

# KADUNA OUTLOOK

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## Youth restiveness in the North signs of leadership failure – Uba Sani



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## Leadership failure as trigger of protests

**T**he street protests that engulfed many towns in the country early in August may have been a manifestation of the pent-up anger and frustration of particularly the youth with the economic adversity that has attended the reforms introduced by the government at the centre. But they may also have been a trigger of their disappointments generally with governments over the years which have failed to address their yearnings.

Certainly, Governor Uba Sani was more blunt in his analysis of the root causes of the problem. A diehard activist who never shied away from saying it as it is, Senator Uba Sani was quick to look at things from the perspective of his region – the North and the failure of its leadership.

In an interview on BBC (Hausa Service, also published in this edition) and on Channels TV, Governor Uba Sani said in the last fifteen years in the North, leaders have been passive about the predicament of their growing restive youth. The result, he argued, is what we saw on the streets, where most of the protests were accompanied by lootings, destructions of public property and other forms of violence that one could say was indeed the attraction for some of the crowd on the streets.

Remarkably, Governor Uba Sani did not exempt himself from the leadership neglect of the youth. This was brave but

understandable for someone who at the moment is proud of his democracy dividends especially as they pertain to the deliverables of his SUSTAIN Agenda which among other things seek to address the development imbalance in favour of the rural areas and the youth through formal education and skills development.

The **Kaduna Outlook** magazine has deemed it appropriate to feature responses to the Governor's admission of leadership failure that had affected the region in form of news analysis and what people on the street felt about the candid view of Senator Uba Sani. While most of the responses from the public have centred on applauses for the governor for his putting the blame on them, the elites, especially those that have been in leadership positions, our writers and analysts have focused on what need to be done. The strides recorded by the incumbent in development projects his realisation of the need to do something before the frustrations find outlet in much more ways than the recent protest incidents. Main features on the matter by **Emmanuel Ado**, a consultant to the state Government and by our own man **Abdullah Yunus Abdallah** capture all the nuances of the hunger protest in Kaduna and other places in the North and Governor Uba Sani's take on it. Read on:

## Youth restiveness in the North signs of leadership failure – Uba Sani

By **Emmanuel Ado**

*"A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit". Arnold Glasow*

**N**o political leader in the North, while in office, had come out to openly admit that those of them bestowed with the honour of leading the region have betrayed the trust invested in them by their people. Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State, therefore, is in a class of his own when he admitted on live television, in the wake of #EndBadGovernance violent protests, that the North is bleeding from the cuts inflicted by failure of its past leaders. The governor deserves praise for also not conveniently excluding himself from the depressing situation of the North. The activist in him made him stand up to be counted at a very challenging time. For vintage Uba Sani, it is a matter of honour, principle and personal conviction to speak up.

When Governor Sani granted the August 2, 2024 Channels Television interview on the raging #EndBadGovernance

protest, absolutely nothing prepared anyone for the earth-shaking statement by the activist governor whose palpable anger and pain on the sorry state of the North was obvious. He was peeved, not just because the North has acquired the unfortunate reputation of being responsible for Nigeria's lack of development or the average Southerner's poor opinion of Northerners as leeches, contributing next to nothing to the wellbeing of the commonwealth, but because if the North continues to play the ostrich and refuses to frontally address the crises of unemployment, out of school children, rampaging drugs pandemic and other social ills that fuelled the violent protest in the region and the accompanying looting of government offices and businesses, it might be very difficult to contain the people when next they decide to go into the streets under any guise. Without any iota of doubt, the #EndBadGovernance protest has further confirmed that the North is sitting on a keg of gunpowder. And like they say, the idle mind is the devil's workshop.

But Governor Sani should not expect a bouquet of flowers from some of the past and present Northern leaders that he has called out, or from the alleged sponsors of the violent

## Youth restiveness in the North signs of leadership failure – Uba Sani

protests that erupted in many other Northern states and Kaduna State, which compelled him to impose a 24-hour curfew, for making this indisputable statement of fact, that the problem of the North, like that of Nigeria, is simply that of leadership failure. But the governor should be rest assured that history will be kind to him for speaking up, with the aim of galvanizing the people to action.



**Governor Uba Sani**

Governor Sani's

antecedents show that he cannot be intimidated by attacks from those who find themselves uncomfortable with his irrefutable statement of fact, considering the dangers that he faced as a young man in the agitation against military rule and his blunt refusal to go into exile even when the likes of General Alani Akinrinade, Anthony Enahoro and Bola Tinubu (as he then was) were forced into exile through the famous NADECO route, by the Sani Abacha regime, which in Nigeria's history, remains the most vicious. That Governor Sani stayed back to continue the agitation against military rule speaks volume about his courage and convictions.

Those who know Senator Uba Sani were not surprised that he spoke passionately about the frightening situation of the North, and that nothing is off the table when it has to do with the socio-economic development of his native region. There is no denying the fact that Governor Sani is on solid ground to speak on the serious challenges confronting not just Kaduna State, but the entire North, because apart from being a Northerner, Sani is a governor of a strategic state, the Coordinator of the All-Progressives Congress (APC) in the North-West, and the Vice Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum (NGF).

Thankfully, Governor Sani's message to his fellow Northerners has been received with thunderous applause.

Hopefully, the Northern elites would take the required action to save itself (enlightened self-interest) and the North.

Agreed that Governor Sani's statement is not out of character and that he is not only courageous, down to earth, but progressive from his days as an activist waging a relentless campaign to send the military back to the barracks, to his adventure into politics, that his preoccupation has

always been about service to the people, and making their tomorrow better, in the present war he would need a united front. And he would be helped by his convictions that fighting for the people which runs deep in him is the purpose of public service.

For the benefit of those who missed the Channels Television interview, we hereby reproduce the meat of his submissions. He said: "Like I said last week during the town hall meeting with stakeholders in Kaduna, I made it abundantly clear that whether we like it or not, the problem we are facing in Northern Nigeria is simply that of leadership. I personally accept that we leaders in the North, particularly those in position of authority, have not done well. And that looking at all the developmental indexes, that we have big problems on our hands. By 2016, we didn't have kidnapping or banditry in the North. They only started around 2017.

"Back to the poverty index, I can say it without any fear of contradiction, that we are lagging behind. I was the Chairman Senate Committee on Banking, Finance, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions and from facts that are known to me and available data, over 70 percent of the adults in Northern Nigeria, are financially excluded. We should look at ourselves in the mirror and ask ourselves, why is this the fate of our people."



# The hunger protest and Gov Uba Sani's clarion call for action

By *Abdallah Yunus Abdallah*

For a long time, the 1st to 10th August Hunger Protest will continue to dominate public discourse as religious clerics, academics and policy formulators try to unearth what led to it, the actors behind it and the losses it left behind, beyond what is in the public domain. Right now, the inquiry has started at various levels, in different sectors and amongst several professionals.

For instance, the religious establishment have been interpreting the protest and the attendant looting and violence, as the work of the devil. However, Sociologists are viewing it as a collapse of values. On the other hand, security experts understand the protest as a foreign instigated security breach. Financial experts, in their own analyses, are counting the losses of the looting and vandalism, at microeconomic level, as well as the loss of revenue due to economic slowdown during the 10 days of protest, at macroeconomic level.

Indeed, the analyses of various professionals and interest groups have just been scratching the surface of the problem. Senator Uba Sani, the Kaduna State Governor, hit the nail on the head a day after the protest broke out, in an interview with a television station. "Whether we like it or not, the problem we are facing in Northern Nigeria is simply that of leadership," the Governor had said. In particular, he slammed past and present public office holders and the Governor didn't spare himself either. "In fact, everyone that has either been a Chairman of a Local Government, a member of the State House of Assembly, member of the House of Reps, a Senator, a Governor, a Minister, President or Vice President from the North, including members of the business community, are inclusive," he added.

The North, according to him, is lagging behind in all the developmental indices and he reeled out statistics to buttress his point. He pointed out that 70% of the adults in the geo-political area are financially excluded, about 65% of the people are living below poverty line and out of the 18.3

million out-of-school-children, 70% are domiciled in the north. Senator Uba Sani admonished northerners to look themselves in the mirror and do some introspection.

Significantly, in his own sphere of influence, the Kaduna State Governor has been contributing to reduce those depressing figures of underdevelopment and poverty indices. As Chairman of Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions, he helped in reversing the financial exclusion figures, especially in North-West, which had the highest rate at 68 percent in 2020. Likewise, Kaduna State had 64 percent of formal financial exclusion, according to an Access to Finance (A2F) Survey. However, by 2023 when Governor Uba Sani

left the Senate, the figure had dropped to 39%.

