

KADUNA OUTLOOK

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Democracy Day Special:

Uba Sani scores high on democracy dividends



Update on the Dualization of
Ungwan Rimi Road
Kafanchan
#KADUNAURBANRENEWAL
28th February, 2024



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Since 2018 when former *President Muhammadu Buhari*, changed

Democracy Day Special

also remembered this year at national and state levels.

Senator Uba Sani, Governor of

Democracy Day from May 29 to June 12 of every year to commemorate the debacle of June, 1993 when a popular electoral process was truncated while on course to a happy ending, events of the day have included remembrances and tributes to gallant Nigerians whose sacrifices ensured that democracy took root on Nigerian soil. Democracy heroes notably **Chief M.K.O Abiola GCFR** who was cruising to electoral victory on the cusp of the popular and overwhelming mandate Nigerian electorate across all the divides gave him, are remembered on **Democracy Day** and their efforts in birthing democracy once again since the demise of the second republic, are reiterated for posterity.

June 12, 2024 was no different. Other pro-democracy legends who staked their-all to confront successive military regimes to a stand-still like **Chief Gani Fewehinmi, Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, Chima Ubani, Uba Sani**, Shehu Sani and all other pro-democracy, human rights and labour activists scoperating under different canopies of activism were

Kaduna State and **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu** have many things in common: Two stand out clearly; both were in the trenches and suffered so many indignities in the hands of the military regimes on account of their activism and both happened now to be heading governments (*President Tinubu started much earlier*) meriting the tag '*Democrats in the saddle*'.

This edition of **Kaduna Outlook** is devoted to an assessment by independent commentators of **Senator Uba Sani's** stewardship against the background of the special day in which he, along with other stalwarts of the fight to keep the flame of democracy alight are being celebrated. How has he fared in this dispensation, has he walked the talk and what in particular is the significance of the day to Kaduna State now that a democrat is at the helm, have been the focus. This is packaged in form of a major interview by an academic who has seen it all, news features, comments and snippets that highlight what the day means to the people and the role of personae involved in the struggle for democracy such as **Senator Uba Sani**.

Kaduna democracy dividends: People have to be patient with Govt - Prof. Laah

Professor Gambo Laah, is a Professor of population geography at the Kaduna State University and a commentator on public affairs. He was a former Head of Department of Geography, former Dean of Faculty of Science and former Dean of School of Postgraduate Studies Kaduna State University. He is the pioneer Vice Chancellor, Greenfield University Kaduna. **Prof Laah** is a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru Jos. He is Chairman, Industry Relations, Kaduna State University and the 2nd Vice President of the Association of Nigerian Geographers. He holds the traditional title of Iyan Mabushi, in Atyap Chieftdom in Kaduna State. He spoke on the occasion of Nigeria Democracy Day on a wide range issues including viability of democracy, gale of changes in political fortunes across the world, state police, voter sophistry, federalism and the North response to it, Uba Sani among others in an in-depth interview with **Emmanuel Ado**, a media consultant to the Kaduna State Government.

Question: After what seems like years of decline, countries across the world are in 2024 voting for democracy. Millions of voters around the world from India to South Africa recently went to the polls to elect their leaders. What are some key takeaways?

Prof. Laah: Let me say that i am happy to be part of the celebration of democracy, the return to civilian rule after years of military dictatorship, because we have finally said bye- bye to military dictatorship and embraced democracy as the way to go. The world has definitely come of age in embracing democracy which has led to critical development at levels that we have not seen before. This year we have seen elections in different countries, but the key and sad thing is that we are having a shift to the far right which is very alarming, alarming in the sense that when the British people voted to exit the European Union- Brexit, it was on the grounds that they wanted their government to concentrate on them, that their government must take care of them before others. This has serious implications for the world. Migration - this concept of *Japa*, migration is no doubt a major



issue in Europe and it would lead to harsh laws...the Europeans are beginning to tighten their borders - they don't want immigrants coming in anymore. What that means is that we have to develop our country to prevent our people from the humiliation of migration. But I can tell you that although we have had challenges, we have issues, but there has

been significant development, the election of far-right politicians is a warning to Nigerians and indeed Africans to put their

house in order. The we before others, far right rhetoric of the likes of Donald Trump is real. As a people we must begin to think inward and harness our resources and stop trading our natural resources without adding value. I think, it is a good thing that - the BJP in India suffered a defeat in the election, although they still have the majority of seats. The African National Congress (ANC) equally suffered a crushing defeat that it needed to go into an alliance to form a government. This is an indication that the people are beginning to assert themselves and not necessarily that they are questioning the foundation of their democracy. In Senegal we can interpret the voting as a vote against continued colonialism. The people seem to have said it loud and clear let's move away from colonial mentality and develop our selves. What the United States and the other developed countries are telling us Africans, but especially Nigerians is that we need to work on developing our countries.

Question: In South Africa ANC lost their majority and in Nigeria the All Progressives Congress (APC) defeated the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and they have so far held sway for eight years, and another four years down the line, so what does this say about the Nigerian electorate?

Prof. Laah: Yes of course, you know that first and foremost, we don't need to be questioning the legality of the election of President Bola Tinubu as that has been settled, it was clear that Nigerians were fed up with the impunity of the PDP and they decided to change them and that was the first time an opposition party would officially taking over governance from a party that had kept describing itself as the largest party in Africa. It's instructive that the people didn't question the electoral process in 2015, because it was clear to everybody, that the will of the people prevailed. In 2023 it was not as clear as it was in 2015, but of course there is no doubt that the APC won the elections. So, voters are using their power from India to South Africa.

Question: You're a consultant to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). What's the magic because votes are finally beginning to count, we are no longer having those scandalous numbers like we use to. Is this a sign that we making progress?

Prof. Laah: We are making progress, in the sense that the number of people that voted were those who registered, it is a significant improvement, though we have laxity in voters registration between the ages of 18 to 25 as they are still not showing sufficient interest in voting, but If you compare with the 2007, 2023, 2011 voting there is a significant and progressive improvement in the proportion of young people who have registered to vote and it would be great if the Identity Card, the BVN, and ATM cards are harmonized into one ID, it would lead to significant improvement in voting. We don't need all these different cards. We need to continue on voters' advocacies. And I would support the scrapping of state electoral commissions...

Question: But we are talking of true federalism, won't that negate

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the principles of true federalism?

Prof. Laah: True federalism does not mean that you cannot have a national

structure or national architecture in some areas, just as true federalism does not imply having a separate military or foreign affairs ministry... these areas are settled, but that is not to say we don't need a state police. If you introduce state police it would help maintain the electoral process, because a state will now be able to use its own police to maintain order because they understand the environment very well. So if we have state police we can even gamble to allow the state electoral commissions to remain intact, but where we have the police under the federal government we can't have an effective state electoral system because the police as presently constituted are not answerable to the state governors who are the chief security officers of their respective states.

Question: But if you have a state police will it not be the same scenario? The fear in some quarters is that state police would be manipulated by the state governor against the opposition?

Prof. Laah: No, it will not because there will be checks, and the federal government will still maintain some presence in the states. It has a duty to ensure the continued corporate existence of the country, so they would not tolerate the idea of a state governor using state police to go after the opposition, so to me state police is a gain, I wholeheartedly support state police. And I must commend Governor Uba Sani for his consistency on the matter.

Question: The two recent elections in Africa Senegal and that of India, especially the election of the President Bassirou Faye who was a prisoner, and India's BJP party not winning outright majority and South Africa's ANC which had to go into an alliance are these warning signals that voters are becoming more daring?

Prof. Laah: In fact, let me take the case of Senegal, President Bassirou Faye was in prison, and because the forerunner Ousmane Sonko was disqualified from running so he was drafted to run. The key factor is that the people made the point that they want to be truly independent. Remember that the president was a tax collector and has asserted that the taxes being collected can drive the development of Senegal. Taxes can drive development, just like grants can help run the universities. Last year, Lagos State University attracted over a billion naira grant for research. So, universities must invest in internet connectivity and power in their institutions to enable their lecturers attract grants.

Question: Give me your honest assessment of 25 years of democracy in Nigeria?

Prof. Laah: To be honest, we have grown, I'm not among those who think that nothing good has happened in Nigeria. No, we have grown, before 2000 we didn't have GSM, so if somebody died someone would have had to travel to inform his family. It might look insignificant, but it's a big leap. And being a democratic country has opened doors for us as a country and a people. We certainly have made progress in 25 years. The freedom you enjoy is something that can't be quantified.

Question: So, in real terms, because you've talked about tangibles and intangibles. Let's talk about the 25 years anniversary in real terms?

Prof. Laah: In real terms, we can talk about infrastructural developments and the conducive environment for the private sector, don't mind the economic crisis which is world-wide.

Question: But virtually every part of the country is challenged?

Prof. Laah: Every part of the country is challenged. Yes, the South East is tragically challenged because of the IPOB problem, the Niger Delta has its own problems and, in the North, we have the crippling security situation. I absolutely agree with you. President Umaru Yar'adua initiated the amnesty deal which I must confess worked. I know some people are canvassing that it should be replicated in resolving the issues in all the troubled regions, including banditry. We need more boots on the ground. But we are making progress...apart from Dangote refinery, there are others coming on stream. The Dangote refinery is a game changer.

Question: But job creation?

Prof. Laah: Well it's challenging, that does not mean that the jobs are not being created. If you look at the report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) it will confirm this as a fact. The only problem is that it is not proportionate to our population and that is definitely a challenge. It's the private sector that can create jobs, not the government. The federal government has only 1.2 million people in its employment.

Question: What are the traits that you are seeing from both elected officials and the electorate?

