the expansive investment opportunities spreading out for modern societies to explore to bolster and ensure sustainable prosperous economies.

To secure an ICT-driven prosperous economic future, every level of the modern human society has now opened its eyes wide to the crucial imperative of nurturing ICT-creative minds to provide the veritable platform for the the required productive investment.

With Kaduna State being one of the most-economically prosperous states of Nigeria, the Governor Uba Sani-led government of the state has since keyed into global ICT vogue and the crucial imperative of investing in the vast opportunities it offers to secure the state's enviable economic status in the country.

Engr. Shuaib Bello, Senior Special Assistant to Governor Uba Sani on ICT, during a recent ICT Road Show in Kaduna by Gitex, comprehensively expressed the state government's landmark resolve to key into everything about ICT.

Bello rolled out the plan by

the state government to nurture opportunities for creative minds and local startups on ICT as part of the broad plan to attract investors to the state, which has been a key item on the development agenda of the Uba Sani administration.

The Gitex Road Show, organized by Pinnacle International Consulting, a US-based subsidiary of Gitex, showcased numerous ideas by local ICT startup owners possessing the potential to vie for investment. The Gitex Road Show featured startup owners competing for spots in the upcoming Gitex show in Marrakech, Morocco.

Speaking to newsmen shortly after the event, Engr. Bello encouraged Kaduna residents to raise the tempo of showcasing their talents on ICT to bolster the efforts by Governor Sani to host programmes capable of luring innovators and providing a supportive network for the youth.

Highlighting some of Governor Sani's investment ICT, Engr. Bello stated that N250 million had been infused into local startups, and the state has acted as venture capital with potential returns.

Listen to him: "This fund is designed to revolve, allowing subsequent investments once profits are realized. The strategic partnership between Governor Uba Sani and the Dubai World Trade Centre paved the way for this Gitex Roadshow 2024."

Engr. Bello explained that the Gitex event provides startups with an opportunity to showcase their products,

aiming for sponsorship to Gitex Africa show in Morocco and, ultimately, the Gitex global event.

Kaduna's resilient tech ecosystem, as recognized by the Governor, is becoming a focal point for collaboration with Gitex organizers. This collaborative effort aims to shape Kaduna's digital economy by attracting capital and investments through events like the Gitex Roadshow," the governor's aide on ICT affairs said ambitiously.

Describing Kaduna as a force to reckon with in Nigeria's tech landscape, Engr. Bello drew attention to, and, in fact, underscored the high youth population of the state, which has constituted a matter for grave concern to Governor Sani and his administration. The government's approach involves equipping the youth with essential skills and providing access to funding to enhance productivity and achieve their entrepreneurial dreams," he assured.

Akande Ojo, the President and CEO of Pinnacle International Consulting LLC, rolled out the aims of the Roadshow which, principally, aimed at selecting standout participants from the programme for sponsorship to Marrakech, Morocco grand continental show.

"This annual roadshow, spanning Lagos, Abuja, and Kaduna for the first time, follows last year's successful sponsorship of startups to Dubai, providing a unique opportunity for both the less privileged and

those who struggle to communicate their message effectively."

Two startups which emerged winners of the Kaduna Roadshow competition, are to join their counterparts from Abuja and Lagos to compete in the next talent show in grand Morocco event.

Dubai World Trade Centre, owned by Dubai Govt, is the organizer of GITEK GLOBAL

There are several event under GITEK Global and the North Star (Startup) is one of them. The startup event is called the North Star.

GITEK Africa is a new event in partnership with the Moroccan Govt. Pinnacle International Consulting, LLC is the Country Representative of DWTC-Nigeria in Nigeria.

Recall that Governor became the first in the country to partner with Google to train 5,000 women and girls in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and the entrepreneurial application of digital technologies.

He eventually got awarded as the 2023 NITMA-Digital Governor of the Year by the Nigeria Computer Society(NCS) sometime in November last year.

It is becoming clear that Kaduna is leading in Internet and Communications Technology, at least in the North. This development holds great promises for the future of Kaduna State in the realm of ICT and related area of specialisation.

ANRIN Project Kaduna supports Tudun Biri community

Wednesday February 28, 2024 will remain indelible in the minds of the people of Tudun Biri Community and their neighbours. That was when accelerating nutrition results in Nigeria, ANRIN commenced intervention in the community.