Barely two months in office, he signed the First Executive Order on Financial Inclusion in Kaduna State and constituted a committee on Financial Inclusion and Literacy on July 25, 2023. According to him, the Order aims to address the financial exclusion of about 2.1 million poor people in the State, including vulnerable indigent citizens in rural

areas. More so, the Order seeks to ensure that they benefit from the social interventions of both State and Federal Governments.

Similarly, Governor Uba Sani has made giant strides in the education sector since he assumed office 15 months ago, in his efforts to reduce the high numbers of out-of-school children and improve literacy in Kaduna State. For instance, one of the first policy he enacted was the reduction of tuition fees in all state-owned tertiary institutions, making education more accessible. In addition, his administration has constructed over 2,326 new classrooms, providing conducive learning atmosphere for more than 93,040 pupils. In addition, 707 classrooms have been renovated to enhance learning. Besides, Kaduna State Government has provided 30,742 two-seater desks which accommodates 61,484 pupils. Likewise, schools now have hygienic toilets and hand pumps for clean drinking water, ensuring better health and sanitation for students.

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## INTERVIEW

# Protests in the North, sign of leadership failure

*Governor Uba Sani granted an interview to the BBC (Hausa Service) on the hunger protests that lined the streets of some States in the country including Kaduna during which he provided an opinion on the issue” which To him the issue boiled down to failure of leadership, particularly in the North. He did not spare himself in the blame either as evident in this interview translated by Usman Ya'u Yakasai*

*Can the Governor give us an overview of the situation in Kaduna*

**W**e thank God here in Kaduna. Even before the protest started, we had a meeting with critical stakeholders, including community leaders. We told the people that we were not stopping the protest but emphasized that it should be done peacefully to avoid the loss of property and lives. That's why in Kaduna State, even when people came out, we instructed security forces to treat them with caution to ensure a peaceful protest.

Unfortunately, some troublemakers and thieves joined the protesters and attacked two government agencies and vandalized a woman's residential building. They also attacked the police. This is disappointing because when people protest for reform, it should not involve violence. It is unfortunate that law-abiding citizens' businesses, built through hard work, were attacked by these hoodlums.

*Have you received any reports of injuries or casualties?*

In Kaduna, we didn't have a single fatality, and even the security officials reported that only one of them was hospitalized yesterday. We instructed the security not to attack anyone for reprisal.

But the law stipulates that when a police officer is attacked, tear gas is used worldwide, including in the United States, to disperse protesters. This practice is done globally when protests turn violent, resulting in vandalism or attacks on commercial or government properties.

*What action will you take if the protest continues?*

Praise be to God, in Kaduna, as I told you, no one sought permission or explained their motives for the planned protest. Underage children and hoodlums were used for the protest, causing damage to facilities.

I thank God that although two government agencies were targeted by the protesters, we are not happy about it, but I still fear that they might enter people's shops and loot their properties, destroying their fortunes. Those who ask people to protest, mostly from GRA, are not present, and their children are abroad.

This problem is more pronounced in northern Nigeria. I call on our northern people, from youth to elders, clerics, and community leaders, to stop deceiving ourselves. I said last week that 70% of northern Nigerians live in poverty,



**Governor Uba Sani**

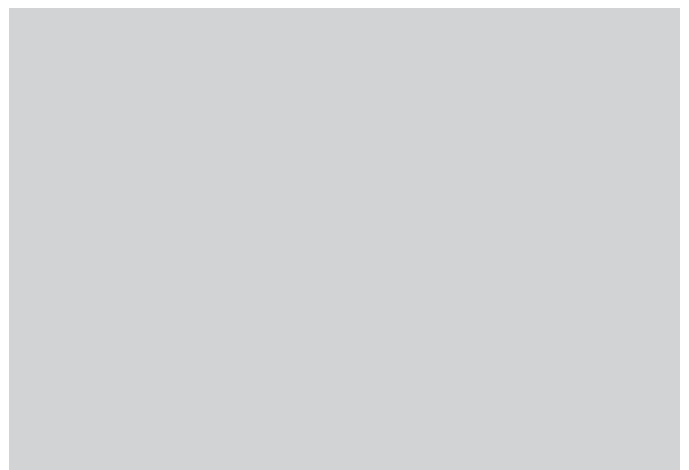
65% do not have bank accounts, and over 14 million out-of-school children are in the North.

All northern leaders should fear God; I include myself. We should stop deceiving the poor. We had chances to fix this 15 years ago, 10 years ago, 5 years ago, but we didn't. Today, we cry and shed tears, but it is not late. We must stop and fix the problems; it is unfortunate that those in power deceive the poor.

*Is there any moral justification for the protest considering claims of poor governance?*

Yes, as I said, the poverty rate in the north is 70%. Those behind the scene asking people to protest should take responsibility for the mess they created for the region first.

Let me give an example: we talk about insecurity in the North. In 2016, eight years ago, I assured you that kidnapping and terrorism were not in the northwest. What we saw then was Boko Haram affecting the northeast. But what brought this insecurity from 2017 downward till now?



# Kaduna stakeholders caution against mass protests, say can get out of hand

Speakers at a Town Hall Meeting called to look at the state of Kaduna have spoken out in unison against any mass action in Kaduna State fearing that given Kaduna State's unpalatable experiences with protests, no effort should be spared in ensuring that no mass action took place in the state.

Speakers at the forum commended the efforts of the state administration in securing lives and property, addressing the developmental deficits in the State, and nurturing citizens engagement through platforms like Town Hall Meetings.

The Emir of Zazzau, His Royal Highness, Amb Nuhu Bamalli called for caution and urged Kaduna State citizens to listen to the words of wisdom and embrace peace. He reminded people of what happened in some African countries where protests degenerated into mass destruction of lives and property, leading to the destabilization of those countries.

Gov Uba Sani in remarks acknowledged very sincerely that Nigerians were going through economic difficulties, and grappling with severe economic strains

occasioned by years of economic mismanagement, corruption and lack of accountability.

He said however that President Tinubu has the unenviable task of cleaning up the mess left by previous administrations and resetting the economy for the good of the country and people, adding that The President has come up with policies geared towards reinventing the economy and putting the country back on the path to sustainable growth and development.

He said that the implementation of some policies, we must admit, have been painful, but that the pains are however temporary. "The terrible economic situation the country was plunged into required surgical operation. The President has demonstrated courage in carrying out his operation on the economy. We are making steady progress. We must support the President in his patriotic efforts at revitalizing the economy and putting smiles back on the faces of Nigerians," the Gov added.

He said that the Federal and State Governments have been unrelenting in addressing the nation's developmental and security challenges, therefore the

nationwide mobilization for protests is unnecessary, ill-timed and in bad taste.

"In times of economic emergency, all hands are expected to be on deck. Patriots support their leaders as they work to pull the economy out of the woods. It is not time for manipulation of fault lines and political differences in furtherance of personal or group interests. It is a time to think deeply on the possible consequences of our planned actions," Gov Sani farther said

"In our current context as a state, we are grappling with security challenges of banditry, insurgency and kidnapping. We are wide awake to the enduring effects of insecurity on socio-economic life of our citizens; threats to food security, education, healthcare delivery, threats to civic freedom and social cohesion, and especially the threat to our rural economy," he said, stressing that at this time, our peace and stability are fundamental. The current times he said demand deep introspection, sound reasoning, high sense of patriotism and sacrificing for the collective good, adding that it was therefore imperative on us to tow the path of wisdom, and focus on the brighter future that is in

sight.

The Gov disclosed that nobody or group in Kaduna State had approached the Nigeria Police in Kaduna State informing them of intention to organize a protest. "The Police has the constitutional responsibility for maintaining peace and order. Kaduna State is therefore united in saying NO TO ANY PROTEST. We hold our peace dear, and are committed to protecting it," he cautioned.



Gov Uba Sani (centre) with other eminent personalities at the meeting

## LG Polls: KADSIECOM seeks support of traditional rulers

**K**aduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KADSIECOM) has canvassed the support of traditional leaders in the state towards the successful and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming local government elections.

Chairperson of the commission, Hajiya Hajara Muhammad made the appeal when she led the commission on a courtesy visit to the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli at his palace in Zaria.

Hajara Muhammad implored all traditional leaders in the state to appeal to the voting public to eschew violence and hate speech during elections.

She noted that the commission has conducted five successful local



government elections since the return to democracy in 1999 adding the success wouldn't have been achieved without the support and contributions of the traditional leaders, who are the influential fathers of the land, contributing to the growth of democracy in the state.

KADSIECOM chairperson said the

mandate of the commission was to organize, undertake and supervise elections into the offices of local government chairmen and their councillors in consonance with section 25 sub-section one of the KADSIECOM law 2024.