Prof. Laah: Now, let's understand one thing, the impunity of the win at all cost madness during elections is becoming a thing of the past. Why? Because the judiciary has reversed a lot of what happened during the elections. So, the signal that is coming out from such an arrangement is that people are becoming wary of rigging. It's only a matter of time before the electoral system is fully refined. Kaduna State did introduce electronic voting machines and I'm sure the federal government can do that. If you look at the Labour Party the obedient movement and what they achieved there is hope. It shows a new a new orientation. In Kaduna State poor aspirants defeated some members of the House of Representatives...no one saw that coming.

Question: In Kaduna state, APC lost the presidential elections. PDP took the three senatorial seats, but they won the governorship. What does that say?

Prof. Laah: That's the dynamics of enlightened voters, who in the presidential election voted Atiku Abubakar and in the governorship for Senator Uba Sani.

Question: So, voters are becoming sophisticated?

Prof. Laah: Absolutely yes. They understand the importance of capacity and that is the kind of sophistication we want. So, in Kaduna State all the senators are PDP, but the APC sprinted a surprise by claiming the majority in the state house and by winning the governorship. They casted their lot with Uba Sani who had invested in them through his foundation and had performed creditably well at the senate.

Question: This says a lot about Senator Uba Sani?

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Prof. Laah: Of course. Remember we had three candidates, and the people made their decision. In fact, many members of the PDP

came out openly in support of Senator Uba Sani, but they didn't withdraw their membership of PDP. It is a good sign that we are beginning to discriminate based on capacity.

Question: What in your opinion have been the high and the low points of the 25 years of democracy?

Prof. Laah: Well, let me start with the low point. The lingering security challenge remains the number one. The issue of the so-called yahoo yahoo-boys and its associated problems. Nigeria has acquired a terrible reputation because of their activities. We have survived despite our challenges and that shows our resilience. There is no country that will be exposed to the challenges Nigeria has faced and survive. Moving forward what is required is for government to provide the enabling environment for people to achieve their goals. It is not the responsibility of government to provide jobs, its responsibility to provide enabling environment for jobs to be created. How many jobs can the Federal Government provide? We have only 1.2 million workers in the federal government. So, if the NLC is fighting for the increase in salary for these 1.2 million workers, it must note that they are insignificant compared to about 230 million people who have nothing to do with government. Even the workers at the state level amount to nothing when compared to the rest of the population. Our most important mainstay is agriculture. Not many people remember that in 2015, 2016, 2017 most of those who performed Hajj were farmers, and not civil servants.

Question: The high points...

Prof. Laah: The high point is that we have developed our capacity, our international ranking has increased. We have continued to manage our differences. We have the highest number of medical personnel in UK, in US and that says something about our educational system. We have not done well with the power situation. It's sad to see the high rate of vandalism...the rails tracks are being stolen.

Question: President Bola Tinubu slowly is working on restructuring the country, for instance, the Electricity Act of 2023 which allows states to generate electricity has been signed into law, and the process towards amending the constitution to allow for the establishment of community police which Governor Sani has been in the forefront championing is ongoing. What do you want to say about the entrenchment of true federalism?

Prof. Laah: Unfortunately, the North has been very suspicious of true federalism. And why is the North suspicious of true federalism? The argument has always centered around resource control. Unfortunately, a lot of people think that once you have true federalism that they will not benefit from certain resources, but that is not true. Before crude oil became the mainstay of Nigeria's economy it was agriculture. The South -West was not built on petroleum, it was cocoa, the North did not make its name from petrol but groundnut. The South East was rubber and palm oil. So, I think the emphasis on crude oil,

which has a shelf life due to environmental concerns and with the advent of electric cars, shows that it would soon be past tense.

With the refinery in Niger, the Katsina man would prefer loading from there than going to Lagos.

Question: *Is that beginning to happen?*

Prof. Laah: Of course, it is beginning to happen.

Question: *In Kaduna state, Senator Uba Sani, a democrat is in the saddle. He was very active in the campaign against military dictatorship. Give me your thoughts on this. There must be a difference when battle tested generals lead the war against poverty, against unemployment, increased agricultural production.*

Prof. Laah: I like the way you introduced Senator Uba Sani, he is a damn good politician. Politics has to do with your temperament, your antecedents, your presentation the way you see issues and the way your present issues. He has calmed nerves by some simple actions...his empathy and this is what a good leader does. Once elections are over you become the governor of all. Governor Uba has tried to be fair in the siting of projects, people have a sense of belonging. I don't know how is managing to execute the projects because of the financial crisis the state is facing. Governor Sani is reaching out to people and that's strategic. ...it's the reason why the people have embraced him. Some weeks ago, the Kaduna State University wanted to stop students that hadn't paid their fees from writing their exams when the governor heard about it, he intervened as the Visitor. He directed the university to allow them write their exams while they made efforts to pay. So, if they had been disallowed from writing the exams, it would have been devastating, because they would have lost a semester. I can tell you that the directive brought a lot of excitement in the exam halls and to many parents. So, they wrote their exams and they would pay before collecting their results.

Look at the various road projects, in fact look at the lithium factory, and the other projects he has attracted using his network...the Qatar project which is massive. He is a quiet achiever ...am also aware of the critical road project from Zonkowa to Zaria.

Question: *So, his Rural transformation agenda is key...*

Prof. Laah: Honestly, his rural transformation agenda is brilliant, and well thought out, because the moment you invest in rural transformation, you would have reduced the pressure on the urban centers. We are not seeing the benefits of the urban renewal because of the rural-urban migration. But once the rural areas are made habitable people will have no reason to come to Kaduna where their quality of life will be zero, where they will suffer from pollution. So, the governor is spot-on in focusing on the rural areas, because once you develop the rural areas, you would have stopped migration to the urban center and this would impact on agriculture. Why should I come to Kaduna if I have power, good roads and the incentives to increase my production? You need to go to Samaru Katsina to see the vocational technology city. I like the fact that he is doing something drastically different from the

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BATC.

Question: *So, just like many other commentators you also believe his one year has been impactful?*

Prof. Laah: Very, very impactful in every respect. Psychologically you can't quantify what his inclusiveness has done and this can't be measured. People are feeling more relaxed. And this is key. And I must say that the security situation has improved and would continue to improve because the governor is determined to ensure that his citizens are safe.

Question: *You already hinted at the paucity of funds and what he is doing...*

Prof. Laah: I don't know, but the governor must be a magician. Governor Uba Sani has shown that lean resources cannot be an impediment, that one can still make an impact once the commitment is there. I wonder how he is doing it, but I certainly know that projects are going on simultaneously in Zone I, in Zone II and Zone III.

Question: *Don't you think is financial discipline?*

Prof. Laah: I think so. I have heard people complain that he was more generous as a senator than as a governor. Once he saw the financial situation he adjusted. He refused to buy new vehicles for his commissioners and other appointees. He is equally not using new vehicles. Considering the economic situation, it would have been economically disastrous for him to purchase new vehicles. So, I see him as someone that is prudent. He deserves commendation for prompt payment of salaries and for executing projects.

Question: *Finally, moving forward what areas would you want the governor to focus on?*

Prof. Laah: I want both the federal and state governments to really look at agricultural and rural development. We must find a final solution to the farmers/header's crisis. I know a lot of people are opposed to the ban on open grazing, sincerely speaking, as a cattle farmer you can't get the benefit from open grazing because the cows can never do well. If you go to Kenya where they have a structured farming system people are benefitting from grazing, they have more milk, more cheese because the animals are healthier because they are not being moved from one place to another which reduces their milk and meat. So, to a large extent, I support the ban on open grazing but I would want to see government invest in ranches for cattle farmers.

Question: *What's your message to the good people of Kaduna state?*

Prof. Laah: Well, I like the Kaduna people be to continue to give Senator Uba Sani their unflinching support, they need to be more patient, they need to also understand that the times are hard. And I think if we can have this at the back of our mind, because when we talk of security, it is not people from space, that will come and help us tackle the problem, because security starts with us - when you see something you say something to the right person, that in itself will be okay. We need to avoid vandalizing government properties like the street lights, the traffic lights which people knock down with reckless abandon.

The significance of June 12 to Kaduna State

By Clement Shekogaza Wasah,

It is generally agreed that the significance of June 12, 1993 in Nigeria is in the fact that an estimated 14 million Nigerians set aside ethnic, religious, class, and regional Affiliations, to elect their president with the hope of ending several years of military dictatorship.

It is against this backdrop that in 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari moved Democracy Day from May 29 to June 12 in honour of the winner of that election, Chief M.K.O Abiola, who was denied of his victory, and “to remind all Nigerians of denial of their rights and their choice.”

One of the most significant consequences of June 12 election annulment was that the struggle to de-annul birthed many pro-democracy groups most of which coalesced under NADECO (National Democratic Coalition). Many leaders of the current Fourth Republic emerged from NADECO. Of particular significance and interest to Kaduna state is the incumbent governor, His Excellency, Sen Uba Sani.

Governor Uba Sani was one of the leading lights of the democratic movement that galvanized the patriotic struggle against military authoritarianism in Nigeria. He joined the movement at a time that raw bravery and patriotism were required; he joined when military dictatorship was at the apogee.

Operating from Kaduna through the Movement for Freedom and Justice which he founded, Governor UBA Sani, along with other patriots, deployed his organization and networking skills in creating a strategic base for the pro-democracy movement in Northern Nigeria.

Consequently, he played high level leadership roles as National Vice Chairman (North) of Campaign for Democracy (CD) which had over 40



The late Chief Abiola

affiliated groups in its fold. CD's primary goal was to advocate for a return to civilian rule through the holding of a sovereign national conference. It was a strong member of NADECO, the umbrella and face of domestic and global opposition to military authoritarianism in Nigeria. Dr Beko Ramson-Kuti was CD National Chairman while Governor Uba Sani was National Vice Chairman (North). The Chairman and many leaders were often arrested for their work. Governor Uba Sani was not spared the ordeal either. He too had his baptism of fire. He was incarcerated.

