

KADUNA OUTLOOK

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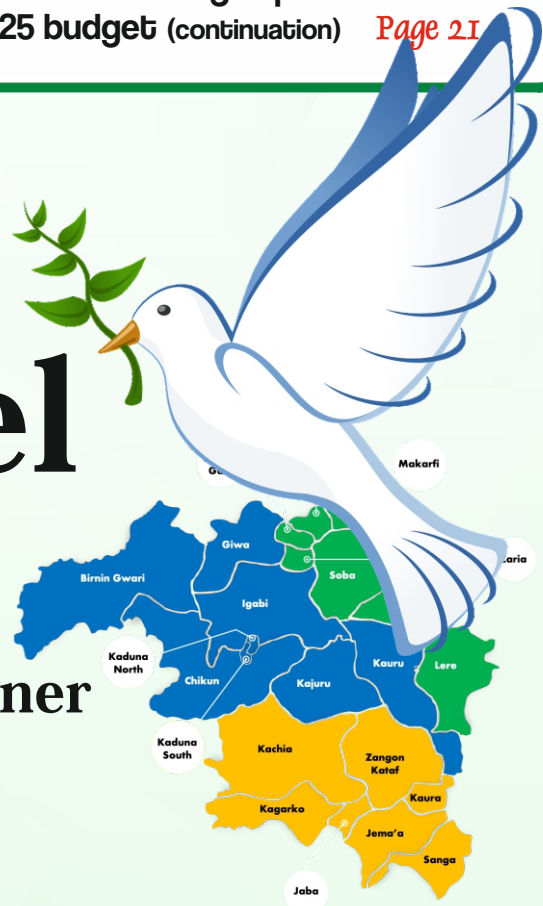
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Uba Sani's peace model sustainable

- Internal Security Commissioner



Uba Sani's peace model sustainable

- Internal Security Commissioner

Kaduna State Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Dr James Kanyip recently granted virtual interview to Daily Trust TV with the interaction centred mainly on the KDSG peace model. The commissioner took pains to carefully respond to some of the criticisms and concerns the public expressed over the peace initiative maintaining that the model suits the peculiarity of Kaduna State and that it is succeeding. The interaction is illuminating hence our decision to feature it as the magazine's lead report. **Samuel Badam Galadima** of the Government House Press Unit did a good job of the transcription which significant excerpts are served readers:



Dr James Kanyip

TV Host: We are going to be talking about insecurity, this is the major concern, we want to hear the perspective of the Kaduna state government on why this amnesty should be implemented after trying every other ways. The initiative aims to change the narrative, offers amnesty to repentant and other criminal elements who are willing to lay down their arms and reintegrate into the society. The major question is will this initiative be the panacea to insecurity in Kaduna State?

Dr. James Kanyip: Good morning and thank you for having me online.

TV Host: So let's talk about what the motive is behind the Kaduna State Government saying we should try... this amnesty initiative perhaps it could work.. what's the motive behind it?..

Dr Kanyip: Well let me start by making one conceptual clarification, the word amnesty is purely legalistic, i wouldn't want to say the process is amnesty in nature, it's a peace process and the idea was conceived and initiated from the office of the national Security Advisor, to help states who are challenged by insecurity, to see how they can have processes in terms of Peace with Bandits and Kidnappers etc, so as to bring long lasting solutions to this manace that has actually bedeviled our society and state in particular. So I would not call it an amnesty in the strict sense of it because as I said earlier, Amnesty is a legalistic concept and if you go legalistic with this processes you may not

actually attain the desired result you may wish for... So its a peace process and Kaduna State has a peace dialogue group that is saddled with the responsibility to ensure that the process of Peace is entrenched in the state so as to curb the menace of Banditry, Kidnapping and other criminalities that are associated. So this is the issue and so far so good the state has recorded success in this process... I think about 200 victims have been set free without the payment of ransom and if you have been following the trend you will realize that the office of the NSA has always been the one receiving the victims to show the collaboration that the state has with that office and the support it has been getting from the office towards that. And so far in Birnin Gwari we have recorded serious success in that, in the past 10 years plying Birnin Gwari, Kaduna road, to Lagos was almost impossible because of the incessant attacks.

The same thing for the road from Zaria, the road from Gwargwaji that leads to Funtuwa and Birnin Gwari through Kidandan; that road too has been hellish for almost a decade, but because of this peace process, peace has been restored in these roads and commuters and other motories have been plying that road for three months now, infact in the last four weeks we were in Giwa LGA to perfect the peace process. I was there personally with the chief of the staff to the governor Sani Liman Kila to actually reopen the Kidandan livestock market, which was closed for more than five years. Same thing about five weeks ago the Governor was in Birnin Gwari to reopen the Market that was closed for almost a decade. Because of the success recorded in this peace process we have other areas that are actually yearning for this peace process to be initiated and so we are on course and we intend to expand the scope of these peace process to cover all the challenged security local governments in the state.

And so far in Birnin Gwari we have recorded serious success in that, in the past 10 years plying Birnin Gwari, Kaduna road, to Lagos was almost impossible because of the incessant attacks.

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Uba Sani's peace model.....

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TV Host: Thank you for all the insights on this issue and for the updates and how it works so far, but for Nigerians to understand this amnesty, Nigerians are skeptics when it comes to amnesty and the initiative and what it stands for, so could you throw more light on it, let us know, let us in to the structure... how does it operate, what determines the eligibility of people that will be in this program, what criteria determines the eligibility, what are the components of the rehabilitation and reintegration?