Responding, the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli thanked the KADSIECOM Chairperson and her team for the visit.

He expressed optimism the commission would succeed considering the caliber of personalities appointed to pilot its affairs.

The Emir urged them to rise to the occasion of conducting credible and acceptable elections in the state, and wished them success in their endeavours.

## KDSG dismisses MURIC'S claims on lawyers as self-serving

**T**he Kaduna State Government has responded to a statement issued by the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) alleging that government preference for lawyers from the south over their northern counterparts in its prosecution of the case involving the former Governor of the state describing it as "unfounded, misleading, and a product of the authors' imagination"

The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Sule Shu'aibu SAN, in a statement, urged the public to regard MURIC's claims as attention-seeking misinformation.

Speaking further clarification, Shuaibu (SAN) revealed that the Kaduna State Government did not engage Femi Falana SAN or any other legal practitioner to prosecute former Governor Malam Nasir El-Rufai or his associates, contrary to MURIC's claims.

The statement declared that MURIC failed to provide a charge number or the name of the court where the trial was allegedly ongoing. Rather, the case in

question is a fundamental rights enforcement matter initiated by El-Rufai himself, with Kaduna State as a respondent alongside the House of Assembly, the statement added.

The government expressed disappointment that MURIC has resorted to "ethnic sentiments and alleged discrimination," which was a deviation from its original objective of advocating for Muslim rights in Nigeria.

The statement accused MURIC of being hijacked by individuals with self-serving interests, turning the organization into a "regional and ethnic biased platform."

The government emphasized that the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria prohibits discrimination based on gender, religion, tribe, or region. It therefore found it ironic that MURIC criticized the current government for hiring a Yoruba lawyer from the Southwest while failing to raise similar criticism during El-Rufai's tenure.



**K**aduna State Power Supply Company

(KAPSCO) has reacted to a statement by Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company (KAEDCO or

Kaduna Electric) claiming that the disconnection of Kaduna State Government House and other State governments facilities was due to unpaid bills.

It said that as an agency of government responsible for verifications of all public buildings energy consumption in the state, it was duty bound to correct the erroneous impression

created by the Kaduna Electric. We receive monthly electricity bills from Kaduna Electric, verify same and pay through Ministry of Finance including that of Kaduna State Government House. However, the current claim of N2.9 billion by the Kaduna Electric against the Kaduna State Government is unfounded.

**KAPSCO** in a statement by the managing Director Engr Idris Aminu FNSE explained the true position as follows:

The administration of His Excellency, Sen. Uba Sani, through KAPSCO, has engaged the Distribution Company severally on the so-called inherited debt from the former administration. The Governor had approved payments of all inherited debt due to Kaduna Electric from the year 2015 – March 2023.

A total of Ten Billion, Two Hundred and Sixty-Four Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Three-Naira, Eighty-Seven Kobo (N10,264,679,233.87) was billed by the Disco for the period between January 2015 - March 2023; while KAPSCO has verified Seven Billion, Five Hundred and Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight

Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty-Three Naira, Seventy-Nine Kobo (N 7, 507, 958, 463.79). In view of the above, a total sum of Seven Billion, Three

## KAPSCO debunks KAEDCO claims for Govt House, MDAs disconnections

Hundred and Fifteen Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred- and Seventy-Eight- Naira, S e v e n t y - S e v e n K o b o (N7,315,366,478.77) was paid to Kaduna Electric by the Kaduna State (KDSG) which was acknowledged with a receipt Based on Capping of Estimated Billing Regulations for unmetered electricity customers Order (NERC/224/011) and



verification of centralized Electricity Bills by KAPSCO, verification was undertaken from January 2015 to date. The KDSG has saved a difference of about Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Forty-Eight Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred- and Seventy, Eight Kobo (N2,848,672,770.08) Naira due to none compliance to NERCs Capping Order and over-billing by Kaduna Electric. The KDSG's consumption from 2015 to date has, therefore, exceeded the allowable limit; hence the metering of all affected facilities from Kaduna Electric as stipulated by Consumer Protection Regulation of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) was

requested by KAPSCO which was not granted.

The sum of Two Hundred and Fifty-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine hundred and sixty-three naira,

Eighty-Eight kobo (N256, 920,963.88) was paid on the 9th day of May, 2024 as final settlement between KDSG and Kaduna Electric for all MDA's and Kaduna State Water Cooperation (KADSWAC) for the months of September – December 2023. It is pertinent to note that KADSWAC is a self-autonomous agency entitled to its rights and responsible to its obligations.

However, it is noted that the sum of Three Hundred and Seventy-Two Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Four Naira (N372, 864.104.00) was presented by the Kaduna Electric as the MDA's electricity bill for the months of January to May 2024. Accordingly, out of these amount, Three Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Three Naira (N353, 714,933.00) was verified and same was duly approved by the Governor for payment. Additionally, the sum of Six Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Seventy-One Naira Sixty- Six Kobo (N696, 715, 71.66) was also presented by Kaduna Electric as the electricity bill to KADSWAC that is an autonomous agency with all administrative powers.

It is equally important to note that the KDSG is a shareholder in KAEDCO with about 2.5% of investment. Based on the foregoing, and to ensure a cordial working relationship between the KDSG and Kaduna Electric, the government has invested in providing over Five Hundred (500) Transformers and significant amount of electricity infrastructural development in extension of electricity network to unserved and underserved communities across the State.

## Beneficiaries of free fertilizer fairly selected – Uba Sani

The smallholder farmers who would benefit from the distribution of fertilizer exercise were carefully selected by an all-inclusive, non-partisan Committee made up of representatives of the Kaduna State Chapter of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Kaduna State Council of Chiefs, Kaduna Elders Forum, Nigeria Labour Congress, Religious Bodies, Security Agencies, and the Kaduna State Government, Gov Uba Sani has said. The Governor said that the free fertilizer initiative clearly

rural livelihoods, and driving economic growth across the state adding: “Our Tallaƴin Noma (A Koma Gona) targeted 42,000 smallholder farmers and cooperatives across the state’s 23 LGAs. We have distributed quality seeds, agrochemicals, NPK and urea fertilizers, power tillers, vegetable grinders, and knapsack sprayers with personal protective equipment. This support aims to help farmers recover and enhance their productivity.”

“He stated further that: to support all year-round farming, we have procured solar-powered irrigation pumps for

blight epidemic which cost farmers in the state government billions of Naira, government distributed 12,800 units of agrochemicals and secured a N1.6 billion recovery package from the National Agricultural Development Fund to assist farmers in relaunching their livelihoods. “Similarly, in response to the severe Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestation in maize fields across the state, we implemented, in collaboration with the Institute of Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a state-wide emergency response plan and provided pesticides to all the 23 local governments of the State to combat the outbreak.” He added.

Speaking further on the achievement of the administration, Governor Sanki said that government had successfully vaccinated animals and provided pre-exposure vaccinations to various veterinary and community workers. “Furthermore, we recently launched a comprehensive vaccination campaign against Anthrax and other Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs).” He stated.

“Our administration has embarked on aggressive construction of rural roads in the 23 local governments of the state. These infrastructure improvements will enhance access to markets, reduce post-harvest losses, and boost food security and economic empowerment.”

“These initiatives are part of our comprehensive strategy to enhance agricultural productivity, improve rural infrastructure, and support our farmers. I therefore urge our farmers to use these fertilizers responsibly and efficiently. We are optimistic that these measures will maximize our harvests and strengthen the food security of Kaduna State and our nation.” the Governor said



**Cross section of beneficiaries at the launching of the free fertilizer**

demonstrated the steadfast commitment of the government to empowering farmers and re-energizing the agricultural sector as agriculture was not only the backbone of the state's economy but also a vital contributor to its overall growth and development. “In the 2024 Budget of Kaduna State, we allocated N22.54 billion to the agricultural sector. This allocation marks a significant increase from previous years and demonstrates our resolve to cultivate a vibrant agricultural ecosystem” he said.

The Governor said that since taking office in May 2023, the administration had made remarkable progress in enhancing food security, promoting

smallholder farmers, ensuring consistent agricultural productivity even during the dry season. The state government has successfully attracted the Africa Quality Assurance Centre (AQAC) project to Kaduna State. This cutting-edge facility, supported by the African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMbank), will provide testing, certification, and inspection services for agricultural products. This initiative will position Kaduna as a hub for these essential services, benefiting Nigeria and neighbouring African countries, and further enhancing our agricultural sector.”