Besides CD, Governor Uba Sani worked closely with the iconoclastic Chief Gani, SAM (Senior Advocate of the Masses), as Deputy National Chairman (North) of the Joint Action Committee of Nigeria (JACON).

The involvement of the governor in the human rights and democratic movement transformed the engineer to a dye-in-the-wool democrat. It was like going through the crucible.

As if that was not enough, Governor Sani has been a very active participant in the Fourth Republic holding very strategic positions: Special Advisor on Public Affairs to President Obasanjo, Special Adviser on Political and intergovernmental affairs to Governor Nasir el-Rufai and Senator of the the Federal Republic, among others.

Therefore, Governor Uba Sani came into Sir Kashim Ibrahim House fully prepared, fully kitted physically and mentally. He is thus not a situational or

an accidental Chief Executive Officer. This has enabled him to sail through the rough sea of debts and drought of funds that characterized last year, without losing focus on repositioning the state government to deliver the greatest good to over 8.4 million (2018) citizens as far as resources can carry.

The combo of engineering training and practice, social sector/ human rights experience, and political praxis clearly manifest in what we see today in Kaduna State.

The Governor himself never tires of repeating that “A major pillar of our Governance Agenda in Kaduna State is Nurturing Citizens Engagement. We want to carry the people along in decision making processes, especially on how their resources are allocated and expended”.

The validity of the statement is vivid in the projects commissioned on the first anniversary, tagged 365 days of Governor Uba Sani. They were projects that directly impact on the welfare and security of the citizens and residents of the state.

The effect of the governor's active involvement in the June 12 saga is writ large in what he says and does as the Chief Executive Officer of the State. He thinks, speaks and acts inclusion and participation of all persons, irrespective of their place in society. Only a committed democrat, forged in the furnace of human rights activism and struggle against authoritarianism could be so focused. Any wonder many call him “talk and do” Governor or “*Gwabna mai alheri*”?

Indeed, it takes a dye in the wool democrat like H. E. Sen Uba Sani to galvanize the citizens of Kaduna State, a microcosm of Nigeria, to set aside political party, ethnic, religious, class, and regional affiliations for peace and development. This is the significance of June 12 to Kaduna State.

**Clement Shekogaza Wasah is SSA,
(Community Engagement)**

Tinubu, Shehu Sani name Uba Sani among democracy heroes

President Bola Ahmad Tinubu has lauded the role of Uba Sani in the struggle to free citizens from the shackles of military dictatorship. “Sani protested against military authoritarians in Nigeria, and left behind a footprint of bravery and patriotism he said adding; riding on his organisation and networking skills, he created a strategic base for the pro-democracy movements in Northern Nigeria, using his civil society organisation, the Movement for Freedom and Justice”. President Tinubu further said that Uba Sani deployed his resources to champion the rights of the underprivileged and offered them unfettered access to justice.

The president made the remark at an event marking democracy day at the State House, Abuja. “At different times, he was the National Vice Chairman (North) of Campaign for Democracy (CD) and Deputy



Tinubu, Uba, and Shehu at a democracy day event in Abuja

National Chairman (North) of the Joint Action Committee JACON) led by Fawehinmi,” Tinubu added.

Also speaking on the issue veteran human rights activist and former Senator, Malam Shehu Sani said this about Sen Uba Sani, “Mr. President,

even though the Governor of Kaduna State removed me from the seat, I would always remember that he was one of those who stood for us when we are in prison. He was among those who kept the torch of freedom alive while many of us languished in the cell”

Uba Sani, religious leaders, elders forum assess peace efforts

Religious leaders across the state have engaged with Governor Uba Sani in a frank and fruitful meeting aimed at assessing the progress made in promoting peace and forging unity in the state and other emerging issues with strategies to address them.

Welcoming the personalities to the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House Gov Uba Sani expressed gratitude to the religious leaders for the invaluable advice and support they have been giving to the administration since inception.

He said that their support and work in various communities has helped in stabilizing the state and refocusing attention on developmental issues.

The Governor reiterated what he termed the administration's modest achievements in the areas of security, infrastructure development, education, agriculture, health, housing, poverty alleviation, youth and women empowerment, stressing that the rural transformation drive was also gathering pace.

In separate responses the religious

leaders expressed satisfaction with the developmental strides of the administration and made suggestions on priority areas going forward. They resolved to work with the state government to rebuild trust in their communities, enhance inter-religious understanding and effectively implement government's Rural Transformation Agenda.

Also, another strategic engagement meeting with esteemed members of the Kaduna Elders Forum held to review progress made in securing and stabilizing communities, chart the pathway to a more peaceful and prosperous Kaduna State.

The elders led by the Co-Chairmen, Alhaji Abubakar Mustapha and General Zamani Lekwot (rtd) received applause from Governor Uba Sani for their continuing support to the administration and for rallying citizens to make contributions towards the growth and development of the state.

The Kaduna Elders Forum is one Forum we must sustain because of its strategic

role in mobilizing and sensitizing our people on critical issues of peace, security and development. the Gov said “All the so-called differences are created by conflict entrepreneurs in furtherance of their evil machinations. With the unity displayed by our elders, our people can now focus on real issues of development, the Governor said.

“Our rural transformation drive is gathering pace. We are determined to close the infrastructure deficit and thus give our rural dwellers a better lease of life, he further said; and informed the Forum of the signing into law of the private sector driven Kaduna State Security Trust Fund Bill, aimed at securing sustainable funding for combating terrorism, banditry and kidnapping in the state.

“We have made progress in degrading criminal elements, but challenges remain, he said and urged the elders to continue to engage the State Government and security forces to fashion more effective strategies to degrade these agents of destabilization.

25 Years of Democracy: In Kaduna State a democrat in the saddle

By Emmanuel Ado

The jury is still out on whether Nigeria's return to civil rule (democracy) after years of agonizing military dictatorship which on May 29th marked its silver jubilee, has met the aspirations of most Nigerians. As would be expected there are and would continue to be divergent opinions as to whether Nigerians fared better under military rule or are faring better under democratic rule. But what is not under dispute is the very high expectations of Nigerians that she would join the league of developed countries because of its human, and material resources. Without doubt she is still confronted with several teething challenges ranging from insurgency, economic, political uncertainty, high rate of unemployment, poor infrastructural facilities 64 years after her independence in 1960 from Britain.

The misconception that largely informs the position of those that write off civilian rule is the wrong notion that democracy would usher in an Eldorado, that at the swing of a magic wand hunger, poverty etc would vanish just like that. But where this so, America the bastion of democracy would not have millions of homeless people, over 6.6 million unemployed people or be grappling with the tremendous challenges that Donald Trump the presumptive candidate of the Republican Party has thrown up which is sending Americans back to the drawing board.

While the last 25 years of civilian rule might not have met the expectations of many Nigerians there is absolutely no question that democracy remains the best form of governance with all its imperfections, especially as the history of the military regimes continually being pushed by some military apologists is not that glorious. What is left is for the political class to work resolutely to continue to solve the numerous challenges - entrenching a true federalism.

The train has left the station, and the military have submitted to civilian authority. It's fitting that the democracy day is being celebrated on June 12th in commemoration of the 1993 presidential election won by the late Chief MKO Abiola



Governor Uba Sani

which General Ibrahim Babangida annulled.

While many of the beneficiaries of the gains of democracy especially the class of 1999 governors, ministers and most members of the National Assembly were either onlookers or active collaborators with the military and who deep down continue to prefer military rule because of the benefits they derived from their association with the military junta almost elbowed the likes of President Bola Tinubu, and Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State who were in the trenches waging the relentless war against the military from participating in the politics of the 4th Republic.

Governor Sani, who as a young man had already decided on a life dedicated to public service, the institution of an egalitarian society and the entrenchment of democracy when most of his mates were unsure of what they wanted to do with their life.

At that young age, Governor Sani found military rule objectionable but didn't just sit back to complain, rather he took active steps to help send the military back to the barracks where they rightly belong despite the obvious personal risks. And to make matters worse, the rebellious young Sani committed what amounted to political sacrilege by teaming up with the mostly Southerners led pro- democracy campaign movement, which in the eyes of some Northerners was a subtle attempt at snatching power from the North by the South. In the North, the campaign for the enthronement of democracy and the return of the politicized military to their

constitutional roles, were viewed with deep suspicion due to the erroneous belief that the mostly Northern led military regimes advanced "Northern Interests".

Every step that governor Sani took was like jumping from frying pan to fire. If Sani wasn't suicidal, how could he have aligned with the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi, a mortal enemy of the junta of all people? Wasn't Sani voluntarily signing his death certificate? The danger that the young Sani faced is better appreciated against the background of the fact that the likes of the famed General Alani Akinrinade, Anthony Enahoro and Bola Ahmed Tinubu (as he then was) were eventually forced into exile through the famous NADECO route by the Abacha regime, which in Nigeria's history, remains the most vicious regime. That Uba Sani stayed back to wage the war speaks volumes about his courage and convictions.

In a sense, Sani's involvement in the pro-democracy movement was what the one and only irrepressible Fela Aníkúlápó Kúti in his diabolical sense of humor would have described as suicide; akin to someone standing in front of a moving train.

Governor Sani, for a long time, was a lone voice in the North campaigning for the restoration of late Chief M. K. O Abiola's June 12 mandate, which Babangida had annulled, until Col. Abubakar Umar resigned his commission over the annulment of the June 12 elections. He was the National Vice Chairman (North) Campaign for Democracy (CD), and Deputy National Chairman (North) of the Gani Fawehinmi SAN Joint Action Committee (JACON) and member of the National Conscience Party (NCP). Governor Sani has definitely paid his dues. Clearly, Sani's experience in the trenches explains his incredible value of the service to humanity and skills at navigating delicate landmines as the governor of Kaduna State. His peaceful disposition is the reason why Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar, who defeated him for the People's Democratic Party (PDP), senate ticket in 2011 is today his political ally and confidant.