Tudun Biri is a settlement of mixed Hausa-Fulani and Gbagyi inhabitants with pockets of other ethnic groups like the Ebiras and Nupe. The settlement, which is located some two km away from the Kaduna Airport, experienced an unfortunate mistaken release of bomb by the military, an incident that affected hundreds of people while celebrating the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) known as Maulud, in

December 2023.

The World Bank in a swift reaction to the news and at the behest of the Vice President to the National Working Committee, directed the ANRIN KADUNA PIU to conduct an assessment of the number of casualties affected especially women, adolescents and children, in order to determine the most critical area of support to the affected families.

ANRIN conducted a house-to-house assessment in Tudun Biri where the basic and immediate area of intervention identified were food, seedlings for farming, pesticides and goats. Other basic amenities identified as lacking in the community include schools, hospitals and

habitable roads.

The World Bank, as charged by the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who directed the National Core Working Committee members to undertake urgent action on malnourished children, also directed Kaduna PIU to swing into action to procure all the required relief items and donate to the community as an

immediate support.

This impetus set the ANRIN team in motion and on Wednesday culminated in the day the intervention was realised. Items distributed include goats, rice, beans, millet, maize, palm oil, iodized salt, seedlings of tomatoes, cucumbers, Lettuce, and vines of orange flesh sweet potatoes



Dignitaries at the occasion include the representative of the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, the representative of the Commissioner of Health, the GM Kaduna Agricultural Development Agency, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), and other development partners.

Kaduna State, Army Hospital in joint efforts to curb Lassa Fever

Following the report of a suspected outbreak of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever popularly known as "Lassa Fever" at the 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital located in the capital city of Kaduna, Governor Uba Sani directed the Kaduna State Ministry of Health to immediately investigate and ascertain the situation at the health facility.

Consequently, a surveillance team was promptly mobilized to assess the situation and containment measures were initiated in conjunction with the hospital management,

according to a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mal. Mohammed Lawal Shehu. Lassa Fever, generally infects victims with the following symptoms - fever, general body weakness and after a few days, headache, sore throat, muscle pain, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, and abdominal pain may follow.

Four deaths were reported following the outbreak all within the hospital premises while three other patients with similar symptoms were sent to be managed.

The statement explained that the Kaduna State Ministry of Health and management of 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital, were working assiduously to contain the situation as all those who came in contact with those infected had been identified and were closely being monitored while receiving urgent medical treatment.

Furthermore, samples have been carefully collected from contacts and sent for confirmation to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control laboratory and are closely being followed up.

Similarly, all Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures have been instituted at the facility while it remains closed to the public, until full containment has been achieved.

It advised members of the public to maintain proper food and environmental hygiene while they remain hyper vigilant to immediately report any suspected cases of Lassa Fever to the nearest health facility.

Kaduna State Ministry of Health has in the meantime further been directed to enhance surveillance across the state in collaboration with local government health departments.

By Emmanuel Ado

Uba Sani Fetes in Lagos as Bandits Abduct 230 Kaduna School Children: A Rejoinder

First, our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the kidnapped school children and teachers at Kuriga area of Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State who were abducted on Thursday. Like the Governor, Senator Uba Sani, we all fervently pray for the safe, and quick return of every one of them.

While the actual number is yet to be determined, the fact remains that it is a nightmare that no parent or family should go through. And like the United Nations Children's Fund noted in its reaction, the Kaduna State abduction was one too many. Unfortunately, considering the present state of our security agencies, nobody can guarantee that the terrorists wouldn't strike again, and that's the tragedy. Before the Thursday incident of Kaduna State, the terrorists had last week kidnapped over two hundred women and young girls from three (3) IDP camps in Ngala at the Nigeria-Cameroon border.

It's sad to admit this unfortunate truth, that these terrorists would continue to violate with impunity, the fundamental rights of Nigerians until the federal government does the needful. Whether it is the abduction of children from their school, or of adults from their farms and the highways, the implications are devastatingly the same. The only difference being that the intensified campaign of violence by the terrorists against the

innocent school children would further worsen the already terrible number of out of school children in the North. The overall effect, apart from increasing poverty due to farmers abandoning the land and people generally unable to engage in legitimate activities, is the wild spread fear, anxiety and trauma.