Dr Kanyip: Like I said the process was initiated from the office of the NSA for states that are really interested in it to cash in and Kaduna state has already cashed into it and I said earlier it's been very successful so far. If you're asking me of who are eligible to be the answer is simple, those who are engaged in banditry and criminality and this peace process as a way of

being reintegrated into the society are those that are eligible to be part of it, and so far, they have been the ones actually making moves for this process. And let me be very frank with you, it has been of help, those who have keyed into this peace process have been actually helping the state government to even bring others into the process so that they can be part of it, so eligibility is those who have

actually been involved in this criminality and want to be reintegrated into the society. And so far, once reintroduced, the state government has a lot of initiatives that will actually bring them into the society. As I keep saying the state government has three very big skills acquisition centers mainly for the rehabilitation of these repentant bandits who wish to be integrated and which are also used for development of skills of the youth in the society and so they would be brought in reintegrated, educated, go back to school if they desire, and then become productive. That is the essence and of course, as I said, so far, so good.

TV Host: All right, you've spoken about how you've seen changes and all of this, but the major concern, because yesterday we opened our phone lines to some Nigerians to express their take on this and majority of the calls we received were not agreeing to this peace deal considering the mayhem that the bandits and terrorists have wreaked in Nigeria for the past decade. So don't you think this, even though we give kudos to the Kaduna state government for thinking of another means to curb insecurity, could jeopardize the rule of law?

Dr Kanyip: No. I don't think it will jeopardize the rule of law. Let me make a point the issue of rule of law is purely a legal concept. As I said, if you have to go purely legalistic, you may not actually achieve the desired goals, even the constitution itself recognizes exceptions to some of the basic human rights that are in nature.

The constitution itself allows for laws be made to take care of certain issues. When you are talking of peace process, the peace process itself is within the confines of rule of law. You cannot embark on the peace process outside the rule of law. It's a marriage between the concept of law and the concept of peace. The entire constitution is about living in peace and welfare of the people and if the state sees that the security of the citizen can be attained through a peace process that is

constitutionally acceptable, why not.

TV Host: Okay so what is being done to pacify the families who have been affected by this brigandage? What has been done to see that there is peace, for that peace to be there needs to be a certain level of forgiveness on the part of the families and now that these people are being reintegrated what is being done to actually make sure that there is justice in

the whole equation?

Dr Kanyip: The families are part of the peace process. You know sometimes you can't just have everything your own way. The family is part of the integration process and the state government is doing everything they can for the families so it's not something that we are going to do in isolation with the families of those who were the victims, the state government has been commending the families for understanding the process and as I said, they are part of the integration and of course their welfare and socio-economic well-being will also be taken care of by the state government.

TV Host: Alright let's talk about the measures that the state government is taking in order to make sure these people don't go back to the criminal ways, we all know how difficult it is when someone has already been handling a weapon where he can control the minds and behaviors of people to let go of that much power, what is the government and security agencies putting in place to avert that situation of going back?

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Benefits and Challenges of Financial Inclusion

By **Abubakar Abdullahi**

Financial inclusion can be defined as the availability and equal access to a wide range of quality financial services, products, and financial literacy for eligible individuals and businesses. It means that anyone, regardless of his or her income, location, or social status, has the opportunity to participate in the financial system. Its importance in the overall development of a society and in enhancing Human Capital Development cannot be overemphasized. Barely two months in office, Governor Uba Sani signed the First Executive Order on Financial Inclusion in Kaduna State and constituted a committee on Financial Inclusion and Literacy on July 25. 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. Given the primacy of Financial Inclusion as a policy, it is necessary to understand some of its key elements.

Some of the key aspects of Financial Instruction are:

Access to financial services:

This includes basic banking services like savings accounts, checking accounts, and loans, as well as other financial products like insurance, pensions, and investments.

Financial literacy: This involves having the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions, such as budgeting, saving, borrowing, and investing.

Affordable and accessible financial services: Financial products and services should be available at a reasonable cost and in a convenient location for everyone.

Protection of consumer rights: Financial inclusion also involves protecting consumers from unfair practices and ensuring they have access to redress mechanisms.

Benefits of Financial Instructions among others, are:

Reduced poverty: Access to financial services can help people manage their finances, save for emergencies, and invest in income-generating activities, leading to reduced poverty and improved livelihoods.

Economic growth: Financial inclusion can stimulate economic growth by enabling businesses to access credit and invest in their growth, creating jobs and boosting economic activity.

Social development: Financial inclusion can empower individuals and communities, promote social equity, and improve overall well-being.

Improved financial stability: Access to savings and insurance products can help individuals and families cope with financial shocks and build resilience.

Challenges to financial inclusion:

Thorough understating of all relevant existing laws: many stockholders especially operators, are not well vast in existing financial laws of the state. Some of these statutes include Financial Instructions, Procurement Act and so on.

Lack of access to physical infrastructure: In some areas, limited access to physical bank branches and ATMs can hinder financial inclusion.

Lack of awareness and financial literacy: Many people are not aware of the available financial products and services or

lack the necessary knowledge to use them effectively.

High costs of financial services: For low-income individuals and businesses, the cost of accessing financial services can be a significant barrier.

Limited trust in financial institutions: In some cases, lack of trust in financial

institutions can prevent people from using formal financial services.

Recommendations:

To further promote financial inclusion in Kaduna State and Nigeria as a whole, the following recommendations are suggested:

Expand access to digital financial services: Leverage technology to reach underserved populations through mobile banking, agent banking, and other digital channels. Financial Institutions should invest in infrastructure like ATMs and branch networks, to Improve access in the rural areas.

Understanding existing laws of the state: For the government to achieve the desired goals and objectives and for the promotion of accountability and transparency, there is need for all relevant stockholders to understand all the financial rules of the state and beyond. Clear framework should be established with clear regulations and oversight mechanisms to protect consumers and ensure fair competition in the financial market.