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Uba Sani's economic trifecta: Lithium, Agri-Market, Gas

By Nasir Dambatta

Kaduna State has taken a monumental leap towards economic prosperity and sustainable growth, as Governor Uba Sani unveils three groundbreaking investments worth a staggering \$147 million. The lithium processing plant, Agri-market initiative, and L-CNG project mark a significant milestone in the state's journey towards economic stability and growth, showcasing Governor Uba Sani's visionary leadership and commitment to fostering economic development.

The lithium plant, a joint venture between the Kaduna state government and Ming Xin Mineral Separation Nigeria Ltd, is worth \$20 million, with plans to increase it to \$25 million within the next two years. This investment is set to create over 3000

job opportunities and positively impact the host community, contributing significantly to the state's economic growth and development.

In partnership with StarAgri West Africa Ltd, the Kaduna state government has launched the Agri-market initiative, worth \$122 million. This investment will transform the agricultural landscape, generate economic growth and employment opportunities, and promote sustainable growth and prosperity. The initiative will create a total storage capacity exceeding 3 million Metric Tonnes, revolutionize connectivity between warehouses and farming communities, and ensure efficient supply chain management and reduced post-harvest losses. This will not only boost agricultural production but also enhance the livelihoods of smallholder and extension services personnel.

Furthermore, Governor Uba Sani has unveiled Nigeria's first L-CNG station in Kakau, Kaduna State. This marks a significant milestone in the country's energy landscape, cementing Kaduna State's position as a trailblazer in the adoption of innovative technologies. The L-CNG project will create over 3000 job opportunities and positively impact the host community, contributing significantly to the state's economic growth and development.

Governor Uba Sani's economic trifecta is a testament to his administration's commitment to fostering economic growth, creating job opportunities, and improving the lives of Kaduna State residents. These investments demonstrate a shared vision for transformative change in the state's economy, and promise a brighter future for the people of Kaduna State. As the state continues to navigate the path to economic stability, Governor Uba Sani's leadership is set to pay off, creating a legacy of economic prosperity and sustainable growth.

Kaduna gets forensic laboratory and training centre

Gov Uba Sani has commissioned the Kaduna State forensic laboratory, the first of its kind in Northern Nigeria. The facility has 4 Units, out of 6 in the Forensic Laboratory, namely: (i) Crime Scene Unit (ii) Ballistic Unit (iii) Question Document Examination & Fingerprints Capture Unit, and (iv) Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Unit.

The **Kaduna Outlook** gathered that the Forensic Centre will be a major source of revenue generation for Kaduna State because personnel from various States and organizations will register to train their staff in the centre to acquire the basic knowledge in detecting criminal activities.

The installation of the Forensic Laboratory Equipment will enhance

expert testimony in law courts and generally help in the administration of both Criminal and Civil Justice.

At the commissioning, the Governor restated the readiness of the administration to continue to support

security forces and criminal justice institutions in Kaduna State through the provision of modern scientific equipment, communication gadgets and patrol vehicles.





Governor Uba Sani

Uba Sani's Scorecard

as Development Partners.

Specifically, a Lithium Processing Plant, a partnership between the Kaduna State Government and Ming Xin Mineral Separation Nigeria Ltd, will soon be commissioned. The facility, according to reports, has an initial capacity of 1,500 metric tons per day when it comes on stream. Likewise, a \$50 million

Soya Bean Oil Refining Plant, located at Kutungare village, is underway and Sunagrow International Oil Ltd has promised 500,000 liters per day. Similarly, a Liquefied Natural Gas production company, the Greenville LNG, has cited a 24,000 tonnes capacity facility at Kakau, a village in Chikun local government of Kaduna State. Besides, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has promised multimillion-dollar private investments, especially in the Agriculture, Infrastructure, Transportation and Clean Energy. Additionally, the Emirati Government pledged to address some development challenges.

Unarguably, the Senator Uba Sani administration, in the last one year, has built infrastructure, attracted investments, rebooted the health sector and upgraded education facilities. Likewise, his 'A Kori Talau' promises a tall order of banishing poverty from Kaduna State. Indeed, the Government has punched above its financial weight, against paucity of funds, a debt overhang and competing demands. The Governor, in this regard, has given a good account of his mandate and Senator Uba Sani, in popular parlance, has delivered the Dividends of Democracy in his first year in office.

However, in Ambassador Aminu

Wali's book, the phrase means differently to dyed-in-the-wool politicians. In 2001, about 23 years ago, the top diplomat was a guest of the New Nigerian Newspapers, where he fielded questions from the editorial board. Specifically, he listed citizens' engagement, carrying them along and involving all segments of the polity in governance, as the real Dividends of Democracy. Projects, according to him, can be executed even by a dictator but it takes a democrat to engage with the people, feel their pulse and reflect their wishes in governance. On this score, Governor Uba Sani scores very highly.

Indeed, Governor Uba Sani has been building bridges, embracing people and accommodating all political tendencies. In fact, former opponents have become allies in record numbers. Specifically, most of his PDP predecessors, have aligned with his populist policies and Arch Namadi Sambo, former Vice president of Nigeria, is a strong pillar of support. However, Alhaji Muktar Ramalan Yero, Sambo's protegee and ex-Governor, has crossed over to APC. Figuratively, the Governor has erected a big tent, where Muslim clerics and Christian clergymen key into government policies, offer wise counsel and tug along the same direction without friction. Similarly, town hall meetings are sounding boards for policy initiation, implementation and feedbacks.

In 1991, Bill Clinton and Al Gore ran for the United States presidency, on a joint ticket, with the slogan "Putting People First." As Governor, Senator Uba Sani is putting the people of Kaduna State on the front burner of his policies and programmes. This is the real Dividends of Democracy.

Ibraheem Musa,
Former DG Campaign Organisation
APC contributed this from Kaduna

By Ibraheem Musa

Collectively, the checklist is wide and diverse but a common nomenclature connects them to a political register. Loosely, tarring of roads, building edifices and constructing culverts, as well as block of classrooms, are called Dividends of Democracy in Nigeria. Indeed, at every milestone, politicians reel out these brick and mortar achievements with fanfare. Last week, they were in their elements and a festive air, across party lines, pervaded the entire polity as public officers unveiled their scorecards on or before May 29th. At once, there was a publicity overdrive, in the mainstream and social media, as they rolled out the drums, clicked glasses and thumped their chests to boot.

Last week, the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, commissioned a slew of projects, flagged off new ones and inspected ongoing projects in rapid sequence, without catching his breath. Indeed, the Rural Transformation Agenda, his flagship programmed, is gathering momentum as over 54 road project contracts, in just one year, have been awarded by the administration. Similarly, the Government has attracted sundry investments, spanning the mining, agro-allied and housing sectors, from domestic and foreign investors, as well

Transforming education, ensuring excellence

By: Halima Sadiya Abubakar

In the heart of Kaduna State's education system, the Kaduna State Schools Quality Assurance Authority (KSSQAA) stands as a shining example of innovation and quality, resolutely aligning its efforts with Governor Uba Sani's visionary SUSTAIN Agenda, which prioritizes education as a cornerstone of development. Led by the visionary Dr. Usman Abubakar Zaria, KSSQAA's groundbreaking initiatives are revolutionizing education across the state. The unwavering support of the Honorable Commissioner of Education, Prof. Muhammad Sani Bello, and the Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, has been instrumental in KSSQAA's remarkable success.

KSSQAA has embarked on a transformative journey in enhancing educational quality and boosting internally generated revenue (IGR) their innovative initiatives include unveiling transparency with online accessibility, where a comprehensive list of registered private schools is now readily available online, fostering transparency and facilitating easy access for parents, educators, and stakeholders. The school monitoring tool has been completely digitized, enabling efficient real-time monitoring of school activities and streamlining the process. The whole school evaluation process is now online and point-based, allowing for quicker assessments and paving the way for school rankings, creating a healthy environment for continuous improvement.

Under development, the Edu-Monitor App promises to further revolutionize monitoring and evaluation processes by putting real-time data at KSSQAA's fingertips. KSSQAA has introduced an annual operating license system, License

renewals are contingent on both financial compliance and adherence to quality assurance standards, ensuring a focus on both financial stability and educational excellence. To combat counterfeiting, Provisional Approval and Consent Certificates have been redesigned to include advanced security features. The recategorization process which determines a school's tax level has been automated and integrated into the annual renewal application, saving time and resources. BECE certificates now boast integrated security features and exam results are released before school resumption, fully digitized and accessible online, ensuring transparency and timely access to crucial information. KSSQAA's dedication to innovation is translating into tangible results. A significant improvement has been witnessed in NECO results. A staggering 67% of students achieved five credits and above, including Mathematics and English, reflecting a 13% increase compared to the previous year. This is a testament to the improved quality of education being delivered across Kaduna State, KSSQAA's collaborative efforts with development partners like PLANE and WAEC are yielding impressive benefits. PLANE has trained 301 evaluators, strengthening the state's evaluation system, and established a modern ICT hub within KSSQAA, fostering technological advancement. WAEC's commitment to constructing a modern CBT Centre in Kaduna underscores the collaborative spirit driving educational progress. Kaduna's recent election to represent Education Directors on four strategic WAEC committees for a two-year term highlights the state's growing leadership role in education.

KSSQAA has actively captured and documented educational data. They have recategorized 412 schools,

identified and documented 488 unregistered schools and 838 exam centers. Over 2,000 private schools are now listed with their registration status on the official website. Additionally, 1043 schools were monitored during the last resumption and mid-term exercises, demonstrating KSSQAA's commitment to continuous monitoring.