Governor Sani further stated in response to the outbreak of the ginger



# Farmers praise KDSG's free fertilizer initiative, seek more for dry season farming

Governor Uba Sani flagged off recently the distribution of 500 trucks (about 15,000 metric tonnes) of fertilizer to farmers across Kaduna State under which 240,000 bags will be distributed to 120,000 smallholder farmers for free. This is in a bid to empower farmers and re-energize the agricultural sector in Kaduna State. It is the first-time farmers are being given fertilizers of this magnitude for free. The Governor Uba Sani administration has made remarkable progress in enhancing food security, promoting rural livelihoods, and driving economic growth across the state. The Tallafin Noma (A Koma Gona) targeted 42,000 smallholder farmers and cooperatives across the state's 23 LGAs. The administration also embarked on aggressive construction of rural roads in the 23 local governments of the state. These infrastructure improvements will enhance access to markets, reduce post-harvest losses, and boost food security and economic empowerment. **Nabilah Hassan** has following the launch of the free fertilizer distribution compiled reactions by farmers to the KDSG gesture:

**F**armers in Kaduna State have expressed their gratitude to Governor Uba Sani for his recent initiative to distribute 500 trucks of free fertilizer to over 120,000 rural farmers aimed at boosting food production in the State. They were optimistic that barring unforeseen circumstances, farm produce will receive a boost.

Umar Zakari Sambo, a farmer from Damau Ward in Kubau Local Government Area, commended the Governor for the transparent selection and distribution process.

He highlighted that the initiative was conducted without any political or religious biases, ensuring that the fertilizers reached the intended beneficiaries. Umar emphasized that this initiative is crucial for achieving food sufficiency and is part of the Governor's broader agricultural revolution to enhance rural economies.

Adamu Isiaka, a farmer from Sayasaya Ward in Ikara Local Government Area, shared his experience of receiving two bags each of NPK and Urea fertilizers. He praised the



**Governor Uba Sani at the venue of the free fertilizer**

Governor for this timely intervention, which he believes will greatly aid in improving their agricultural output.

Jamilu Shitu from Maigana Ward in Soba Local Government Area noted that this is the first time in Kaduna's history that farmers have received free fertilizer from the government.

He expressed a commitment to applying the fertilizers effectively on his farms, signaling a positive change for local agriculture.

Fatima Ibrahim, a farmer from Igabi Local Government Area, highlighted that the initiative is inclusive, as women farmers were not overlooked. She remarked that Governor Uba Sani truly embodies the spirit of a people's governor.

Fatima assured the Governor that women farmers would rally behind his

policies, aiming to restore the lost glory of the state in food production and elevate Kaduna to a position of an agricultural produce exporter.

Another farmer from Buda ward in Kajuru local government, Mrs Godiya thanked the Governor for prioritizing people's centric policies and expressed their willingness to support the administration to succeed, she prayed for Divine guidance to the administration and vowed to drum support for Governor Sani's second tenure

The farmers, however, appealed to the Governor to extend the gesture of fertilizer distribution to dry season farmers, expedite rural road construction for easy transportation of farm produce, and provide accessible markets to trade their products.



## Gov Sani meets family of slain Zaria teenager, assures of justice



Father of the deceased Muhammad Hussaini with the Gov

**G**overnor Uba Sani has reassured of his commitment to seeking justice for a teenager, Ismail Muhammad, who was killed when troops of the Nigerian Army mobilised to disperse a mob in Samaru area of Sabon Gari LG during the last protest.

The governor visited and comforted the family of the deceased, when he held a meeting with the father of Ismail

Muhammad in Zaria.

The father, Muhammad Hussaini expressed appreciation to the state government for sending a high – powered delegation to condole with him in his Samaru residence and the assurances of a full and speedy investigation into the killing of his son.

“I wish to express our profound gratitude to our dear President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR for his

concern, sympathy and assurances that justice will be done in the matter,” he said.

After the incident that claimed the life of the teenager, Governor Sani dispatched a high – powered delegation made up of top government officials and heads of security agencies to condole with the family of the teenager, Ismail Muhammad.

The team was led by the Overseeing Commissioner for Internal Security, Samuel Aruwan and condoled with the family of the teenager.

The governor said, “While the team was with the family, I spoke on the phone with the Father of the deceased, Muhammad Hussaini and expressed our deepest condolences.

“I told him that we are deeply pained by the unfortunate incident and will leave no stone unturned to ensure that justice is done”.

“A full and thorough investigation will be conducted and the culprit will be brought to book”, the Governor assured.

“He prayed to Almighty Allah to comfort the family. May Almighty Allah forgive Ismail's shortcomings and grant him Aljannah Firdausi”, he stated.

**T**he Kaduna State Security Council under the leadership of Governor Uba Sani, reviewed the security situation in the state arising from the existing 6pm to 8am curfew, and other issues pertaining to public safety and observed that that criminal element disguising as protesters, with the intent to generate unrest in the state, were still threats to peace.

The Kaduna State Security Council said recognized the fundamental rights of citizens to freedom of expression, lawful assembly and other constitutional rights enshrined in the 1999 Constitution as amended, but could not permit a situation wherein criminals masquerade as protesters to loot and vandalize public and private properties, and unleash terror on innocent citizens, as experienced on the 1st and 5th August 2024.

Processions not verified and cleared by

## Why curfew lasted that long, now lifted -Security Council

security in public interest. It therefore banned.

A statement by overseeing commissioner ministry of internal affairs and Home Affairs, Mr Samuel Aruwan observed that the ugly events of 1st and 5th August 2024 are clear indicators that criminals are pursuing an agenda to plunge the state into chaos, and were ready to camouflage these designs with otherwise genuine protests.

“The consequences of these plans, if allowed to flourish, are better imagined. The Kaduna State Government and security forces will not stand by and allow an anti-state agenda to run unchecked” the statement further explained.

Meanwhile, After an extensive review of the security situation in Kaduna and Zaria towns and their environs, the Kaduna State Security Council has removed the 6pm to 8am curfew. It imposed on the state following the outbreak of violence and looting by protesters believed to be hoodlums and thieves who took advantage of the peaceful hunger protest.

The removal of the curfew took effect from Tuesday, 13th August 2024.

A statement by Mr Samuel Aruwan, overseeing commissioner for internal security and Home Affairs said that, law-abiding citizens were free to move and engage in legitimate activities in Kaduna and Zaria towns and their environs with no restriction.





Senior Special Assistant to the President on Disability Matters, Comrade Mohammed Abba Isa and his team.

# KADUNA

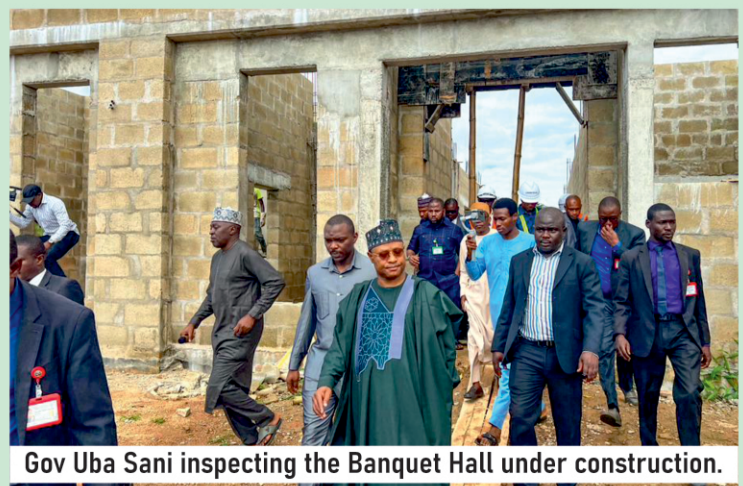
## Photo



Governor Uba Sani performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a 35.6 km road in Birnin Gwari.



Dr Abdulkadir Mu'azu Meyare SSG with other officials, inspected the construction of the Technical and Vocational Skills Acquisition City in Rigachikun.



Gov Uba Sani inspecting the Banquet Hall under construction.



# OUTLOOK

## News





## Youth restiveness in the North signs of leadership failure – Uba Sani

“I make bold to stress that we have found ourself in this problem because of leaders, including myself, because I'm not going to sit here and say that I'm not part of the leadership (that) have not provided leadership. In fact, everyone that has either been a Chairman of a Local Government, a Member of the State Assembly, Member House of Reps, a Senator, a Governor, a Minister, President or Vice President from the North, including members of the business community, is inclusive.

“Why is the poverty index in the North so alarming. Why is about 65 percent of our people living below the poverty line? Why is it that out of 18.3 million out of school children in Nigeria, 70 percent are domiciled in the North? This is the reason why the protests in most of the states in the North turned violent, with looting of property.”