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Uba Sani's peace model.....

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Dr Kanyip: Well the bandits themselves are actually interested in the peace process. That is the first thing you should know, and so since they are willing to be part of the process, they are willing to be integrated in the society. As I said, the state government to showcase the sincerity of the bandits towards these peace process has always insisted that the bandits should drop their arms and so far they have done that, this is the first indication of the sincerity of the process. And two, they have accepted to be integrated back into the society. And these as I said earlier was done by the creation of skills acquisition centers where they will be rehabilitated, where they will be trained and made productive to the society. So these are some of the steps the state government is actually taking to ensure that apart from the sincerity of the peace process, the bandits do not go back to where they were before now and I think their sincerity is actually exhibited in their desire to ensure that this peace process works. And it may interest you to know that they are also assisting the government in actually talking to the other bandits who are yet to accept this peace process to come and join to ensure that peace is restored in the state.

TV Host: All right, we know that security doesn't just stem from people wanting to be bandits. There are socioeconomic factors, and political factors that have come to play when it comes to banditry and insecurity and even kidnapping. We see that this is being used as some sort of business. Some people are using it as some sort of survival skill going into crime for survival. So aside this initiative, what are the measures the Kaduna State government is putting in place to ensure that this socioeconomic factors are being addressed to prevent a resurgence, and also what is being put in place to hold those accountable who eventually do not adhere to the rehabilitation process?

Dr Kanyip: Of course this is where our charismatic and energetic ever working governor comes in, to be very frank, since his assumption of office he has done a lot. He has not played politics in any way with the community and lives of the people of Kaduna State. He has been very pragmatic and realistic in his approach to security issues, and for which we actually commend him. Not only us, even people outside the state. The first thing is to address the socioeconomic problems. The state government, especially the Governor is very passionate about infrastructural development, especially in the rural areas, the mantra for his administration is rural transformation and most of these banditry takes place in rural areas and to open them to economic activities is one of his cardinal objectives. Roads have been opened up in almost all

the rural areas. If you go to Kaduna State today it is a beehive of infrastructural activities and so when the farmer has need to sell his produce and he goes to farm and farms comfortably without being harassed or without feeling insecure and then tomorrow he goes to market, he can sell it and get good value and money and a livelihood. Of course, the issue of banditry in terms of the socioeconomic aspect of it is adequately addressed. This is what the governor has set out to do. I give an example; in the three senatorial districts, there are big skills centers, people go get a living out of these facilities. So these are the things that the governor has been doing. The education sector is being improved. If you go to the rural areas, you see that schools are rehabilitated, hospitals are being renovated and built, drugs are being supplied everywhere. So if all these social, economic activities or infrastructure are put on ground and in place for citizens of the state, I don't think the issue of addressing crime will be a problem. Socioeconomic issues are at the center of the administration of Gov Uba Sani and so far he has done wonderfully well.

TV Host: Dr. you'd agree with me that this is a very complex and really sensitive situation. Now, we all know that this is to broker peace between the people, and it would at least ease off some tension over them security we are having in the country. But What is the communication with these communities? We know that rural areas are the ones that have suffered the level of insecurity in Nigeria and if you're sending these repentant bandits back to these communities, how are we sure these communities have some level of welcoming behavior and or attitude towards these people? So what are you people doing in terms of engaging the communities to accept these people back?

Dr Kanyip: As I said earlier, this peace process is not a one-sided affair the critical people are all involved in it. The communities, the Office of National Security Advisor and the state government and if the community comes around, sit and agree with the process, how would they not accept the integrated bandits?

They have agreed Initially right from the beginning they want this process, they love it, and they know that these bandits will be integrated, rehabilitated and absorbed into the society so the community has already accepted. So, I don't think there is a problem there. I think we are on course, the community is not a problem they have accepted to reintegrate the bandits and they are ready to stay in peace with them.

TV Host: All right, we saw the Niger Delta amnesty program and we saw the challenges that came up with it. How is this different?

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KDSG's opening of bank accounts for the underserved: A model for the northern poor

Financial outlay by the governor of Kaduna State is not about making them flush with money, although that may be the ultimate goal. When Governor Uba Sani announced that his government was opening bank accounts for two million of its citizens, he was tapping into a very important impulse of the poor. He was advancing, among other things, a measure of financial literacy. But here is how the chief executive of Kaduna State put it: "Through our financial inclusion programme, we have opened over two million bank accounts for poor, vulnerable, and underserved persons to enable them to benefit from state and Federal Government social intervention programmes." It is significant on two fronts. One, it is happening in a state that was a flashpoint of the EndGovernance protests that led to some tragedies, and it turned out that the boys who caused pockets of mayhem may have been marionettes at the hands of some powerful persons who were at odds with democracy and peace, not only in that state but also across northern Nigeria.

The opening of bank accounts is an act of sensitivity to that episode, and also a signal that his government had heard all the cries of the poor. He himself described the policy as "pro-poor and people-centred."

Opening bank accounts would be a vacuous policy if the people have no ongoing activity, or else the accounts fall in danger of going dormant. It must therefore be seen in the context of the slew of efforts to soothe the effects of the hardships in the country against the background of the removal of fuel subsidies and the floating of the Nigerian currency. Policies such as the handing out of palliatives are important, but the areas that would encourage these account holders will include the government's soft loans to farmers and small-scale enterprises as well as the distribution of agricultural inputs that include fertilisers and implements. They have to monitor how the "largesse" is being used.