KSSQAA's enforcement actions ensure a level playing field and maintain high educational standards. KSSQAA actively seeks out and registers unregistered schools to ensure all institutions meet quality standards. Registered schools are encouraged to pay their annual license renewal fees to support KSSQAA's operations and maintain their operating status. Secure, QR-enabled license certificates will be implemented to prevent counterfeiting and enhance transparency. Private school recategorization ensures fair tax contributions based on their upgraded tax levels. Continuous monitoring and evaluation processes guarantee that schools deliver high-quality education. KSSQAA ensures schools utilize textbooks approved by the authority, maintaining a standardized and high-quality learning environment.

The Kaduna State Schools Quality Assurance Authority, under the exemplary leadership of Dr. Usman Abubakar Zaria and the support of Governor Uba Sani, Commissioner Prof. Muhammad Sani Bello, and Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, continues to set new benchmarks in educational excellence. KSSQAA remains dedicated to creating a conducive learning environment, empowering educators, and ensuring that students in Kaduna State receive the highest quality education.

Meet 5 Nigerian Democracy Heroes!

Recently uncovered archival photos reveal the courageous individuals who fought for democracy in Nigeria. This August 2002 image shows top figures 1. Gani Fawehinmi 2. MD Yusufu3. Balarabe Musa4. Uba Sani 5. Lanre Banjo... at a press conference for unregistered political parties. Hidden for decades, this photo highlights their sacrifices and struggles for our freedom and rights. May their stories inspire future generations



24. From left, Gani Fawehinmi, M. D. Yusufu, Balarabe Musa, Uba Sani and Lanre Banjo of the Conference of Unregistered Political Parties, addressing a press conference on August 14, 2002 on the Court of Appeal judgement on the registration of Political Parties.



AIG, Force criminal investigation department (Northwest)
Mr Rex Dundun (second left) during a courtesy call at the
Sir Kashim Ibrahim House



A meeting with religious leaders



Governor Uba Sani flagging off the construction of a 6km
asphalt road from Rafin Guza to Hayin Nariya to Malali Gabas



Photo



Participants at a 3-day training workshop for tax offices in the
northwest zone which held in Kaduna recently.



Gov Uba sani, Deputy Governor Hadiza Balarabe, Emir
officials at an occasion communicating
organized by the Uba Sani



ers Sir Kashim Ibrahim House



Former President backing camera at the summit
meeting traditional rulers

OUTLOOK

News



Dignitaries at the from Northwest Governors and left summit.
Deputy Governor Hadiza Balarabe represented Governor Uba Sani



of Zazzau Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli and other
g the Governor's one-year anniversary
support group in Kaduna



Eid-el-Kabir Governor Uba Sani and other Muslim faithful
at Sultan Bello Mosque



World Environment Day: Towards a greener future

By Hassan Abba

The World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5th to unite millions of people globally in the common cause of protecting our planet. It was established by the United Nations in 1972 and thus serve as a platform to raise awareness, promote sustainable practices and encourage action towards preserving our natural environment.

In Kaduna State, World Environment Day holds special significance as we reflect on the strides made in environmental conservation and sustainable development. The Ministry of Environment is currently leading numerous initiatives that not only contribute to the wellbeing of our local ecosystem but also support global environmental goals. In the last 365

days, the Ministry has implemented ground breaking projects from extensive afforestation efforts and pollution control measures to innovative waste management systems and renewable energy programmes. These Initiatives underscore commitment to fostering a healthier, more sustainable environment for current and indeed future generations. When the current Commissioner of Environment, Hon. Abubakar Buba came to the ministry, his first outing was on World Rangers Day. It is a day where both the living and the dead Rangers are celebrated. He began by Tree Planting Campaign within the State Secretariat Complex. The Ministry through the ACRoSAL and in collaboration with the Food and

Agricultural Organization (FAO) has identified the degraded land across the State for large scale Landscape Restoration via afforestation and also 5,000 hectares for shelter belt is being carried out for environmental protection. The Ministry is equally planning to carry out a thorough assessment of Taungya Farmers in the State Forest Reserves to develop baseline data that will create opportunity to increase Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). As part of the effort of State in the year under review, a capacity building of 450



Dep. Governor Hadiza S. Balarabe kick-starting the Environment Day

forestry staff on Geographic Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information System (GIS) and Relascope application as it relates to Forestry Technology in collaboration with ACRoSAL Project. In a significant move to boost investment in the mining sector and as well preserve the environment, Kaduna State has entered into an agreement with Ming Xin Minerals Separation Nigeria Limited with maximum attention to achieve clean energy. Kaduna State government has so far established a climate change directorate with the climate change Policy under review, waiting for the state executive council's deliberations. Similarly a weather station has been established at the Ministry of Environment which regularly updates on the Air Quality Index in order to

abreast people and as well guide them on the weather condition of the Kaduna metropolis. The 2024 World Environment Day is equally celebrated in Kaduna State University (KASU) and has hosted stakeholders from various sectors with the Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe in attendance. The theme of this year is Land Restoration, Desertifications and Drought Resilience which focused on the need for urgent action to combat desertification and drought. She emphasized on the inter connectivity between environmental sustainability, societal wellbeing and Economic prosperity. According to her, Kaduna state government will plant 10 Million trees to address environmental degradation. As we celebrate World

Climate Day, it is essential to reflect on the significant strides our state has made in combating climate change and promoting environmental sustainability. The initiative led by the Ministry of Environment from advancing renewable energy projects to implementing robust conservation

programmes, underscores the unwavering commitment to a healthier greener future. However, the journey towards a sustainable environment is one that requires a collective effort. In view of that, the citizens, organizations and all the stakeholders in this regard are encouraged to contribute towards realizing the goal of achieving clean energy whether through small daily actions or larger collaborative projects, each contribution plays a vital role in the collective fight against climate change. Let this World Environment Day be a reminder of the power of collective action and a call to redouble efforts. The future of our planet depends on the choices we make today. Let us choose to act, to protect, and to preserve for the generations to come.

Kaduna ginger farmers receive FG's support worth N1.6bn

By Peter Ibrahim

In a bid to support smallholder ginger farmers who suffered losses from the ginger epidemic in 2023, Governor Uba Sani Monday flagged off the distribution of recovery support packages to over 5,000 farmers from seven local governments in the zone. The packages, valued at 1.6 billion naira, were donated by the National Agricultural Development Fund, a federal government agency as part of a comprehensive intervention to recover ginger production and support

farmers who lost their livelihoods. Each of the 5000 farmers will receive a support package that includes 4 bags of NPK and 2 bags of Urea fertilizer, as well as two bags of maize and sorghum seeds and herbicides sufficient to cultivate one hectare of farmland. This initiative aims to help the farmers plant alternative crops during the current cropping season. The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe represented the Governor at the flag off of the distribution of the items at Kachia, at an event attended by the

Executive Secretary of the National Agricultural Development Fund, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Commissioners of Agriculture and Business Innovation and Technology among other government officials and other dignitaries.

Dr Balarabe announced that a more comprehensive support package was underway for both smallholder and big ginger farmers to help recover ginger production in the state.



Pictures of the Dep. Gov Dr. Hadiza Balarabe and other officials. at the event. Right is a display of the packages for farmers

Governor of Kaduna Uba Sani has allocated two parcels of land to the Nigerian Air Force (NAF). Sani said the plots were allocated in a bid to improve the welfare of security personnel in the state.

On Monday, the governor presented the certificates of occupancy to Air Vice-Marshal Hassan Abubakar, Chief of Air Staff, at a brief ceremony.

He congratulated Abubakar on his achievements since assuming office, while commending NAF for its contributions to the ongoing military operations in the state. The Chief of Air Staff appreciated the governor for the distribution of operational vehicles to security agencies in the state.

The Governor also granted approval for the establishment of a NAF wing in the Millennium City area to boost rapid development and enhance safety of citizens.

NAF gets land in Kaduna



Gov Uba Sani (3rd right), the Chief of Air Staff (4th right) and other officials after the presentation

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Clearly Governor Sani is confirming the position of Festus Keyamo that Nigeria

would be a much better place if activists take active interest in governance, having pushed the military back to their barracks, because the challenge is in delivering the goods.

And Sani has delivered. For instance, as Chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Banking, Finance, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions, despite being a first term, he authored three consequential bills that President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law, a record by any first term. The key legislations were to strengthen the banking and insurance industry, considering the strategic importance of a stable financial sector, particularly the banking sector. The passage of the Bill for an Act to Repeal the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act and to Re-enact the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2020, into law, a landmark legislation, was Governor Sani's contribution in putting the banking industry on a more solid footing.

The activist in Sani continued to play out at the Senate after all, a lion cannot suddenly become a lapdog. Sani's anger at the antics of some chronic bank debtors, who often used legal gymnastics to stall repayment of their loans, which to Sani, amounted to an "orchestrated acts of economic sabotage" is an eloquent statement of his convictions. His savage reaction was the inclusion of a Loan/credit Tribunal to assist the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), in the recovery of loans. The none - payment of loans had hampered lending by banks, so by repositioning AMCON, Sani contributed greatly to resolving a critical bottleneck that affected business, because the amended law guaranteed repayment to the

25 Years of Democracy: In Kaduna State a democrat in the saddle

lenders.

From the results of the presidential election which the PDP won in Kaduna State, due to the negative campaign by Atiku Abubakar against power shift, some analysts had written off Sani, without taking into account the genuine love for him by the people due to his care about the issues that affect their daily lives, his huge investment in the people through his Uba Sani Foundation; the sponsorship of medical surgeries, educational scholarships, his bills for the establishment of State police, job creation, his human rights antecedents, and his contribution towards the exit of the military. He easily picked up the governorship ticket of the All Progressives Congress (APC), and went on to defeat Isa Ashiru Kudan, candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), to emerge the governor of Kaduna State in the 2023 general elections.