Governor Sani's poignant submission is a wakeup call for every Northerner and true friends of the North to ponder and urgently proffer solutions, because the clock is ticking dangerously fast. You don't have to be a soothsayer to predict that any other protest or a case of two fighting would not degenerate into violence, with looting and destruction of property.

Once again, Governor Sani has shown that he can lead the way like he did during his pro-democracy days when, as the National Vice Chairman (North) Campaign for Democracy (CD), and Deputy National Chairman (North) of the Gani Fawehinmi's Joint Action Committee (JACON) and member of the National Conscience Party (NCP), he served for a long time as the lone voice in the North campaigning for the restoration of late Chief MKO Abiola's June 12 (1993) mandate, which Gen Ibrahim Babangida annulled, until Col. Abubakar Umar resigned his commission over the annulment of the June 12 elections.

While Governor Sani, at a young age, fought against military rule despite the obvious risks because he was convinced about the rightness of his actions, but in this war to change the very ugly narrative of the North, he cannot go it alone. Though he will continue to contribute his quota in his own space, but because the task is huge, he definitely needs the buy-in of every Northerner. Governor Sani must build a consensus with his colleague governors and other stakeholders to ensure appreciable success in the quest to rebuild the North.

Governor Sani has on his side the depressing facts. The insurgency by the Boko Haram, kidnapping and other forms of criminality which has resulted in widespread displacements of people. To date, more than 103 local governments of the North have Internally Displaced

Persons (IDP's) and the acknowledged educational crisis that should be an embarrassment of monumental scale to every Northerner.

According to Reports, 15 out of 18 of the lowest performing states in the West African Examination Council (WAEC) examination are consistently from the North, just as the North accounts for over 70 percent of the 13.2 million out of school children in the country. In 2018, Zamfara State presented only 28 students for the National Common Entrance Examination. What a pathetic picture?

Like Governor Sani asked during the Television interview, is it not a fact that most of the children that took part in the violent demonstration who ought to be in school, are not? And as he further asked, is it Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu that has kept them out of school? He could have gone on and on about the high divorce rate, the almajiri issue, and many more.

You may want to ask if Governor Sani has walked the talk. Yes, his first action as governor was an Executive Order on financial inclusiveness to address the exclusion of about 2.1 million poor, underserved and vulnerable citizens of Kaduna state from financial services, which denied them access to state and Federal Government's Social Intervention Programmes. So far, about one million poor and unbanked citizens have been included in the financial services sector, because financial inclusion is key to poverty eradication.

On security, Governor Sani has always been proactive, because the Kaduna Central Senatorial District which he had the honour of representing as Distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic, is worst affected by the activities of the terrorists. Both as a Senator and governor, he has showed more than a passing interest in the security challenges confronting his dear State. He sponsored four consequential bills for the amendment of the 1999 Constitution to allow for the establishment of state police, to enhance the security of lives and property of Nigerians.

And as governor, he recruited over 7,000 personnel into the Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVS), helped to establish several military formations, distributed operational vehicles to security agencies, and established the Kaduna State Security Trust Fund as a means of collaborating with corporate organizations, the business community, industrialists, professional groups, individuals and all critical stakeholders towards enhancing material and logistic support for the security forces.

The situation in the North is frightening and Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State has only re-echoed what the average Northerner knows, the difference is holding the elite as being wholly responsible for the unacceptable situation of the region.

# KDSG, NGOs Pioneering disability inclusion

*By Nasir Dambatta*

In a world where progress is often measured by economic growth and technological advancement, the true measure of a society's success lies in how it treats its most vulnerable members. The recent initiative by the Kaduna State Government, supported by local NGOs and driven by Governor Uba Sani, to mainstream persons with disabilities is not just a step forward—it is a monumental leap towards a more just and equitable society. Recall that the News Agency of Nigeria recently reported that Hon Zubairu Mukhtar, a Special Assistant on NGO Matters in the office of the Deputy Governor was in attendance at the historic event.

For far too long, persons with disabilities have been marginalized, overlooked, and denied the basic rights and opportunities that others take for granted. This systemic exclusion is not only a gross violation of human rights but also a tragic waste of human potential. The talents, skills,

and unique perspectives that persons with disabilities bring to the table are invaluable, and their inclusion is not just a matter of charity—it is a matter of justice.

The Kaduna Government's commitment, backed by NGOs and championed by Governor Uba Sani, to mainstream persons with disabilities is a clear recognition of this truth. By taking concrete steps to ensure that persons with disabilities are not just included but actively empowered, the government is sending a powerful message: that every citizen, regardless of ability, has the right to participate fully in the social, economic, and political life of the state.

This initiative is not just about providing physical access or legal protection; it is about changing mindsets and challenging the deeply ingrained prejudices that have kept persons with disabilities on the margins of society. It is about creating a culture of inclusion, where diversity is celebrated and everyone has the opportunity to contribute and thrive.

But this is not just a victory for persons

with disabilities; it is a victory for all of us. A society that embraces diversity and fosters inclusion is stronger, more resilient, and more innovative. When everyone is given the opportunity to reach their full potential, we all benefit. The Kaduna Government's bold action, propelled by the efforts of NGOs and the leadership of Uba Sani, should serve as a clarion call to other states and the nation as a whole. The time for half-measures and empty rhetoric is over. We must all commit to the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of our society. Anything less is simply unacceptable.

In the end, this is not just about policy or politics; it is about humanity. It is about recognizing the inherent dignity and worth of every person and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Kaduna Government, NGOs, and Uba Sani have taken a crucial step in the right direction. Now, it is up to the rest of us to follow their lead and ensure that this vision of an inclusive society becomes a reality.

## KAPSCO debunks KAEDCO claims ....

It is equally important to note that the KDSG is a shareholder in KAEDCO with about 2.5% of investment. Based on the foregoing, and to ensure a cordial working relationship between the KDSG and Kaduna Electric, the government has invested in providing over Five Hundred (500) Transformers and significant amount of electricity infrastructural development in unserved and underserved communities across the State. This is to encourage and help Kaduna Electric reduce its 59.96% Aggregate Technical Commercial and Collection (ATC&C)

losses as at 2024/Q1 and further support in reversing its perpetual historical poor performance that had led to successive changes in Board and Management of the Company.

The KDSG in its effort, to ensure the survival the Kaduna Electric in the Electricity Market, has through its budgetary provision, earmarked over N2 billion Naira for exploring options in NERCs investment regulation in network (2015) in partnership with the Disco and was communicated to the company through KAPSCO. This was done in the interest of the citizens of

Kaduna State.

It is disheartening therefore to note that the unfortunate action of the Kaduna Electric in disconnecting Yusuf Dantsoho hospital from power supply is in direct contravention of the provisions of Chapter II, Section 25 Sub-Section (2) of the NERC's Customer Protection Regulation (NERC – R – 001 – 2023) which prohibits disconnection of facilities with life support machines.

In the light of the above facts and for the collective interest of the citizens of Kaduna State, the KDSG hereby invites the Kaduna Electric to reconcile all the pending issues to ensure the success of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI).



## Foundational literacy numeracy: Cornerstone of child's educational journey – Uba Sani

By *Hauwa Mohammed*

**K**aduna State Governor Uba Sani has described Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) as the cornerstone of every child's educational journey.

The Governor stated this through the state's Commissioner for Education, Prof. Muhammad Sani Bello, at a two-day seminar organised by the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), with support from the partners on the FLN. The theme of the seminar was: "Supporting the Sustain Agenda to Resolve the Learning Crisis.

The FLN partners that supported the seminar were: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), British Council, Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE), Save the Children International (SCI) Nigeria and Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) Africa.

According to Governor Sani, FLN are the essential skills that not only

determine academic success, but also pave the way for lifelong learning and personal development.

He said the seminar provided an invaluable opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices and explore innovative learning pathways that could be scaled up across the state and beyond.

He equally said the seminar was a testament to the state's shared commitment to ensuring that the children in the state received the quality education they deserved.

The Governor restated his administration's commitment to creating an inclusive and equitable education system where no child was left behind.

He, however, said achieving the goal required a collective effort, innovative approaches and a deep understanding of unique challenges children face.

"This seminar is a step forward in that direction. As we embark on this journey together, let us remain focused on our common objective to provide every child with the tools needed to succeed in life," the Governor said.

He thanked the FLN partners for their unwavering support and dedication to improving the educational outcomes of children in the state.

Earlier, the Executive Chairman of SUBEB, Alhaji Tijjani Abdullahi, reiterated the state government's commitment to improving the educational outcomes of children in the state.

Alhaji Abdullahi emphasised the importance of FLN as the foundation upon which all future learning was built.

He said that the seminar would provide a platform for stakeholders to share ideas and best practices in improving FLN skills among children in the state.