Two, the northern poor has been an especial pain in the social hierarchy in the country. Statistic after statistic and survey after survey have marked out the northern underclass as vulnerable because most of its poor, especially known as almajiris, have been wasted every year because they do not go to school, and so do not have the ability to move up the social ladder. They grow old as dependents rather than able contributors to society. Rather than use them as tools for progress, they have turned to become

cynical levers from a manipulating elite who scramble for more wealth and power. Governor Sani engaged the north a number of times in the course of last year, nudging his colleagues and the somnolent north to pivot its feudal eyes to the benefit of its underclass.

One other factor that can help is the tamping down of violence by bandits. Governor Sani exhaled, "Kaduna has bounced back," apparently referring to the return of the perennial flashpoint of violence, Birnin Gwari, to peace and commerce.

We expect that those who will get the bank accounts will be from every aspect of the state, so no one makes any hoopla about unfairness. Since the very poor tend to be illiterate, it means the government must work out modality for the beneficiaries to learn financial, at least banking literacy, at a workable level.

There is no way the poor can be part of the economy without banking of sorts. We run a largely informal economy in Nigeria, but the imperative of formalising activities is ever stronger, particularly if the players must benefit from government programmes.

Since this is new at this scale, we look forward to seeing how this experiment will work out as a model for other states.

(culled from the nation online)

PPS loses guardian



The death has occurred of **Alhaji Magaji Isyaku** a foremost commercial printer in Kaduna. Born in 1933, Alhaji Magaji died on January 14th 2025 after a protracted illness.

A product of Township Primary School Zaria and Teachers Collage Toro Bauchi State, the late Alhaji Magaji taught at the Hunkuyi Primary School before later being appointed a produce buyer by the defunct Northern Cotton Board. He also worked with the Gaskiya Corporation Zaria before

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Kaduna Peace Model: Where Dele Sobowale got it wrong

By Farouk Abdullahi Ahmed

In a recent commentary, Dele Sobowale, in a piece titled “Bandits: FG should stop Kaduna Governor”, published in several traditional papers on Sunday, January 19, 2025, canvassed an immediate intervention by the Federal Government (FG) against the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani's approach to finding a lasting solution or bringing to an end the ugly and debilitating incidents of banditry and general insecurity in the state. While his concerns about the security situation in Kaduna are valid, his arguments overlook critical aspects of the ongoing efforts to restore peace and security in the state in particular and the region in general.

Contrary to the utterly wrong notion or perception peddled in the piece as being an 'enabler of crime and criminality' or 'aiding and abetting banditry and general insecurity' which Dele Sobowale vainly labored to market, the effectiveness of the “Kaduna Model” which is a pragmatic approach for a lasting peace and security in Kaduna State cannot be over emphasized. The truth of the matter is that Dele Sobowale got it completely wrong. Wrong premise, wrong analogies, and wrong assumptions and so he inexorably arrived at a wrong conclusion. But he should be pardoned because he based his intervention on just what he read in a newspaper on what is supposedly going on in Kaduna State.

To begin with, Dele Sobowale ran the piece under the aegis of his “On The Other Hand” column. A cursory consideration of the name shows that the column is designed to explore the other side or the flipside, if you like. A casual observer may be tempted to see the column as a stage designed to propagate opposing arguments of an idea, policy initiative or whatever. But that is not the focus here.

Dele Sobowale, by his own admission in the piece under reference, claimed that: “Hitherto, I have commended the governor, who was managing a totally broken state, which he inherited from el-Rufai, with dexterity. He has not allowed a huge debt burden to weigh down government's programmes. And, he has been doing his best to mend the cracks in ethnic relationships which characterised Kaduna State for eight years. I still stand by those comments.” Such eloquent testimony stands in stiff opposition to the attempt to now run down the efforts of the Governor Uba Sani administration to find a pragmatic approach to a knotty problem. In the Daily Trust report which forms the basis of Dele Sobowale's intervention, the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Uba Sani, Malam Ibrahim Musa, emphasized that the state government, in

collaboration with some federal agencies, established The Peace Dialogue Group, which then developed the 'Kaduna Model,' seen generally as a comprehensive framework for sustainable peace and security.

Mallam Musa said: “This model will include disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, alongside investments in rural development and conflict resolution. It is a holistic approach that addresses both the symptoms and root causes of insecurity.

“The model entails engaging stakeholders tirelessly. This non-kinetic approach led to numerous meetings and extensive discussions, culminating in building bridges of trust, which made several senior bandit leaders to lay down their arms and embrace peace, along with their followers.”

The first and foremost thing to note, therefore, is to recognize that the “Kaduna Model” for peace and security was not a unilateral initiative by the state government but rather a collaborative effort involving various federal agencies. This model was designed to address the unique challenges posed by banditry in the region, taking into account the socio-economic dynamics and the historical context of the area. The joint design of this model underscores the importance of a coordinated approach to security, where both state and federal entities work together to create sustainable solutions. Sobowale's call for the FG to intervene against the Kaduna Governor fails to acknowledge this collaborative framework, which is crucial for understanding the complexities of the security landscape in the state.

Moreover, the reopening of the Birnin Gwari Cattle Market, which had been closed for a decade, serves as a testament to the progress made under the “Kaduna Model.” This development not only signifies a return to normalcy for local traders and herders but also highlights the potential for economic revitalization in areas previously plagued by insecurity. The market's reopening is a direct result of the concerted efforts of the Kaduna State government and federal agencies to restore peace and foster economic activity. Sobowale's argument does not adequately recognize these positive strides, which are vital for the long-term stability of the region.

Additionally, Sobowale's assertion that the state should abandon its responsibility for federal highways is misguided. Federal highways are critical arteries for trade and transportation, and they serve the interests of both the state and the nation. The indigenes of Kaduna rely on these highways for their livelihoods, and abandoning them would only exacerbate the challenges faced by local communities.