Governor Uba Sani, more than anyone else, fully

requires immediate and determined action from all", the Nigerian State hasn't shown the urgency and determination to respond decisively to the challenges posed by the terrorists. Chris Kwaja, a professor at the Centre for Peace and Security Studies, Modibbo Adama University argues that the frequency of abductions confirms an "unfortunate



Governor Uba Sani

understands that schools are supposed to be sanctuaries of learning. He vicariously feels the damage to the psyche of the children who deserve to learn in a conducive environment, free from fear. He has offered psychological support services to the families of those affected and the community. The best he can in the face of the present unfortunate circumstance.

While we agree with the UNICEF that the "alarming frequency of such incidents across the country signals a crisis that

story of the high level of coordination, sophistication and lethality" of the criminals operating in the country.

Governor Sani, despite his pains at the kidnapping of his citizens, has refused to be defeated. Rather, his resolve to win the war against the insurgents is rekindled. Like they say, the last thing to give up is hope. Having been at the frontline since his days at the Senate, Governor Sani's commitment to the safe return of every kidnapped Kaduna state citizen is unwavering, and more importantly, that no

Nigerian citizen should ever be kidnapped by terrorists either at their home, farm, school or the highway. And he has been unequivocal that such an undertaking demands an urgent overhaul of the security architecture.

As a senator, Governor Sani sponsored four consequential bills; the Police Service Commission Act 2001 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, State Police Service Commission (Est) Bill, 1999 Constitution (Alteration) Bill, Nigerian Police Act (Amendment) Bill for the amendment of the 1999 Constitution to allow for the establishment of state police, to enhance the security of lives and property of Nigerians. Governor Sani's bills unfortunately didn't scale through at the harmonization conference due to unfounded fears of misuse by governors, promoted by some members of the National Assembly who are, more often than not, at loggerheads with their governors.

Governor Sani's bills were a bold initiative that would have fundamentally restructured the security architecture and helped in addressing the lingering security challenges facing, not just Kaduna state, but the entire country. And until the National Assembly summons the necessary political will to effect the necessary amendments, the security problem will persist, whether Governor Sani travels to Lagos for an official assignment or is at his Sir. Kashim Ibrahim House office attending to state matters.

to continue in next edition

Rally against insecurity, Deputy Gov. urges Northern States

The Executive Committee of the Northern Traditional Rulers Council has held its 6th meeting at the historic Arewa House, Kaduna where Deputy Governor Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe seized the opportunity of the occasion to make a case for the need by the 19 Northern States to forge strong partnership to confront insecurity and other challenges confronting the region. Peter Ibrahim reports on the meeting:

The Deputy Governor who represented Kaduna State Governor Senator Uba Sani at the meeting noted that northern Nigeria, known as the “oasis of peace and stability”, as well as the food basket of Nigeria, has now become the epicenter of terrorism, banditry and kidnapping which have destroyed the local economies of the region. “Northern States must forge strong partnerships on Security and Development Issues and Concerns. Agriculture, Power, Infrastructure, especially roads, are critical areas where we must collaborate to revitalize our economies and address the challenges of poverty and insecurity.

“Your gathering today and particularly your choice of the theme for this meeting

shows clearly that you are responsive to the yearnings of our people.

“The lives so far lost are simply mind - boggling. Food insecurity looms. The poverty level is unsettling. Our people are deeply worried. They are asking questions. They want action.

“Political leaders and traditional rulers must therefore brace up to the challenges. We as political leaders have a responsibility to frontally address the developmental challenges in the areas of education, healthcare, agriculture, poverty and unemployment. Priority attention must be given to infrastructure development.

“Going forward, Northern States must develop a Common Strategy and Operational Plan to tackle insecurity. We must

establish a Command and Control Centre to coordinate our joint efforts against terrorists, bandits, kidnappers and other criminal elements in our region.

“Northern Traditional Rulers must take the lead in the execution of Psychological Operations, geared towards winning the hearts and minds of the people at the grassroots.

“You have a huge responsibility to mobilize and sensitize our people to support security forces to degrade terrorists and bandits. We must establish Early Warning Systems/Intelligence Gathering Mechanisms in the communities. Our main weapon must be the people because terrorists, bandits and insurgents live among our people.

“Northern political leaders

must work closely with traditional rulers to stabilize our communities. We lost it when we thought that with democracy, traditional rulers no longer have a major role to play in our communities. The earlier we restore the glory of the traditional institution the better for our security and stability.



Dep. Gov. Dr. Hadiza S. Balarabe

Kaduna State an early leaner of ICT innovations - Commissioner

The Commissioner of Human Services and Social Development, Hajia Rabi Salisu has expressed happiness that the state was an early leaner in ICT and other digital innovations.