To date Sani, whether as an activist, a senator or governor, has shown not just an amazing dedication to service, but the self-sacrifice that is needed to make the society better. Thankfully, the interest of the people remains the focus of his politics. No wonder his very first budget is aptly titled "The Budget of Rural Transformation for Inclusive Development". His prioritization of rural development is a demonstration of his love for the poor.

Senator Uba Sani is conscientious, a man of principles and deep convictions. His mentor, the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi, SAN, will be very proud of his achievements, especially the fact that he is still committed to the entrenchment of an egalitarian society.

Jim Rohn's statement that "whoever renders service to many, puts himself in line for greatness- great wealth, great return, great satisfaction, great reputation and great joy", is very true

about Uba Sani in every respect.

Celebrating 25 years of uninterrupted civil rule in Nigeria is not about the elected officials but about the citizens upholding democratic values; even when results have not been acceptable to them.

Are Nigerians better off today? Has civilian rule translated into a better life for Nigerians going by economic indicators like GDP growth rate, unemployment inflation, and foreign direct investment, the answer would be a resounding no, but it's not the problem that should lead to the jettisoning of democracy or the crucifixion of elected officials because the people themselves have refused to play their role. As we celebrate democracy day, we must bear in mind that the challenges would always overshadow the significant gains.

At the federal level the president is expected to replicate his achievements in Lagos State at the national level. From his inauguration speech on May 29, 2023, the president left no one in doubt that there is a new sheriff in charge with the removal of fuel subsidy and several other difficult decisions.

Nigeria's democracy has no doubt been a story of trials and steady triumphs in the last over 25 years.

Like the Uba Sani's who fought to send the military back to the barracks we need a new generation of Nigerian youths to pick up the gauntlet to force reforms. We are not there, but slowly, the building blocks are being put in place.

Senator Uba Sani, without the usual noise of most activists, has certainly paid his dues in the struggle to enthrone democracy, and as a Senator, in his quiet style left his footprint on the sands of time. As governor, he certainly has shown from his one-year scorecard that he would leave a permanent mark in public service.

KDSG concessions Agric Storage Facility

As part of efforts to revamp the agricultural sector, we signed an agreement with StarAgri West Africa Ltd for the concession of the Kaduna State Strategic Agricultural Storage Infrastructure.

Secretary to the Kaduna State Government, Dr. Abdulkadir Mayere signed on behalf of the Kaduna State Government, Ms. Sandy Eyal signed on behalf of StarAgri West Africa Ltd, while Malam Muhammad Rili signed on behalf of the Kaduna Agricultural Development Agency (KADA).

According to a statement, the purpose of the agreement was for the establishment of the Kaduna Agri - Market System Initiative with an investment of \$122 Million within the period of concession. The investment would be used to refurbish existing state-owned warehouses, build new warehouses, silos, hubs, and export centers that will create a total storage capacity exceeding 3 million Metric Tonnes in Kaduna State.

The signing ceremony marked a pivotal moment in the governments' journey towards agricultural prosperity and sustainable economic growth in the State. This initiative signals the beginning of the creation of joint agricultural and export hubs,

revolutionizing the connectivity between warehouses and farming communities, while ushering in innovative financing mechanisms through warehouse receipt systems., the statement added.

It explained that the \$122 million investment will not only catalyse economic development but also generate over 2,500 direct employment opportunities for warehouse staffing and support for over 1,000,000 farmers and extension services personnel. "It will create many indirect job opportunities across the agricultural value chains. This

partnership signifies a shared vision for transformative change in our agricultural landscape, promising sustainable growth and prosperity for all involved stakeholders, particularly our smallholder farmers", the statement further said.

Governor Uba Sani in remarks at the occasion urged key stakeholders (KADA, StarAgri West Africa Ltd, Ministry of Agriculture) in the venture to work in harmony to ensure the successful implementation of this project.



Kaduna state government officials led by Gov. Uba Sani with StarAgri West Africa Ltd officials at the signing of the concession agreement

Experts validate AGILE curriculum for Braille

By Helen Kafoi

In line with the Kaduna State Government's desire for social inclusion and commitment to ensure that visually challenged adolescent girls in secondary schools across the state benefited from the Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) safe space life skills training, AGILE has organized a review and validation session on the transcribed life skills curriculum into braille. Participants at the session were drawn across various MDAs, including Kaduna State Ministry of Education, Kaduna State Ministry of Health, Kaduna State Schools Quality Assurance Authority, Centre for Girls Education (CGE), Kaduna State Special Education

School, LEA Special School Kudan, Rehabilitation Center Kakuri, Kaduna, as well as Traditional and Religious Leaders.

Apart from the review and validation of the transcribed curriculum into Braille, the session also focused on making the transcribed copy of the Braille valid for use; and reviewed a copy of life skills curriculum for implementation for those with special needs.

In her opening remarks, the Project Coordinator, Maryam Sani Dangaji reiterated the present administration's earnest desire for human capital development that is why Education has



Participant at the event

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By *Saminu Abdullahi*

KADSEMA, NEMA forge partnership towards disaster management

In what appears to be demonstration of solidarity and commitment to strengthening the nation's disaster management efforts, Dr. Usman Hayatu Mazadu, the Executive Secretary of the Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (KADSEMA), paid a courtesy visit to Mrs. Zubaida Umar, the newly appointed Director-General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The visit served as a platform to felicitate with Mrs. Umar on her new role and to underscore the importance of fostering robust partnerships between NEMA and KADSEMA towards tackling the myriad of challenges posed by natural and human-induced disasters.

During the meeting, Dr. Mazadu extended his heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed NEMA Director-General, expressing confidence in her leadership abilities to steer the agency towards greater heights. He emphasized the role in coordinating and streamlining disaster response efforts across the country.

Dr. Mazadu also stressed the need for continued collaboration and synergy between NEMA and KADSEMA,



Dr. Mazadu (right) and Mrs Umar

recognizing that disaster management was a collective responsibility that transcended organizational boundaries. He urged Mrs. Umar to build upon the existing partnership, harnessing the strengths and resources of both agencies to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Acknowledging the multifaceted nature of disasters, Dr. Mazadu

underscored the importance of a coordinated and proactive approach that prioritizes the well-being of affected communities. He expressed KADSEMA's unwavering commitment to working hand in hand with NEMA, leveraging their respective expertise and resources to mitigate the impact of disasters and safeguard lives and livelihoods.

In her response, Mrs. Zubaida Umar expressed her profound gratitude for the well-wishes and pledged to foster collaborative efforts with KADSEMA and other stakeholders. She said that the invaluable contribution of state-level agencies like KADSEMA in bolstering disaster management capacities at the grassroots level.

The meeting stressed the shared vision of NEMA and KADSEMA to forge resilient partnerships, strengthen communication channels, and optimize resource allocation for effective disaster preparedness and response. As the world grapples with the increasing frequency and severity of disasters, this collaborative approach is essential in safeguarding the safety and well-being of communities across the nation.

Speaker Abbas felicitates with Gov Uba Sani on Best Governor award

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, Ph.D, has congratulated Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State for bagging the 'Governor of the Year' award recently. Governor Sani was recognised as the best governor at the 5th edition of the 2024 African Illustrious Son Award held in Lagos, where 37 persons received various awards.

The Speaker noted that the award was an attestation to the quality leadership and high performance of Senator Sani as Governor of Kaduna State. Speaker Abbas added that the governor, who is a celebrated pro-democracy activist, is

delivering dividends of democracy to the people of Kaduna. The Speaker said with Governor Sani's continued show of capacity in governance, more awards would be coming his way in recognition of his service to the people.



Speaker Rt Hon Abbass Tajudeen (right) with Gov Uba Sani

Uba Sani's Masterstroke: \$122m Agri-Market Investment to transform Kaduna economy

By Habib Bello Chikaji

In a landmark agreement, the Kaduna State Government has partnered with StarAgri West Africa Ltd to revamp the state's agricultural sector. The \$122 million investment in the Kaduna Agri-Market System Initiative marks a significant milestone in the state's journey towards agricultural prosperity and sustainable economic growth. 1. Transforming the Agricultural Landscape*The project's focus on establishing joint agricultural and export hubs, refurbishing existing infrastructure, and introducing innovative financing mechanisms signals a transformative shift in the state's agricultural landscape. By creating a total storage capacity exceeding 3 million Metric Tonnes, the initiative will revolutionize the connectivity between warehouses and farming communities, ensuring efficient supply chain management



Governor Uba Sani

and reduced post-harvest losses. 2. Economic Growth and Employment OpportunitiesThe investment is expected to generate over 2,500 direct employment opportunities in warehouse staffing and support over 1,000,000 farmers and extension services personnel. Additionally, the project will create numerous indirect job opportunities across the

agricultural value chains, contributing significantly to the state's economic growth and development. 3. Sustainable Growth and ProsperityThe partnership between Kaduna State Government and StarAgri West Africa Ltd demonstrates a shared vision for transformative change in the agricultural sector. By promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving market access, and enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, this initiative promises sustainable growth and prosperity for all stakeholders involved. ConclusionThe Kaduna Agri-Market System Initiative is a testament to the government's commitment to agricultural development and economic growth. With its focus on innovation, sustainability, and partnerships, this project is poised to revolutionize Kaduna State's agricultural sector, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come.

Experts validate AGILE curriculum for Braille

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been one of its key focus. She said the Governor, Uba Sani is ensuring that learners across the state were not just being provided with conducive learning places but that he is seeing to it that the requisite teaching and learning materials were provided so that public school learners are groomed to be fully equipped to meet the world's best learning practices at all levels.