The Chairman expressed optimism that the seminar would help identify innovative solutions to address the learning crisis in the state.

He assured that Kaduna SUBEB would continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every child in the state received quality education, regardless of their background or location.

He thanked the partners for their support and collaboration, saying, "together, we could make a significant difference in the lives of children in Kaduna."

## The hunger protest and Gov Uba Sani's....

Significantly, Senator Uba Sani's Poverty Alleviation Programme, **a Kori Talaucci**, is gradually lifting people above the poverty line. Last March, he flagged off the second phase of the distribution of food items to vulnerable residents and N3.4 billion worth of rice and maize were given out. Approximately, 200,000 households and 1,000,000 persons benefitted. In addition, grants have been released to 7,500 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), ranging between N100,000 and N1 million, depending on the size of the enterprise. Also, N4.2 billion have been distributed as cash grants, bags of fertilizer, and farm inputs to smallholder farmers. Also, MSMEs, persons with disabilities,

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), orphans, market women, and youths benefited. In the same vein, N3.3 billion has been released for the payment of pensions and gratuities, as well as death benefits to families of deceased civil servants. Besides, a N500 million revolving loan scheme has been instituted for civil servants.

Indeed, if every political office holder of northern origin, whether elected or appointed, contributes his quota positively, the north will be better for it and protests like the August Hunger Protest will be more peaceful and civil.

By Emmanuel Ado

**T**hough opinions in the science world are sharply divided, Senator Uba Sani, the governor of Kaduna State, has thrown his weight behind the reality of climate change. With the official launch of the “Kaduna State Climate Change Policy and Position Statement” and his SUSTAIN Agenda, the governor has decisively shown that climate change is not a 'hoax' and that the climate clock is ticking dangerously fast towards an unacceptable level of warming, requiring a bold agenda of actions to help avert the irreparable harm to the planet, the only known home of mankind.

Some countries were only forced to take proactive action on climate change following aggressive court actions by some young environmentalists who dragged their governments, which is not the case with the Kaduna State Government efforts that is product of conviction and enlightened self-interest.

Governor Sani's personal conviction has no doubt been clearly reinforced by the adverse impact of climate change on Kaduna State. Like Bob Marley would say, “he who feels it, knows it hurts”, Governor Sani is definitely feeling it. In the last few years, the North-Western state has been adversely impacted by the rampaging climate change; with an increasingly unpredictable weather patterns that make agricultural production, the main economic activity of its citizens, much more difficult. Extreme weather has become more frequent leading to large scale degradation of natural resources which has also significantly impacted on livelihoods.

The good people of Kaduna State desperately needed a prod by way of

stakeholders that would guide the drive, and accelerate the mitigation of the existential threat that mankind faces from its abuse of the environment. Climate change is no longer an unseen threat and time is not in our favour because the disruption to food supplies for instance affects both the wealthy and the poor nations. While Climate change is already disrupting food security worldwide, it is also partly responsible for the herders/farmers clashes that threaten the stability of Nigeria and many other countries in mid and central Africa. So, the implications of climate change are already being felt by the people in terms of high inflation precipitated by food insecurity, flooding and extreme change in weather conditions (global warming).

While Kaduna State Government had in the past formulated several policies and adopted strategies to combat the scourge, these were not codified in one compact policy document, which is why Governor Sani deserves huge commendation for taking the initiative to develop the “Kaduna State Climate Change Policy and Position Statement”. According to Abubakar Buba, the commissioner of environment and natural resources, the document is a “game changer” because it would deepen the understanding of both the government and the people, and the fact that it behaves on them to partner with the government in taking actions that would mitigate the looming disaster that has already shown how devastating it could be.

The policy, known as the 2024 Climate Change Policy; a culmination of the collaborative effort between the state

objective, a more sustainable and safe state. It places a huge premium on public education, which is key, monitoring systems, and other sustainable development initiatives to adequately prepare Kaduna State for the inevitable climate change challenges.

The 90 page document draws extensively from the 2016 Paris Conference on Climate Change which Nigeria ratified in 2017, with a pledge to cut carbon emissions by 20 percent by 2030, the National Climate Change Policy of 2021, the Kaduna State Policy on Environment, Kaduna State Policy on Forestry, Kaduna State Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) Regulations, Vision 2020: Kaduna State 2010, the Development Cooperation Framework (DCF) 2012, the Kaduna State Development Plan 2022-2028 and Kaduna State Infrastructure Development Plan 2018-2035. For instance, the DCF, is an inter-MDA document that outlines the roles, responsibilities, the targets and expected outcomes from specific initiatives of the MDA's.

Chapters 1 to 19, provide an eloquent justification for the policy document, especially Chapter Two, that focuses on the Situation Analysis. It does not only provide the rationale for the policy but would convince cynics that Climate Change is unarguably the most serious threat confronting mankind, hence the need to deploy a multidimensional and multisectoral approach to address the problem.

For instance, the mean annual variability and trend of rainfall shows that the inter-annual fluctuations are responsible for the extreme climate events like droughts and floods. In

## KDSG and the challenges of climate change



## Balance demand for freedom with pursuit of truth and ethical values, Uba Sani charges Journalists

**G**overnor Uba Sani has urged Journalists to balance the demand for freedom with the pursuit of truth, upholding ethical values and society's acceptable behaviour

Governor Uba Sani stated this at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Press Week organized by the Kaduna State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ). The week has the theme "The Role of Media in Holding Government Accountable: Emerging Challenges and Prospects."

The Governor commended the NUJ for their pivotal role in the development of democracy, but cautioned that they should keep at bay those tendencies that could derailed democracy.



The Kaduna State NUJ Chairman, Hajia Asma'u Yawo Halilu commended Governor Uba Sani's administration for its people-centred and inclusive approach to governance,

and sustained efforts in ensuring the safety of lives and property.

The occasion saw the Governor being honoured as the Grand Patron of the Kaduna State Council of the NUJ.

## Women rights crucial for development - Deputy Gov

By Peter Ibrahim

**D**eputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe in company of the Country Representative of the UN Women and ECOWAS, Beatrice Eyong was at the UN Women second Open Day Event for the North-West, held at the Quarter House Hotel in Kaduna, where she highlighted the role of women development.

The event was attended by UN Women team, implementing partners, along with other advocates dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sabuwa Balarabe stressed that gender equality was not solely women's issue but was fundamentally a human rights issue essential for comprehensive human development.

She affirmed that the Kaduna State Government recognised the crucial role of women's economic empowerment in combating gender inequality and promoting sustainable development,



stating that under the leadership of Senator Uba Sani there is a steadfast commitment to providing economic support to women through grants and various assistance programs.

Dr. Balarabe highlighted that the state government has successfully supported 800 adolescent girls by equipping them with kits designed to foster sustainable livelihoods, empowering them to

become self-reliant and launch their own businesses. This initiative aims to reduce the dropout rate among adolescent girls, addressing a significant barrier that intensifies the inequalities faced by women and girls.

She emphasized, "Until the contributions of women, who represent half the nation's population, are recognized and harnessed for national development, we will continue to lose out on the ideas and efforts of half our population."

The Deputy Governor expressed her gratitude to UN Women for their ongoing support and collaboration with the Kaduna State Government in advancing gender equality within the state.

The Open Day event aimed to showcase the impact of UN Women's interventions in the northwest, advocate for political commitment from regional decision-makers, and share both success stories and the challenges encountered in the pursuit of gender equality.

## KDSG earmarks ₦450 Million for academic programmes accreditation in higher institution

**G**overnor Uba Sani has approved the disbursement of ₦451,149,336 for the accreditation of academics programmes in key institutions across Kaduna State, a significant investment which underscores the government's unwavering commitment to elevating the quality of education. Higher institutions benefitting from the disbursement include Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, College of Nursing and Midwifery, College of Education Gidan Waya, Kaduna State University, and Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital.

A breakdown of the figure shows Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic benefitting from accreditation fees of - ₦42,495,522; National Diploma/Higher National Diploma programme for the College of Nursing and Midwifery- ₦45,532,000; accreditation fees for the National Certificate in Education program at College of Education Gidan Waya - ₦45,000, 000; accreditation fees for Courses at Kaduna State University - ₦291,481,794 and the accreditation fees for Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital - ₦26,640,000.

## Gov Uba Sani signs gender responsive procurement policy

**I**n what is seen as a ground-breaking governance, Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani has signed the Gender Responsive Procurement Policy, marking a significant milestone in the state's commitment to women's economic empowerment.

The visionary policy aligns with the Beijing Plan of Action, set 27 years ago, and reaffirms the governor's dedication to inclusivity and gender equality.