She stated this at a capacity building Workshop and Post-workshop session, organised by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The programme is aimed at empowering key decision-makers of the Kaduna State Government in digital last-mile infrastructure, gender-centric approaches, and digitizing Person-to-Government (P2G) payments.

Facilitated by MSC, the sessions focused on enhancing digital inclusion, promoting gender equality, and implementing effective digital strategies for

transparent and inclusive governance.

The workshop comprised panel discussions held and anchored by resource persons Anup Singh and Edward Obiko and many others, in which sessions on last-mile infrastructure, gender centrality, and digital identity/databases were discussed and deliberated upon.

The post-workshop session introduced the concept of a “straw man” as a prototype solution to address gaps and opportunities identified during the workshop. The session involved Kaduna State decision-makers and key stakeholders.

The workshop and post-workshop sessions provided a comprehensive platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and strategy

development. Decision-makers were encouraged to present their initiatives, challenges, and future visions, fostering a collective effort towards advancing financial inclusion in Kaduna State.

While commenting at the sessions, the Commissioner expressed her profound gratitude and appreciation for taking part in the workshop

and Post-workshop sessions. She remarked that Kaduna State is an early adopter in whatever good Innovation come its way.

She implored the people of Kaduna State to give their maximum support and to be law abiding citizens as it would help in accelerating further the growth and development of the state.



The rescued Kuriga school students at a dinner at the Government House Kaduna.

We must reorganise our security architecture for effective performance

Being remarks by Governor Uba Sani as chairman of the

6th Annual Interfaith Dialogue Forum Peace conference on 7th March 2024 in Kaduna

I am extremely delighted to welcome our revered religious leaders to Kaduna.

Your choice of Kaduna for this important and timely conference is the clearest signal that our message of peace and unity is gaining traction. In Kaduna State, we celebrate diversity. Our diversity is our strength. Conflict entrepreneurs have tried to pull us apart, but we have taken the battle to their doorsteps. We are harnessing our diversity and turning it into an asset.

We are reshaping Kaduna State and making it a model of development, ethnic harmony and cooperation. We have committed ourselves to running a pro-people, pro-poor and all-inclusive administration. Under my watch, equity and justice shall reign supreme in Kaduna State. Kaduna State is a miniature Nigeria. If you understand Kaduna State, chances are that you will understand Nigeria with its challenges, complexities and possibilities.

Your choice of theme for this conference "Tackling Poverty and Insecurity in Nigeria: Our Collective Responsibilities" is apt. Poverty and Insecurity are the biggest challenges facing our country. The increasing poverty level is a major source of worry for political leaders. Addressing the issue of poverty is critical to

restoring the people's faith in our democracy. We are still struggling to address developmental challenges, especially in the areas of infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, and security.

This is the time for all stakeholders to join hands to tackle our security and developmental challenges. We must however approach our problems from a position of knowledge. Our approach must be evidence-based. The starting point towards addressing insecurity in Nigeria is to carry out a comprehensive diagnostic review of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Research has a key role to play in our search for workable solutions to the seemingly intractable challenges of insecurity. If you know the causes of the problem, you will be able to fashion effective immediate, short term and long term strategies towards addressing it. Our actions have been ad-hoc and reactive. They do not flow from research. Our compass is faulty. We must get the correct compass.

To make progress in the area of security, we must ask the critical questions and fashion the appropriate strategies. How can we reset our security architecture in such a way that the proactive instead of reactive approach will be adopted in tackling insecurity in Nigeria. This

is where Strategic Thinking comes in. Security Leaders and Forces are more adept at Tactical Thinking. They want to deal with situations quickly and decisively. But the nature of our current and emerging security challenges requires deeper thinking and planning. You must study the nature of a given environment; the topography, the people, culture, politics and changing dynamics.

You must consult widely to know the best approach to tackling conflicts. You must engage in Scenario Building. This will enable you to systematically spell out the key steps to take, as well as counter measures that would equally be taken in case your actions are made ineffectual. There is therefore the need to balance tactical thinking with strategic thinking. The right balance can make our security agencies to be more effective in the fight against terrorists, insurgents, separatists, kidnappers and other criminal elements.

To overcome insecurity in Nigeria, there is need for effective intelligence gathering and surveillance so that law enforcement agents can be proactive and reasonably predict potential crime with near perfect accuracy rather than being reactive. We must modernise the



Governor Uba Sani

security agencies with training, intelligence sharing, advanced technology, logistics, motivation and change of orientation by security personnel.