This, she said, included learners with disabilities who required special needs to meet their educational requirements. The meeting was held, to see to it that learners who are visually impaired are carried along in the life skills training of the AGILE project, she further said.

Also speaking, Habiba Muhammad Jibril, the Project Coordinator, Safe Space Life Skills, commended all

stakeholders for availing themselves of the remarkable and historic activity which will add values to the visually challenged adolescent girls by empowering them to be self-sufficient to navigate through adulthood with much ease.

The Braille curriculum has 8 modules made, to ensure proper translation that will enable the delivery of the desired quality knowledge to the learners, the participants were divided into four (4) different groups to validate the document during the technical session. By this segmentation each group tackled two modules with the Braille experts reading the Braille while are sighted persons supported them by going through the Life skills safe space hard copies. Others assisted in taking notes of the corrections, additions or subtractions needed on

both curricula. Four modules were reviewed on the first day of the session while the second batch of four modules were reviewed the following day.

The Kaduna AGILE also had a two-day engagement with Environmental/Climate Change officers to discuss how to collaborate to impact quality knowledge to the learners during the life skills sessions in the safe's spaces.

The life skills training is delivered under the AGILE Project, through the "Safe Space" approach to enable girls to navigate through adulthood successfully using trained mentors with well-developed and validated curriculum that cover topics in negotiation, leadership, climate change, menstrual hygiene management, nutrition and reproductive health in 114 schools across the 23 LGAs with 6,025 girls as beneficiaries.

Kaduna moves to mitigate NIMET prediction on flooding

By Abdullah Yunus Abdullah

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has directed stakeholders to come up with the best way to mitigate the potential impact of flooding in areas identified by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet,) in the State.

The Commissioner of Environment and Natural Resources, Abubakar Buba disclosed this during a sensitization campaign held at the Lagos Garage Mando in Igabi Local Government Area. According to him, Gov. Sani directed the Ministry and other stakeholders to look at all the proactive measures to be taken to avert the flood, and part of it is sensitization, which all the MDAs of the State have started to work on for the past two to three months.

Buba reiterated that the team decided to kick-start the campaign at a center like Mando Motor Park, which is highly populated and the exercise is to distill all the drainage.

He added that the project 'Distilling Drainage' is a Kaduna Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (KAD-ACReSAL) supported by the World Bank.

"Since it is the rainy season, we have decided to distill all the drainages within the city center and the three senatorial zones, Kaduna, Kafanchan, and Zaria Metropolis. We are going to distill 160,000 meters of drainage within the City centers of the three senatorial zones."

"In doing this, we are sure that by the

time the rain comes to its peak, it will have a way to flow back into the river which can prevent any likely occurrence in the State."

"We call on Citizens of Kaduna State to ensure that they cooperate with the Government by coming out to assist, and also stop disposing of garbage in the drainage system and also ensuring that they keep their areas clean so that together with the efforts of the Government, it will be a success."

"All the flood-prone areas have been drainage systems and the only thing is that most of the drainage is blocked. We involve the people in the work we are doing so that at the end of the day, sustainability can be achieved," the Commissioner said

"There's a monitoring and evaluation team which comprises of all the stakeholders, KEPA, SEMA, and others from the LGA Council and even the traditional rulers and also the youths, men and women of the community will be involved. We are going round to ensure that it is a success and everybody will participate in it," he added.

Speaking earlier, Jibril Dahiru Rufa'i of KAD-ACReSAL said the project is World Bank-assisted aimed at addressing the challenges of land degradation and climate Change in Northern Nigeria on a multi-dimensional scale.

According to him, the ACReSAL Project will help restore 1 million hectares of degraded land in the northern part of the country.

"The Project will also help reduce the

vulnerability of millions of extremely poor people in northern Nigeria, strengthening their role in line with achieving environmental sustainability.

"Today we are participating as key stakeholders in distilling Drainage as proactive measures to flooding," he said.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA,) Muhammed Mu'azu Mukaddas said for the last six weeks, "we've been moving around with KEPA and other key Stakeholders, trying to sensitise the citizens on the need to be safe and at the same time, mitigate the flood highlighted areas."

"I must say with full happiness that the Ministry of Environment under the leadership of the Commissioner, has made this proactive, not just with drainage but informing citizens on the impact and the need to come out fully to support the Government and others by making sure we mitigate the effect of the graded plots."

"The report is something we have been receiving for almost three years even though we are on a high level one will understand that one of the main agendas is safety."

Similarly, the Managing Director of Kaduna State Environmental Protection Authority (KEPA,) Dr Yakubu Yusuf Arrigasiyyu explained that the target of the operation is to distill all drainage in the state so that there is free flow of water to avoid any blockage that can cause damages to the houses or flooding.



Scenes from the sensitisation outing

Kaduna spends N19.9bn on pension, others in one year - Pension Bureau

By **Abdullahi Isiyaku**

Kaduna state government said it has within the first year under the administration of Governor Uba Sani, spent N19.9 billion on pension, gratuity, and death benefits

Executive Secretary of Kaduna Pension Bureau, Professor Salamatu Idris Isah disclosed this on Thursday, June 13, at a One Day Sensitization on Data Recapture Exercise for Kaduna State Public Servants under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS).

The sensitization which was organised by the Kaduna State Pension Bureau in collaboration with the Pension Funds Administrators (PFAs) operating in the State, has in attendance representatives of civil servants from all the MDAs in the state.

Speaking to journalists shortly after the programme where the PFAs and officials of the Pension Bureau made presentations on the importance of accurate data to seamless pension payments, Professor Isah urged civil servants to perfect their records to

avoid challenges after retirement.

She said though the state was still facing the challenge of inherited pension liabilities, the Pension Bureau had between May 2023 and May 2024, expended N13 billion on the state monthly pension scheme and local government pension.

Professor Salamatu also said a total sum of N6.9 billion has been expended on gratuity payments within the same period.

According to her, “the essence of the programme is to ensure that, all Kaduna Civil Servants are well documented by the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs), because that is the only way to ensuring a seamless receipt of their retirement benefits.”

“We want to from now prevent the challenges of errors in names, BVN not tallying with the name or National Identity Number (NIN) not captured.

“The reason we had to do this data recapturing is that a good number of the civil servants were captured when there was no BVN or NIN. We also got to know that the PFAs have not been able to do data capturing properly for

all the public servants of Kaduna State. Even though they have registered with the PFAs, the PFAs getting detailed information about their clients when they are retiring is significant.

“So, with this sensitization, civil servants who have not done proper registration with their PFAs will know what to do. From the presentations, the civil servants have been told what and what they need to do.”

Giving a breakdown of pension expenses, the Executive Secretary said, “From May 2023 to May 2024, the current government has expended N13 billion. In the state monthly pension scheme, we have expended seven billion Naira, while the local government has expended five billion Naira, making the N13 billion

“In the area of gratuity payment, we have expended N6.9 billion. So, that is quite a lot within one year. And we have paid over 2,000 people in terms of gratuity and death benefits in the new and old scheme.”

She however noted that the only challenge was the huge liabilities the state has to settle. “Though the liabilities have reduced drastically, it is still something that we need to put more efforts into, especially since we have disengaged teachers that have not received their gratuities and death benefits,” she added.

AFREXIM Bank sites African Quality Assurance Control Centre in Kaduna

By **Peter Ibrahim**

Arrangements are in top gear by the African Export and Import Bank (AFREXIM) along with the Kaduna State Government to establish the African Quality Assurance Control Centre in Kaduna.

AFREXIM officials led by the Director of Export Development, Doherty Oluranti, were in Kaduna recently on that mission where they held discussions with the KDSG team in furtherance of efforts towards

actualizing the project.

Oluranti said the Board of Directors of the bank has approved the project and funds for its execution. She said it was in line with the Bank's mandate to promote, facilitate and finance exports in the African region.

Deputy Governor Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, who received the Bank's officials and chaired the discussions, stated that Kaduna State owed gratitude to AFREXIM for siting the centre in Kaduna assuring the state's wholehearted commitment to supporting its success.

Dr Balarabe said the Kaduna State

Government has offered a piece of land at the Green Agro Allied Industrial Zone (GAAIZ) situated along Kaduna-Abuja road in Chikun LGA for the facility which will serve as a centre for the testing and certification of African products for export.

When completed, the African Quality Assurance Control Centre will improve Nigeria's export potential by ensuring that products meant for exports meet the required standards for global markets.

60 classrooms, ICT Centre at Fifth Chukker Basic Education School come alive

Gov Uba Sani has commissioned the newly built and equipped 60 classrooms and ICT Centre at Access Bank Fifth Chukker Basic Education School, Mararaban Jos, Kaduna. Similarly, he performed the ground-breaking for the construction of additional 50 classrooms at the school, events which were part of activities lined up for the celebration of the administration's one year in office.

In his remarks at the ceremony which attracted top personalities like Governor Usman Ododo of Kogi State and Emir of Zazzau, His Royal Highness Amb. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, Governor Uba Sani thanked the Patron/CEO of Fifth Chukker, Alhaji Adamu Attah and Access Bank for embarking on the noble projects. He expressed appreciation to Fifth Chukker and its partners for collaborating with the Kaduna State Government in the implementation of the Safe School Programme.

"Their support which is for building, fencing and equipping of schools has been hugely impactful because thousands of our children have been enrolled in schools across Kaduna State," He noted.