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Kaduna upgrades audiology and speech therapy centre

By Affiong Edim

The Kaduna State government, has inaugurated the newly upgraded Audiology and Speech Therapy Centre at Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital (BDTH), Kaduna. The facility's transformation, made possible through the philanthropic support of MAMIA Seeds Oil Ltd, underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in enhancing healthcare delivery in the state.

Commissioning the centre, the Commissioner of Health, Umma K. Ahmed, commended MAMIA Seeds Oil Ltd for their generous contribution, describing the initiative as a shining example of corporate social responsibility.

"This upgrade is a clear demonstration of how businesses can play a pivotal role in complementing government efforts to improve the quality of life for our citizens," she said. "MAMIA Seeds Oil Ltd has shown a remarkable commitment to fostering a healthier and more inclusive society."

The Commissioner also lauded Governor Uba Sani's administration for its steadfast commitment to strengthening Kaduna's healthcare infrastructure. She noted that the upgraded facility aligns with the

government's vision of providing equitable access to quality healthcare for all residents.

Ahmed urged stakeholders to view the milestone as a stepping stone toward building a healthier Kaduna.

In his remarks, the Chief Medical Director of Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital, Prof. Musa Tabari, described the audiology centre as a trailblazer in Nigeria's healthcare landscape. He highlighted its expanded capacity to deliver specialized services, including audiology care for adults and children, speech-language therapy, ENT clinical and surgical services, and advanced endoscopic procedures.

Prof. Tabari further emphasized the centre's potential as a hub for research and training in hearing and speech health, capable of serving not only Nigerians but also patients from neighbouring countries who previously lacked access to such specialized care.

He called on other philanthropists, organizations, and corporate entities to emulate MAMIA Seeds Oil Ltd by investing in healthcare infrastructure to drive societal progress.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and staffed by a team of skilled professionals, the upgraded centre is now poised to address hearing

and speech impairments comprehensively. These conditions, which can significantly affect education, communication, and social interactions, will be tackled through a range of diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services.

The commissioning ceremony attracted dignitaries from various sectors, including senior officials of the Ministry of Health and Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital, the Speaker of the Kaduna State House of Assembly Committee on Health, Usman Musa, representatives of MAMIA Seeds Oil Ltd, and other stakeholders in the healthcare sector.

This upgrade marks a significant milestone in Kaduna State's quest to provide innovative and accessible healthcare solutions, setting a benchmark for similar initiatives across Nigeria.

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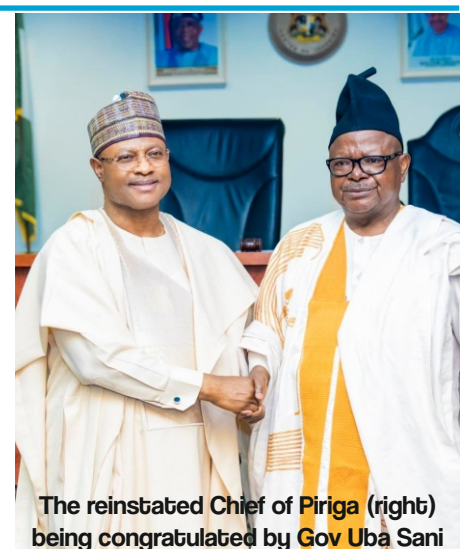
Chief of Piriga Chiefdom reinstated

In a significant move to uphold the rule of law and respect for traditional institutions, the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, has reinstated Mr. Jonathan Paragua Zamuna as the Chief of Piriga Chiefdom in the Lere Local Government Area. This decision comes in compliance with a court order from the National Industrial Court, which nullified the previous

dethronement of the paramount monarch.

The reinstatement ceremony took place at the Council Chambers of Sir Kashim Ibrahim in Kaduna.

This action not only reinforces the importance of traditional leadership but also demonstrates Governor Uba Sani's commitment to adhering to judicial rulings and fostering stability in the state.



The reinstated Chief of Piriga (right) being congratulated by Gov Uba Sani

Happy New Year

2025

A new year message by Gov Uba Sani

Gov Uba Sani

“let us look to the future with hope and optimism”.

My dear fellow citizens of Kaduna State, as we bid farewell to the outgoing year and welcome a new one, it is important to reflect on the challenges we faced together as a people and acknowledge the successes we recorded. Despite the tough times, we remained resilient and strong.

In 2024, our administration worked tirelessly to address our developmental and security challenges. Thankfully, we have made significant progress in various areas. We are extending socio-economic infrastructure to the 23 Local Governments. We invested heavily in the education and health sectors. Our peace initiative has stabilized the security situation, boosted commerce and revived social life. We have reopened the strategic Kara Livestock Market

in Birnin Gwari and Kidandan Market in Giwa. Annual cultural festivals that were suspended for many years have resumed across the state.

In metropolitan Kaduna, harmonious social life has returned. This hugely successful Kaduna Countdown 2025 is a testament to this progress. In 2025, we shall focus on building on our successes, learning from our setbacks, and working together to create a brighter future for ourselves, our children, and our communities.

Let us look to the future with hope and optimism. Let us work together to build a better tomorrow.

Thank you, and Happy New Year!

Kaduna State inaugurates Human Capital Opportunity for Prosperity and Equity (HOPE) Gov steering committee

Kaduna State Government has inaugurated the Human Capital Opportunity for Prosperity and Equity (HOPE) Gov Steering Committee in the state. The committee is chaired by Alhaji Mukhtar Ahmed Monrovia, Commissioner of Planning and Budget Commission. The ceremony took place at the Commission.