We must carry out a complete overhaul of our security architecture. Our security institutions must be reformed to align with global best practices. The present set up is ineffective. Except security operations are decentralized, criminal elements will continue to constitute a threat in our communities. This is why we have been agitating for STATE POLICE. Nigeria is a Federation. A State Governor should be in effective control of security in his state. A situation where a Divisional Police Officer will wait for clearance from his superiors before carrying out the instructions of the Governor is unacceptable. There is need for effective coordination and cooperation among and across security agencies.

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Uba Sani's zero tolerance for corruption

By Emmanuel Ado

The Governor of Kaduna state, Senator Uba Sani's resolute decision to fight corruption and institute accountability in the state, has not come as a surprise to keen observers of his political career. Right from his civil society days, through the senate and to his election as governor, Governor Sani has, in words and deeds, demonstrated deep aversion to corruption in all its ramifications.

It is very easy to understand why an activist like Governor Sani should display a zero tolerance for corrupt practices. Not only does graft have corrosive effects, it destroys the very foundation of society by weakening the impact of public service delivery. Though corruption affects all citizens negatively, the poor are certainly the worst victims. Governor Sani's determination to wage a sustained war against the deadly cancer speaks volumes of his courage and commitment to good governance.

Many observers see Uba Sani's perpetual campaign against dishonesty practices in public space as a natural course of an activist, because corruption undermines good governance, human rights and the rule of law.

Notorious bank debtors, who made indebtedness to commercial banks a hobby, would not forget Governor Sani in a hurry. The consequential amendment of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) Act, which he spearheaded as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Finance, Insurance and Financial Institutions ensured that chronic bank

debtors do not get away with their financial heist. Sani's savage reaction to their refusal to repay their loans was the inclusion of a Loan Tribunal in the amended AMCON Act, to assist the agency in the recovery of loans from debtors who, hitherto used legal gymnastics to stall repayment of their facilities. It's to the credit of Governor Sani's leadership that the law has improved loan repayment to the banks.

In Governor Sani's words, the refusal by the debtors to repay their loans amounted to "orchestrated acts of corruption and economic sabotage". This was because their actions gravely hampered the ability of banks to lend money to honest investors, precipitated instability in the financial market which affected economic growth, and eroded the confidence of bank customers.

In the last few weeks, Governor Sani has taken very decisive actions in line with his continued determination to fight the scourge of corruption in Kaduna state. The swift actions he took over some infractions by the Kaduna State University (KASU) and the Kaduna State Traffic Law Enforcement Authority (KASTLEA) demonstrated his zero tolerance for corruption.

It would be recalled that the management of the KASU committed the heinous crime of flagrantly flouting Governor Sani's clear and

unambiguous directives on the reduction of fees and levies for students in State-owned tertiary institutions. On assumption of office, the governor, following passionate appeals by parents, had reduced the fees and scrapped the levies to help cushion the harsh economic situation on the poor, who are dear to his heart, and are at the center of his politics.

In the case of KASTLEA, one of its operatives was caught on video diverting revenue due the Kaduna state government, using Point of Sale (POS)



Governor Uba Sani

machine, after subjecting the citizen to dehumanising torture that compelled him to eventually pay up. Sad to say, the action of the operative was not an isolated incident, as many operatives of the agency are notorious for extortion, harassment and intimidation of motorists.

The university and KASTLEA managements have themselves to blame for their poor judgment and for feigning ignorance of Governor Sani's pro-poor stance. Among his very first actions in office were the reduction of fees and abolition of levies, and the signing of the executive

order on the Financial Inclusion of 2.1 million poor, and vulnerable citizens previously excluded from the financial services, which had denied them access to state and federal government's social intervention programmes.

It is also baffling how the management of KASTLEA refused to take note of the Governor's premium on revenue generation, and communicate same to their staff to "change their ways". Governor Sani has never ceased to stress the need for revenue agencies to generate the necessary revenue to fund his rural transformation agenda.

The visible anger of Governor Sani, who as the visitor to Kaduna State University has supervisory powers over the institution, is understandable. The inexplicable actions of the KASU and the KASTLEA managements could have dented his pro-poor credentials, which he guards jealously. The KASU management was certainly uncharitable to the Governor and to the parents to have re-imposed a burden that the governor, at great cost to the state, lifted off the shoulders of the citizens.