Gov Uba Sani was also full of praise for UNICEF Nigeria for its remarkable contributions to the growth and development of education in Kaduna State and Nigeria, especially in its aggressive and sustained campaign for enrolment and retention of out-of-school children. He paid glowing

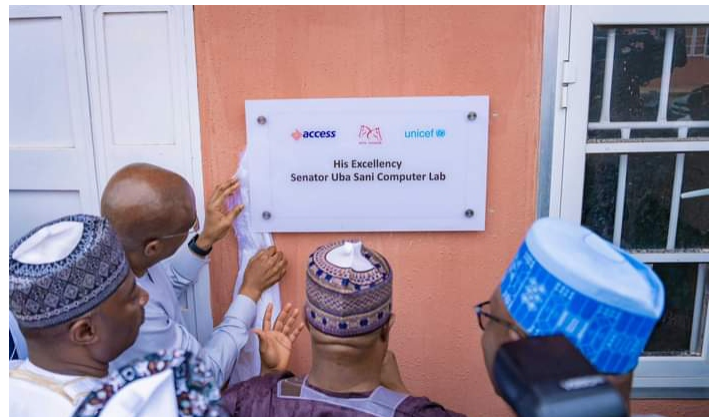
tribute to the late Herbert Wigwe, CEO of Access Bank who made immeasurable contributions to the education of less privileged children in Kaduna State and Nigeria and whose legacy will endure, he said.

The Governor stated that the building of classrooms by Fifth Chukker and Access Bank is a major contribution towards ensuring accessible, safe and conducive learning spaces while the construction and equipping of an ICT Center is also a forward looking initiative that will help position the young ones to be relevant in a fast changing and complex world. "In today's fast-paced world, the use of ICT tools to communicate, create, disseminate, store and manage information is no longer an option, but a necessity" he said adding that ICT is now integral to teaching and learning. "When teachers and students are digitally literate, interaction is enhanced, with good learning outcomes." The Governor further said.

Governor Uba Sani added: "Our administration has prioritized education because it is the best investment against poverty and insecurity. We have built a n d commissioned 62 secondary schools in the

first phase of our administration's educational revitalization drive within one year. We have awarded contracts for 52 additional secondary schools in the second phase of our educational transformation drive. The projects are ongoing. We have also built additional 2,326 classrooms in primary schools across Kaduna State, all within our first year in office."

He assured that government shall continue to partner with Fifth Chukker, Access Bank and UNICEF as it strives to increase access to learning opportunities, improve enrolment and ensure active participation and completion of quality primary and secondary education by children of Kaduna State. He urged other corporate organizations to emulate the good examples of Fifth Chukker, Access Bank and UNICEF in the drive to improve on the standard of education.



Gov. Uba Sani on a computer during the commissioning of the ICT Centre and classrooms

Gov Uba Sani frees 110 Inmates on democracy day

As part of activities to mark the 2024 Democracy Day, Gov Uba Sani has freed 110 convicts at the Kaduna correctional facilities. This is in exercise of his power of prerogative of mercy.

“Our administration is concerned about overcrowding in correctional facilities and the fact that many citizens are languishing in such facilities due to their social and economic conditions, he said.

“We live in a society where the underprivileged do not have the financial wherewithal to vigorously pursue the course of justice.

“We strongly believe that there is inherent goodness in every person, that everybody deserves a second chance. Persons in custodial centers can turn a new leaf and contribute to the growth and development of our

state, he said.

He urged the freed prisoners who were given N30,000 each as transport fare to reciprocate the administrations gesture by being of good behaviour.

As part of the governments commitment to support the custodial centre, Gov Uba Sani directed the installation of solar-powered streetlights at the centre and the provision of operational vehicles.

The Governor also directed the Attorney General and Commissioner



Gov Uba Sani flanked by Femi Falana SAN (left) at the Kaduna Correctional Facility

of Justice to liaise with the Controller of the Custodial facility on other areas of need.

Governor Uba Sani was accompanied on the visit to the Kaduna Custodial centre by his comrade in activism, Femi Falana (SAN)

The Qatar housing initiative in Kaduna unique in the country - Shehu Sani

Shehu Sani, a prominent figure, recently took to his verified Twitter account to praise Qatar's initiative in constructing half a million housing units in Kaduna, marking an unprecedented development in the country's history.

Sani lauded the initiative as a commendable effort aimed at providing essential housing for the less privileged masses.

The project, which involves Qatar's significant investment in infrastructure development in Kaduna State, has drawn widespread admiration for its potential to address the critical housing deficit in Nigeria.

Sani specifically acknowledged the Kaduna Governor for his role in facilitating this monumental housing initiative, emphasizing the importance of fostering

beneficial relationships with other countries for mutual developmental gains.

This groundbreaking endeavor not only underscores the importance of international cooperation but also highlights the potential impact of foreign investments in addressing socio-economic challenges, such as housing shortages.

Sani's recognition of Qatar's initiative reflects broader sentiments within Nigeria regarding the positive outcomes of strategic partnerships in advancing national development goals.

The housing project is expected to significantly improve living conditions for thousands of Nigerians, particularly those in need of affordable housing solutions.

Chief of Defense Staff hails Gov Uba Sani

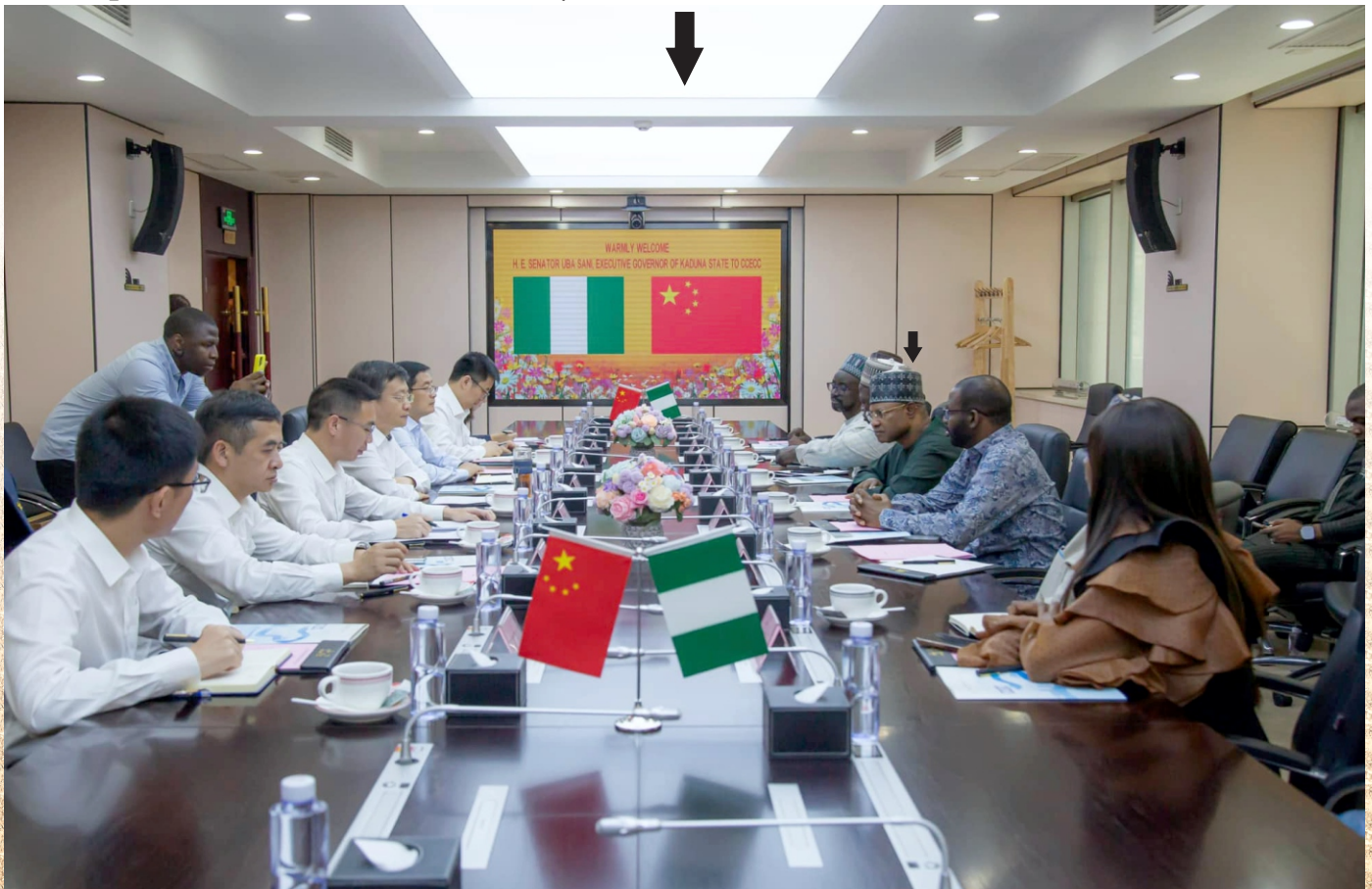
The chief of Defence staff, Lt General C.D Musa has extolled the virtues of Governor Uba Sani saying that Kaduna was proud of him. “The Executive Governor of Kaduna State, our own dear Governor, performing Governor, very dedicated and committed Governor, someone we are very proud of. We want to appreciate you for what you are doing.

“I am sure that any part of Kaduna you drive into, you will know the atmosphere has changed. It is the atmosphere of friendliness, commitment, understanding, of carrying everybody along.

“Before now, it's been difficult to see how people smile within the state but the love and togetherness has made a great difference”.

Kaduna State, Hebei Province explore investment opportunities

Governor Uba Sani led a high-powered Kaduna State Government delegation to Hebei Province of the Peoples Republic of China to finalize plans for the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two states and CCECC; explore new areas of cooperation, and meet with investors for partnerships in diverse areas. **KEY NOTES:** - A key aspect of the tripartite agreement is the development of Hebei Industrial Park in Kaduna. Hosting of the first Kaduna Investment Summit in China which is expected to bring together over 70 prospective industrialists and investors; Meeting with CCECC on issues around urban renewal projects and rural infrastructure. Issues around major road projects were also discussed with an agreement that they will be completed within the shortest possible time. Pictures below convey the historic visit to China



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