According to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Sule Shu'aibu SAN, the policy aims to leverage existing government processes to expand economic opportunities for women-owned and women-led businesses in Kaduna State. He said that by doing so, the state government seeks to bridge the fiscal gap for social development investments and empower women entrepreneurs.

"The policy reaffirms the state government's commitment to ensuring that the dividends of democracy reach

all members of society, particularly women. It promotes inclusivity, enabling women to contribute effectively to the state's growth and development process. This strategic move is a key economic empowerment strategy of the Kaduna State government, aligning with the state's medium-term development plan", he said.

Giving hint on the expected outcome of the move, the legal luminary stressed that "it is a collaborative ecosystem where government agencies, private sector, and development partners will align with this policy, providing expanded opportunities for women in Kaduna State."

Governor Sani's signing of the Gender Responsive Procurement Policy, according to experts, has set a new standard for women's empowerment in the state, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to inclusivity and gender equality.

## KDSG commits to halting open defecation

*By Bulus Godwin*

**I**n a significant step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Clean Nigeria Campaign has declared two additional local governments, Zango Kataf and Kubau, as Open Defecation Free (ODF). This brings the total number of ODF local governments in the state to nine, seven others; Jaba, Giwa, Kauru, Jama'a, Kudan, Soba and Kaura, had earlier been validated ODF.

The achievement is part of the state's efforts to implement the Road Map for the elimination of Open Defecation, with the goal of attaining state-wide ODF by 2025. The Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach has been instrumental in achieving this milestone.

Nigeria has been grappling with the menace of open defecation, with an estimated 48 million people practicing it, and 95 million lacking access to basic sanitation services.

The practice has severe consequences for public health, especially for children, and has hindered the country's progress towards meeting the SDGs.

The declaration of Zango Kataf and Kubau as ODF is a testament to the state's commitment to addressing this issue and ensuring that rural areas receive the necessary attention. With 125 local governments now declared ODF in Nigeria, the country is making progress towards a cleaner and healthier future.



# Musings on KDSG's gender-responsive governance

*By Nasir Dambatta*

**G**overnor Uba Sani's signing of the Gender Responsive Procurement Policy is more than just a policy enactment; it's a bold, transformative step that places Kaduna State on the forefront of gender equity and inclusive economic development. By integrating this policy into the state's governance framework, Governor Sani has set a powerful precedent for other states to follow, highlighting his administration's progressive and forward-thinking approach to governance.

This policy is poised to be a game-changer for Kaduna State, particularly in its efforts to drive sustainable development through inclusivity. By ensuring that women-owned and women-led businesses have equitable access to government procurement opportunities, the policy not only empowers women but also catalyzes economic growth by diversifying the

state's economic base. This will likely result in a more vibrant, innovative marketplace where the contributions of women are fully harnessed and recognized.

Governor Sani's alignment of this policy with the Beijing Plan of Action underscores his administration's commitment to fulfilling international gender equality standards. The impact of this cannot be overstated. As Kaduna sets this standard, it sends a clear message across Nigeria that gender-responsive governance is not just a moral imperative but a strategic necessity for economic prosperity.

The collaborative ecosystem fostered by this policy—bringing together government agencies, the private sector, and development partners—will create a fertile ground for new ventures and initiatives, particularly those spearheaded by women. This, in turn, will lead to increased job creation, poverty reduction, and overall economic empowerment, solidifying Kaduna's

reputation as a state that truly invests in all its citizens.

Moreover, this policy strengthens the social fabric of Kaduna State by promoting inclusivity at all levels of economic activity. Governor Sani's administration is effectively closing the fiscal gap for social development investments, ensuring that women, who have historically been marginalized in economic matters, are now at the center of the state's growth agenda.

Significantly, the Gender Responsive Procurement Policy is not just a win for women; it's a win for Kaduna State as a whole. Under Governor Uba Sani's leadership, the state is setting a benchmark in gender equity, proving that inclusive governance is the key to unlocking the full potential of its people and driving sustained, inclusive growth. This is a legacy that will not only define his tenure but will also shape the future trajectory of Kaduna State.

## Kaduna Police arrest Russian flag tailor, 38 others.

**T**he Kaduna State Police Command has reportedly apprehended 39 suspects who exploited the "End Bad Governance" protest to cause mayhem. The individuals were seen displaying Russian and Chinese flags and mobilized towards the vandalization of private and public properties.

Among the damaged properties were a Hilux vehicle belonging to KADVS, a Toyota Yaris owned by a journalist, and the KASTLEA office in Zone 6, Zaria, which was set on fire.

The police, in collaboration with other security agencies, intervened to restore

order. During the confrontation, the suspects became hostile and resorted to using stones, catapults, and other weapons. The police managed to calm the situation with the minimal use of tear gas.

A total of 39 suspects were arrested at the scene, including a tailor who was sewing the foreign flags for the group. The police recovered 38 Russian flags, one Chinese flag, two catapults with a bag of stones, and various vandalized items, a statement by PPRO Kaduna police command, ASP Mansir Hassan said.

It further said that the State

Commissioner of Police, CP Audu Ali Dabigi, while commending his officers, had issued a stern warning to all residents to adhere to the imposed curfew. He assured that Violators would face arrest and prosecution in accordance with the law.

The CP also appealed to all citizens to cooperate with the Police and other Security Agencies during the critical period, stressing that the curfew was in place to protect lives and property, and ensure the swift restoration of peace in Kaduna State.

## KDSG and the challenges of climate change

2019 many parts of the country witnessed persistent record-breaking floods, which adversely affected harvests and rendered millions of people homeless. The projection is that by the end of this century going by the future climatic pattern, Nigeria would be witnessing consistent changes in rainfall and temperature conditions. Clearly, these predictions have grave implications for future generations. You would absolutely agree with Governor Sani that we must care for and hand over a better planet to our children, the least that they deserve from us.

The truth is that Kaduna State government had no choice but to take decisive action because the forecasts do not look promising due to fluctuations in the amount of rainfall and the number of rainy days which already profoundly affect lives. But I must acknowledge that the government could have conveniently closed its eyes to the problem, and concentrate on roads construction which would earn it instant applause.

Thankfully, under the able leadership of Governor Uba Sani, the government is taking swift action because all aspects of the state's development; economy and the other sectors are vulnerable to climate-related stressors. The state is also witnessing a gradual and disturbing increase in temperature between January to March. The net effect of the climate change situation is that hydrological processes such as runoff, evapo-transpiration, infiltration, percolation, base-flow which have already started affecting agriculture production and urban development. And things would only get worse with increased conflicts over resources, displacement of populations due to movements precipitated by environmental stressors like flooding and drought.

Considering the challenges confronting Kaduna State, the policy is not only important but timely because it will

guide the actions of all stakeholders. For the avoidance of doubt, the vision of the governor Uba Sani administration is a "low - carbon and climate resilient state" and in terms of goal and scope, the adoption of cross cutting initiatives; education and training, research and development, the integration of gender, children, youth and other groups into the various climate interventions, the strengthening of the capacity of the state to mobilize local, national and international resources, both technical and financial in the war to mitigate the climate change crisis etc.

The Kaduna State Government has not only walked the talk with the policy, but has also shown that it has the necessary political will and determination to adopt and implement policies that would reverse environmental degradation and combat climate change, but that are protective to the environment in line with the SUSTAIN agenda of Governor Sani which emphasizes human capital development and recognizes that every citizen deserves a conducive environment to achieve his/her full potentials.

The Kaduna State Government hopes to achieve sustainable development for all within in a climate resilient environment and implement mitigation measures that promote low carbon development, reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts across all sectors etc.

So far, so good is the cheering news from Abubakar Buba, the commissioner of environment and natural resources, who is saddled with the responsibility of driving the mitigation efforts. According to Buba "our analysis shows that at the current rate of progress, the State is on the right track and has recorded net improvement in combating the threat".

Kaduna State definitely stands to gain considerable economic benefits from its efforts, apart from improving the state's mitigation capacity.

## Army's operation whirl-punch provides toll-free line

One Division Nigerian Army whose responsibility covered Kaduna, Niger, Kano and Jigawa States, has introduced a Toll-Free Line/number 08000020204 for reporting security related issues.

This is to enable the general public report emergency cases and lodge complaints with the Division for quick response.

It is also to assist the general public to send timely information on the activities of terrorists, insurgents, violent extremists, bandits and their collaborators as well as other issues of security concern that would assist the Division and other security agencies in protecting lives and properties within the Division's Area of Responsibility.

Lt. Colonel Musa Yahya, Deputy Director Army Public Relations of the Division in a statement urged the public to dial the Toll-Free Line and follow the interactive voice prompt to report emergencies or lodge complaints. "Kindly note that all calls and messages received on the Toll-Free Line are free and will be treated with utmost confidentiality while sources will be given adequate protection," he assured.