The state government virtually funds the university because whatever internally generated revenue (IGR) KASU generates are largely unaccounted for. So, you ask, what was the university authorities' justification for re-imposing the fees and the levies abolished by the benevolent governor? Could it be that the management of these agencies delude themselves that they are above the law?

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We must reorganise our security architecture for effective performance

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Lack of synergy for a long time weakened our efforts and strengthened criminal elements in Nigeria. For example, when a military operation is being carried out in one state, blocking forces are hardly stationed in neighbouring states. When the heat is too much, the criminal elements take refuge in neighbouring states and end up taking out their frustrations on innocent civilians.

There is also need for the six geopolitical zones to develop Common Strategies and Operational Plans to tackle insecurity. The zones must establish Command and Control Centres to coordinate joint efforts against terrorists, bandits, kidnappers and other criminal elements in their regions.

We must fight corruption and initiate a comprehensive campaign for ethical reorientation in Nigeria. Corruption has undermined development in Nigeria, leading to frustration and anger among

the people. Corruption is a violation of the people's right to development. We must fight this cankerworm or we lose the support and confidence of our people. There is also unfortunately a shift in the value system in Nigeria. Many of our people now celebrate ill-gotten wealth. This has led to a culture of desperation and winning at all costs. We must work collectively to reorientate our people and channel their energies towards decent work and development.

10. We must develop a framework for psychological operations and strategic communication to win the hearts and minds of citizens in Nigeria. An effective non-kinetic approach must be developed and fully implemented to win the support of our citizens and get them fully involved in the fight against terrorism, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping and other forms of criminality in Nigeria.

We must, in our respective states, not only hold regular meetings with elders, religious leaders, representatives of youth and women groups, but establish *STATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES ON INSECURITY*. They will play a key role in gathering intelligence, mobilizing the citizens on security and development issues, as well as nipping potential crisis in the bud.

To address the challenges of poverty and insecurity, we must forge partnerships among and across states in the areas of infrastructure development, agriculture and poverty alleviation. If we pull resources together, we can build critical infrastructure, boost agriculture, enhance energy security, thereby revitalizing our local economies. These measures will generate jobs and keep our youths busy.

Addressing the issue of leadership is also crucial to tackling insecurity in our communities, states and the nation as a whole. As political leaders, we must

lead by example. We must provide strong leadership. Those of us in government must take deliberate steps to ensure good and accountable governance that focuses on the needs of the people. We must see the current situation as an emergency. With concerted and sustained efforts, we shall overcome.

The religious leaders gathered here are very influential. Your positions are well regarded in policy circles. We look forward to your actionable recommendations.

Let me conclude with a message of hope. No matter how bleak our situation may seem, we have a duty to consistently radiate hope. As leaders and shapers of thought, let us propagate hope with intentionality, and nurture it through our uniqueness and positive narratives, until that hope is in full effect in our states, and across our nation.

It is now my honour and privilege to declare open the 6th Annual Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace Conference. God bless you all.

By Peter Ibrahim

In a commendable display of responsiveness and compassion, Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, has taken a decisive step to resettle displaced communities of Southern Kaduna affected by various incidents of insecurity.

Governor Sani's action was in response to a recommendation from the State Security Council, which on November 8, 2023 recommended to the government the need to constitute a committee to

KDSG to resettle displaced communities of Southern Kaduna

resettle displaced communities.

Inaugurating the committee in a brief ceremony that took place at Government House, Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Balarabe, who was the chairperson of the 10-member committee, stressed the importance of the committee's task and the responsibility towards the affected persons who

are "citizens who have been displaced from their homes due to various challenges."

While noting that Southern part of Kaduna has seen its fair share of displacement due to the incidents of violence plaguing the state, she stressed that the plight of these displaced persons "weighs heavily on our collective conscience, and it is

crucial that we take decisive action to address their needs and facilitate their resettlement."

The committee has the Secretary to the State Government, Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, and the chairmen of Jema'a, Kaura, and Zangon Kataf Local Government Areas, as members, among others.