In his inaugural address, the Chairman, Mukhtar Ahmed Monrovia presented a comprehensive overview of the program's strategic framework, comprising three interconnected operational series.

These series are meticulously designed to address diverse challenges, ultimately converging to achieve a unified set of development outcomes.

The program's initiatives encompass:

HOPE Primary Healthcare:

Enhancing healthcare service delivery

HOPE Basic Education:

Improving educational quality and service delivery

HOPE Governance_: Addressing critical challenges and enabling factors related to financial and human resources management.

The Chairman emphasized that this transformative initiative aims to profoundly impact lives, empower communities, and foster a more prosperous future for all Kaduna State residents. He underscored the importance of leveraging technology and stakeholder engagement to unlock potential, promote inclusive growth, and cultivate a resilient society.



Alhaji Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar

The Senior Honorary Advisor to Governor Uba Sani, Alhaji Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar (*MaiRago*) has been appointed as the Chairman, Board of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. A statement from the State House Abuja named 44 other eminent Nigerians appointed into various posts.

Uba Sani: Tinubu's reforms will reset Nigeria

Governor Uba Sani has said that President Bola Tinubu is determined to reset Nigeria and put it irreversibly on the path to sustainable growth and development.

The Governor acknowledged that the implementation of the president's bold policies have not been without challenges and pains for Nigerians but clarified that the pains are temporary.

Governor Uba Sani who made this known at a one-day lecture organised by Arewa Think Tank in his welcome address on Tuesday, said with just a little more patience and perseverance "we shall start reaping the fruits of the reforms."

"In fact, we are already turning the corner. The economy is fast improving. Very soon the positive impact of the reforms would be felt by Nigerians. What the President needs at this critical time is the support of our people," he added.

"The Renewed Hope Agenda is President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's visionary and transformative policy thrust, aimed at repositioning Nigeria as a global investment hub.

"The agenda which is anchored on the core pillars of democracy, development and diaspora engagement, is being vigorously pursued with courage and patriotic zeal," he further said.

According to the Governor, the transformation of Nigeria and giving Nigerians a new lease of life must give priority attention to Agriculture.

Governor Uba Sani recalled that "at independence, Agriculture was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. The three regions effectively utilized resources from Agriculture to build critical infrastructure and develop human capital."

He lamented that "due to the discovery of oil, we abandoned Agriculture. We are the poorer for it. We must return to



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu



Gov Uba Sani

Agriculture and invest heavily in it. It holds the key to addressing the challenges of poverty, unemployment and insecurity."

The Governor however maintained that "President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is already showing us the way. His administration has prioritized Agriculture and is investing heavily in mechanization and empowerment of smallholder farmers."

According to Governor Uba Sani, Tinubu's investment in Agriculture is unequalled in the history of administrations in Nigeria.

"Mr. President has equally been giving sustained assistance to subnational in respect of funds and agricultural inputs. Mr. President recently made history by creating the Ministry of Livestock Development which holds the potential of making Nigeria the leading producer of livestock in Africa," he added.

The Governor said that the main policy thrust of his administration is Rural Transformation of Kaduna State, adding that "we are committed to promoting accelerated rural development by extending infrastructure to all local government areas with the goal of supporting our rural communities to achieve rapid economic growth."

He maintained that "with an average annual production of staple crops such as maize, millet, and sorghum

reaching over 2 million metric tonnes, making Kaduna State the largest producer of Maize in Nigeria and the sole producer of one of the best Ginger species in the world."

"Kaduna is also blessed with rich, arable and uncultivated soil; however, we are yet to fully unlock its potential. Through targeted funding, we aim to scale up irrigation farming, particularly along the Kaduna River basin, and provide mechanization support to our farmers," he

added.

The Governor disclosed that "our administration has invested heavily in both mechanization and micro-mechanization of the agricultural sector.

"In the 2024 farming season, we distributed 500 trucks of fertilizer, from which 240,000 bags were given out free to 120,000 smallholder farmers. We also distributed farm inputs to thousands of beneficiaries under the Tallafin Noma (A Koma Noma) Scheme.

"By removing the financial barriers to agricultural inputs, we ensured that our farmers can cultivate with confidence and that our state will reap the rewards of higher productivity and income," he added.

Minister of Solid Minerals, Mr Dele Alake, Special Adviser on Media and Public Communication, Mr Sunday Dare, Chairman of the occasion and former Chief of Defence Staff, retired General Martin Luther Agwai and Governor Uba Sani were all given awards by the Arewa Think Tank.

"The Renewed Hope Agenda is President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's visionary and transformative policy thrust, aimed at repositioning Nigeria as a global investment hub."