# North-west zone reviews developmental, security challenges

**G**overnor Uba Sani recently declared open policy makers technical session of the northwest zone in Kaduna with a charge to the Commissioners of Security to give their best shots to the meeting because it is pivotal to charting the path to the restoration of peace and security in the North West Zone. "We don't have the luxury of time. The North West Zone faces an existential threat," he told the technical session.

In a bid to assist in developing a clear and realistic roadmap, he proposed the adoption of a multidimensional approach to security management, establishment of a North West Theater Command, extension of Multinational Joint Task Force to cover international borders, implementation of socioeconomic interventions, formation of Standing Security Committees.

He also proposed the development and implementation of viable non - kinetic programmes on deradicalization, rehabilitation and transitional justice, launching of a massive campaign for



**Gov Uba Sani (centre) Dep Gov with security chiefs of the NW Zone**

ethical reorientation, and unifying people of the zone as well as mobilizing them to collectively tackle the myriad of developmental and security challenges facing the zone.

Along with amplifying support to our security forces as a region, and enhancing our localized intelligence systems, we must collectively pursue other essential steps like stimulating investment, developing agriculture and agri-business, expanding rural infrastructure, broadening access to

education and healthcare, and most importantly, nurturing engagement and promoting a sense of inclusion among all our citizens, Governor Uba Sani said

He expressed appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for taking practical steps to fulfil the commitment made by the North West Governors' Forum and the UNDP at the Inaugural North West Peace and Security Summit in Katsina earlier.

## God's favours await dedicated staff – DG, KadPPA

*By Farida Umar*

**D**irector General, Kaduna State Public Procurement Authority (KadPPA), Engr Sanusi A. Yero has charged staff of the Authority to commit themselves fully to their duties as such dedication will also earn for them favours of the creator.

He said during the daily briefing that the Authority has instituted for staff that applying themselves to the official tasks assigned to them would not only move the organization forward to the benefit of the public that they serve, but would also reflect God's favours in their personal affairs.

Engr Sanusi Yero welcomed the staff back from the break after the unfortunate events of the protest and urged them to rededicate themselves to discharging their onerous responsibilities.

The KadPPA chief executive officer urged the staff to be mindful of their movements in these times as they go about their official and private businesses.

Staff of the Authority in their various responses commended the Director General for particularly giving a face-lift to the conference room of the Authority and other facilities which have added glamour to the atmosphere of the premises and enhanced the working environment to the pride of

all staff.

The daily administrative briefing provided opportunity for the staff to be updated on the activities of the Authority ranging from the strictly official to the unofficial such as visits recorded by the staff canteen.

During another departmental briefing, the Director General announced the appointment Muhammed O. Alhassan as Acting Director, review and certification department under the procurement reporting unit. In a remark, the acting director urged staff of the department to give him their maximum support to enable him discharge his new duties successfully.

# Muhammad Rili's transformative journey at KADA: A news analysis

By *Abubakar Yusuff Gada*

One year ago, a new chapter unfolded in the history of Kaduna State Agricultural Development Agency (KADA) with the appointment of Muhammad Rili as General Manager. This marked the beginning of a transformative journey, one that would revolutionize agriculture in Kaduna State.

Governor Uba Sani's vision and foresight in appointing GM Rili have proven to be a masterstroke. Recognizing the vast potential of agriculture in the state, the Governor

entrusted GM Rili with the responsibility of unlocking this potential.

And what a wise decision it has been! GM Rili has proven to be the best man for the job, bringing a unique blend of expertise, passion, and leadership acumen to the table.

Under GM Rili's dynamic leadership, KADA has witnessed unprecedented growth and transformation. Innovative farmer empowerment programs have been launched, agricultural extension services have been turbocharged, groundbreaking public-private partnerships have been

forged, and agricultural infrastructure development has been revolutionized. These achievements are a testament to GM Rili's tireless efforts and the supportive environment provided by Governor Uba Sani.

As KADA celebrates this milestone, the future looks brighter than ever. With GM Rili at the helm, the agency is poised for even greater successes in the years ahead, driving prosperity and growth for the people of Kaduna State.

The next chapter in KADA's journey promises to be even more remarkable, with more wins, gains, and impact on the horizon.

## Women petty traders benefit from N50m empowerment fund in Kaduna

The first lady of Kaduna State, Hajiya Hafsat Uba Sani, has commended Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, First Lady Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the Launching of Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) Women Economic Empowerment Programme for Petty Traders (RHI WEEP) in Kaduna.

The Wife of the Governor, represented by the Hon. Commissioner of Finance, Kaduna State, Hon. Shizzer Nasara Bada expressed appreciation to Sen. Oluremi Tinubu and her entourage for the launch of the 1000 Women Economic Empowerment Programme which would have tremendous impact on youth and women of Kaduna State and Nigeria.

Governor Uba Sani who was also represented by the Chief of Staff Alhaji Sani Liman Kila, described the RHI as a positive initiative that already has great impact on the people of Kaduna

State in areas of educational support, economic empowerment and women agricultural initiative.

Initiator of the programme Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, who was represented by the wife of the Deputy Senate President, Hajiya Laila Jibril Barau Maliya, announced that the Renewed Hope Initiative Economic Empowerment Programme, was providing 1,000 pre-selected women petty traders per state with a grant of N50,000 each to recapitalize and grow their businesses.

She said a total of One Billion, Eight Hundred and Fifty Million Naira (N1,850,0000,000.00) will be disbursed to 37,000 across the nation and out of which Fifty Million Naira (50,000.000.00) would go to 1000 Kaduna State women petty traders.

Sen. Oluremi said what was provided is to assist women petty traders in overcoming some of their business challenges, expand their businesses, create more jobs, and contribute more robustly to our economy.

"To the 1000 women petty traders who are the beneficiaries of this programme, "You are the heart of our

local economies, the foundation of our communities, and the unsung heroes of our nation. You have shown incredible resilience in overcoming countless challenges to build your businesses.

"Let us all continue to work together to build a Nigeria where every woman has the opportunity to succeed, where every small business can grow and contribute to our nation's prosperity" she stated.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our RHI State Coordinators and First Ladies of States, and everyone involved in making this programme a reality, particularly, their efforts in identifying the traders. This is really commendable.

"Let us all continue to work together to build a Nigeria where every woman has the opportunity to succeed, where every small business can grow and contribute to our nation's prosperity" the president's wife further said.

All the beneficiaries are from the grass roots level, that cut across the 255 wards in the 23 local government areas of Kaduna state.



## Uba Sani, inaugurates the Kaduna state skills development council

**T**he Gov of Kaduna State Sen Uba Sani has inaugurated Kaduna state Skills Development Council with news that work on the Vocational and Technology Skills Acquisition Cities in Rigachikun, Samaru Kataf, and Soba have reached advanced stages.

He emphasized the long-term impact of these centers in terms of employment generation and economic growth, as they would provide essential skills and entrepreneurial opportunities, leading to financial independence for the beneficiaries.

The Governor stated that the trainees will be equipped with a variety of vocational and technical skills, including Welding and Fabrication, Articulated Vehicle Driving, Automobile Gas Conversion, Automotive Mechatronics, Solar Power Installation, Electrical Installation, Tiling, POP Making, Carpentry and Joinery, Fashion and Design, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), AI, Aluminum Fabrication, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.

He noted the steady progress in the construction of the Remodeled Panteka Market in Tudun Wada, Kaduna, which will serve as a major center for skills acquisition and job creation. Youths will be trained in carpentry, welding, painting, roofing, plumbing, electrical work, and other trades, while Collaborative arrangements between the Remodeled Panteka Market and the Vocational and Technology Skills Acquisition Cities would be worked out, he added.

The Governor also mentioned collaboration with NBTE to provide the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) certification, a globally recognized certification that will provide youths with employment opportunities across various industries within and outside the country. Other globally recognized certifications that will be acquired from the centers include Microsoft, Google, CISCO, Huawei, and others.

Members of the Skills Development Council are as follows:

1. Governor as the Chairperson
2. Deputy Governor as the Vice Chairperson
3. Secretary to the State Government
4. Commissioner of Business, Innovation, and Technology
5. Commissioner of Local Government Affairs
6. ALGON Chairman
7. Commissioner of Education
8. Commissioner of Sports Development
9. Commissioner of Human Services and Social Development
10. Special Adviser, Human Capital Development
11. Executive Secretary, National Board for Technical Education
12. Vice Chancellor, Kaduna State University
13. Deputy Director, Skills Development, NBTE, Kaduna
14. Senior Special Assistant (Support Services) as Secretary of the council.



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