Dr Balarabe also said the primary objective of the committee was to devise comprehensive strategies for the effective resettlement of displaced persons in the Southern

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Sports surges ahead in Kaduna

By Hassan Tanko

National Youth Games:

In September 2023, Kaduna State emerged as the undisputed champion, standing out as the top North West State at the National Youth Games in Delta State. The state achieved an impressive medal tally of 3 gold, 4 silver, and 10 bronze across various sports, showcasing not only its adaptability and competitiveness on the national stage but also the exceptional skills of its athletes. Notably, gold medals were secured in cycling, beach volleyball, and cricket. Additionally, silver medals were attained in volleyball, badminton, and chess, while bronze medals were awarded in cycling, cricket, badminton, darts, weightlifting, taekwondo, and softball. This outstanding performance solidifies Kaduna State's position as the leading force among North West States in September 2023.

National Para Games:

Kaduna State excelled at the 2nd National Para

Games in December 2023, held at Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja. The State demonstrated expertise in Para Badminton, Para Table Tennis, Para Karate, and Para Soccer. Umar Baba Pate secured a Silver in SU5, and Muhammad Hassan and Abdulmahid Muhammad won Silver in doubles, while Hassan and Ibrahim Antony earned Bronze medals. Yusuf Hashim's impressive performance in Class 9 Para Table Tennis added another Bronze to Kaduna's medal count. Celeb Bagudu's gold in Nervously Impede Para Karate highlighted determination, supported by Coach Bush Kurutsi and positive developments like athlete scholarships. In Para Soccer, the team's skill, determination, and teamwork earned Kaduna State a bronze medal, reinforcing Governor Uba Sani's support and Sa'id Idris Dibis' role as Special Adviser on Sports in fostering sports development.

Strategic Initiatives by the Ministry of Sports Development:

Behind the scenes, the Ministry's strategic playbook is reshaping Kaduna's sports landscape. Led by Hon. Commissioner Prof. Benjamin Kumai Gugong, the Ministry focuses on initiatives outlined in the 2024 Budget, transcending mere victories on the field. Key initiatives include the establishment of sports academies in Kagarko and Kunkumi, aiming to nurture young talents at grassroots levels. The rehabilitation of the Township Stadium (Ranchers Bees) emphasizes the commitment to upgrade existing facilities, contributing to the overall sports Infrastructure in Kaduna State. Furthermore, the optimization/remodeling of Ahmadu Bello Stadium (ABS), Kaduna, aligns with the vision for world-class sporting venues, elevating Kaduna's status nationally and internationally. The Kaduna State Schools Sports Competition demonstrates a commitment to fostering a

sports culture from an early age, identifying and encouraging budding talents across educational institutions.

The introduction of a Sports Mentorship Program, in line with the Kaduna State Sports Industry Policy, emphasizes continuous learning and development for athletes and coaches. As these strategic initiatives unfold, the Ministry of Sports Development, with its proactive approach, lays the foundation for Kaduna State's sustained success in the sporting arena.

Governor Uba Sani's winning formula, steered by Prof. Gugong, not only reflects a vision for immediate victories but also actively shapes the future of sports in the state. This comprehensive approach encompasses a commitment to infrastructure, talent development, and a thriving sports culture, solidifying Kaduna's position as a sporting powerhouse under Governor Uba Sani's leadership.

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KDSG to resettle displaced communities of Southern Kaduna

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part of Kaduna State. "This entails also facilitating their access to basic amenities, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities. "Moreover, we must prioritize the restoration of their sense of dignity and belonging within their communities."

"It is crucial that we approach this task with empathy, sensitivity, fairness, sense of urgency

and a commitment to inclusivity. We must actively engage with the displaced communities, listening to their voices, understanding their concerns, and involving them in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. By fostering a participatory approach, we can ensure that our efforts are truly responsive to the needs and aspirations of those we seek to assist."

The Deputy also said that we must leverage the expertise and resources

available to us, both within the government and through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and humanitarian agencies. "Collaboration will be key to our success, as we work towards the common goal of facilitating the dignified return and sustainable reintegration of displaced persons into their communities."

"Together, we have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in

the lives of our fellow citizens, and I am confident that with our collective efforts, we can achieve our objectives and bring hope and stability to those in need. After all, I believe in the experience that each member of this formidable team can bring to bear in the work of this committee. You have each been tested and proven," she further stated.

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Gov Uba Sani, along with his Deputy, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Liman, the Speaker of Kaduna State House of Assembly, and other senior government officials, at the reception for the 137 Kuriga school children who were rescued on Sunday after spending 16 days in captivity.



A display of more agricultural implements and women empowerment tools, at the launching of 2nd phase of palliatives distribution by Governor Uba Sani in Kaduna



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