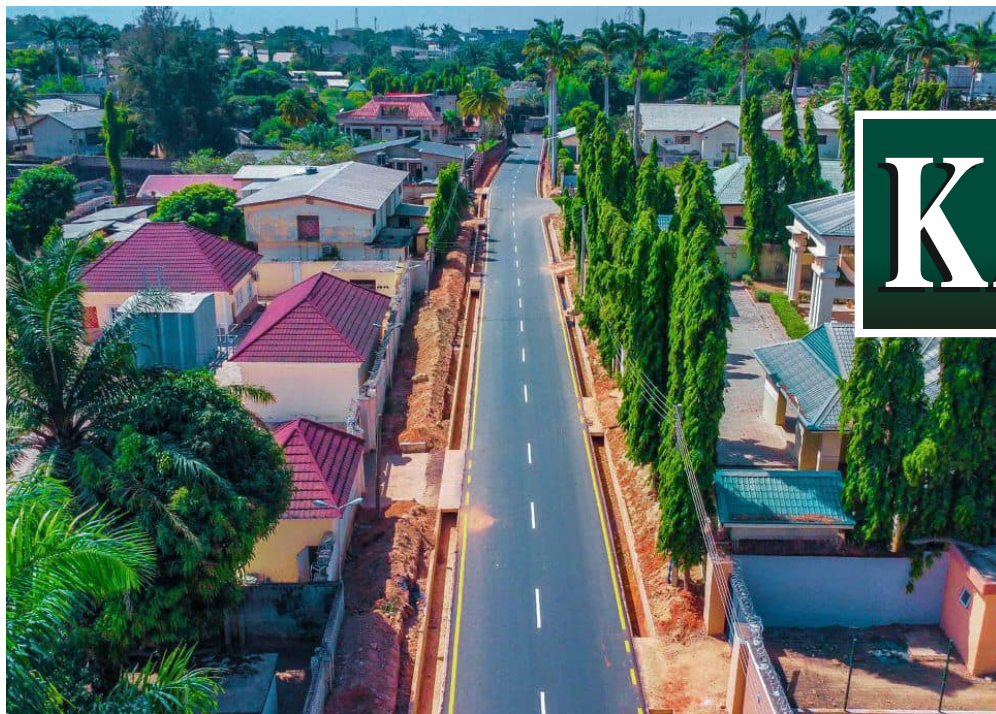
Recap of Governor Uba Sani's key achievements in 2024

2024 was a year of groundbreaking achievements under the transformative leadership of Governor Uba Sani. His administration made giant strides in critical sectors, driving growth, development, and prosperity. From critical infrastructure projects to innovative social and interventions, Governor Sani's achievements has undoubtedly improved the lives of citizens and repositioned Kaduna State as one of the leading economic hubs in the North. Here's a recap of Governor Uba Sani's key achievements in 2024:

Governor Uba Sani's administration is making significant strides in upgrading the healthcare infrastructure in Kaduna State, and the Kachia General Hospital is one of the beneficiaries of this effort. The hospital is undergoing extensive renovation, remodeling, and equipping to provide better healthcare services to the people of Kachia and its surrounding areas. This project is part of the state government's plan to overhaul the healthcare system, which has suffered a lot of setbacks. The goal is to provide modern and well-equipped healthcare facilities that can deliver high-quality services to the citizens of Kaduna State.

The Kachia General Hospital is one of the 14 hospitals selected for this upgrade, with a focus on rebuilding and upgrading the existing infrastructure, as well as equipping the hospitals with modern medical technology and resources.





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KADUNA

Photo

A photo display of some of
hospitals and other develop
and commissione
Uba Sani adm



OUTLOOK

News

of the key network of roads,
opment projects completed
ned in 2024 by the
Administration



Nigerians remember their fallen heroes

Gov Uba Sani has on the occasion of the Armed Forces Remembrance Day, called for more more prayers for the dead members of the Armed Forces of Nigeria who sacrificed their lives to keep our country one and ensure peace and stability in our respective communities. "Their acts of valor and heroism will forever be remembered and appreciated by Nigeria and Nigerians," he said.

"As we mark this day, we must take a moment and reflect on the challenges of nation building and the urgent need to rededicate ourselves to the building and consolidation of peace and unity in our dear country," he further said added and lamented that resources that ought to be invested in addressing developmental challenges are deployed to managing crisis and confronting non - state actors laying siege to our communities.

"Members of the Armed Forces are in various fronts making huge sacrifices to keep us safe and secure. We owe them a debt of gratitude. We must continue to honour our fallen heroes by praying for them and making our contributions to forging of unity and enhancing peaceful co-existence in our respective communities." Gov Sani



The Speaker Kaduna State House of Assembly Rt Hon. Yusuf Dahiru Liman (in white gown) representing Gov Uba Sani at the activities marking the Armed Forces Remembrance Day with him is the Emir of Zazzau Amb. Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli (left)

further stated.

He said that the state administration is committed to restoring the glory of Kaduna State as the melting pot of cultures. "We are rebuilding trust, forging peace, unity and understanding, and extending socio-economic infrastructure to the 23 local governments of Kaduna State. Through our peace initiatives facilitated by the Peace Dialogue Group, we have restored peace and security to conflict - impacted areas of Kaduna State," he noted adding "We shall continue to utilize the non-kinetic approach until every community in our dear State breathes

the new air of peace and tranquility."

He assured that: "our administration will continue to prioritize the welfare of the widows and orphans of those who sacrificed their lives so that we can be free and live in peace. Most of the dependents live in penury and squalor. We shall continue to design and implement empowerment schemes that will lift them from poverty to self-sustenance. This is the least we can do for them.

We pray fervently to the Almighty God to continue to have mercy on the souls of our fallen heroes. May He continue to comfort and strengthen the families they left behind.

1,850 scale through KADSUBEB promotion interview

By Hauwa Mohammed

The Executive Chairman of Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board KADSUBEB, Mubarak Mohammed, represented by Dr. Jameel Haruna, Permanent Member for Schools Management, has charged participants at the annual promotion exams events to be dedicated to the service for the progress of the state. He said that the board had approved the simultaneous conduct of promotion interviews for the backlog from 2021, 2022, and 2023 promotion years to motivate staff. A total of 1,921 candidates

participated in the CBT promotion interviews for the year 2021, 2022 and 2023 from the headquarters and the local governments of KADSUBEB, across the three senatorial zones of the State, out of which 1,850 successfully passed the interview.

The Chairman said the examinations were aimed at recognizing the hard work and dedication of civil servants, while also boosting their morale and motivation.

The Board Secretary of KADSUBEB, Barr. Hassan Othman, with the assistance of management staff, chaired the interview sessions.



Prof Muhammad Sani Bello
Commissioner of Education

Ministry of Internal Security to address safety challenges

By Peter Ibrahim

The Kaduna State Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs has launched a comprehensive grassroots security assessment tour initiative, marking a shift towards more direct community engagement in addressing security challenges.

The tour, which began on Monday, January 13, 2025, with visits to Giwa and Igabi Local Government Areas, aims to gather firsthand information from communities affected by security concerns.

Speaking at the inaugural session in Giwa Local Government Area, Commissioner Dr James Atung Kanyip, emphasized Senator Uba Sani's administration's commitment to a bottom-up approach in addressing security challenges. "We are not taking a blanket approach to solving every problem. Each local government area has its peculiar security challenges,

and we need to hear directly from the people affected," the commissioner stated.

The Commissioner highlighted his decision to adopt a hands-on approach to understanding local security dynamics. "I feel that I should not be an armchair commissioner who just waits for reports. This government takes security issues with utmost seriousness, and we need to gather firsthand information from the communities," he explained.

The initiative brings together diverse group of stakeholders, including local government officials, traditional rulers, religious leaders, youth groups, and women's organizations. "KDSG recognizes the importance and role of local leaders and other stakeholders," Commissioner Kanyip noted. "We want to hear their concerns and get their advice on what needs to be done." He added.

The tour's primary objective is to collect detailed information that will guide policy decisions and action

plans. "Through these interactions, we will gather valuable information that will help us in tackling the challenges we are facing," the Commissioner said. He emphasized that the collected information would be presented directly to Governor Uba Sani for action.

The Ministry's approach emphasizes collective responsibility in maintaining community security. "We want everyone to know their responsibilities in securing the community - parents, women, youths, traditional rulers, and local authorities all have roles to play," Commissioner Kanyip stated.

This initiative represents a significant shift in the state's security management approach, prioritizing direct community engagement and localized solutions over centralized decision-making. The tour is expected to continue across other security-challenged local government areas in the state.

Kaduna State invests over N35 million in KSMC

Kaduna State Government has made a significant investment in the Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) aimed at boosting the state's media outreach.

Governor Uba Sani demonstrated this investment when he approved the payment of about N35 million to the Nigerian Communication Satellite Commission (NIGCOMSAT) for Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting services, upgrading KSMC's video content to high-definition standards.

This development has expanded KSMC's global reach, making its content accessible via Free-to-Air Decoders on specific frequencies and symbol rates, covering Nigeria, West

Africa, parts of Southern Africa, Europe, and Asia.

This was disclosed during a recent visit to the KSMC by the Governor who was availed of the facilities and potentials of the broadcast station by its management.

Managing Director of KSMC, Ahmed Maiyaki, in a remark after the visit noted: "We are deeply grateful to Governor Uba Sani for his vision and support in transforming KSMC into a world-class broadcast institution.

This investment is a testament to his administration's commitment to excellence in public service," Malam Meyaki said.

Thank you for the birthday wishes, - Uba Sani

From the depth of my heart, I wish to thank my colleagues, associates, friends, aides, family and well-wishers who called, sent messages or put adverts in the newspapers or TV stations on the occasion of my 54th birthday anniversary. I am deeply touched and humbled by your outpouring of love. May the Almighty God reward you abundantly. And may He continue to meet you at your own points of need.

Special Courts to prosecute defaulting water service providers

By Dauda Idris Doka

Special courts have been designated by the Chief Judge of Kaduna State for the adjudication of disputes between water and sanitation service providers, consumers, as well as prosecution of offenders amongst service providers and consumers who violate regulations developed in the state.

This was made known by the Executive Chairman of Kaduna State Water Services Regulatory Commission (KADWREC), Dr. Dogara Bashir, during two (2) sensitization workshops on the regulation of WASH activities in the state, organized by the Commission. The first workshop was for media practitioners in Kaduna state, while the second workshop was for stakeholders from the seven (7) Local Government Areas of Zone 2 on the regulation of WASH activities in the state.

The Chairman stated that five out of the eight Regulatory Tools have been developed, gazetted and produced. In 2020, while the remaining three have just been developed and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for Gazetting, after which they would be submitted to the Government Printer for production.

The 5 Regulatory Tools produced according to the Chairman are: (i) the Regulation for Groundwater Abstraction in Kaduna State (ii) the Occupational Code for Borehole Drillers in Kaduna State (iii) the Kaduna State Operational Code for Packaged Water Production (iv) the Guidelines for Reservoir Operation and Utilization in Kaduna State and (v) the Kaduna State Water Supply Quality of Service Regulation.

The 3 recently developed Regulatory Tools are: (i) Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of Water Consumer Associations (WCAs) and Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOMs) in Kaduna State (ii) Regulations on Faecal Sludge Management in Kaduna State and

Guidelines on Establishment and Operation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in WASH services in Kaduna state.

Dr Dogara Bashir stated that the 8 regulations were developed to provide quality services, encourage community ownership, participation and enshrine equity, justice and fairness in water and sanitation service.

While giving background of the Commission, the Chairman stated that the Commission was established under the Kaduna State Water Supply and Sanitation Law 2016, to regulate and enforce all legislations of water and sanitation policies in the State.

The core mandates of the Commission, according to the Chairman are to: license water service providers; develop sector guidelines on the technical and financial management of water services by water service providers; advise the government on water supply, wastewater and sewage matters; regulate wastewater and sewage activities in the State; and enforce compliance with its regulations in respect thereof and any other provisions under the enabling Law or any other law and make regulations prescribing all matters which are required or permitted to be prescribed or which, in the opinion of the Commission, are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the enabling Law.

In the first workshops Media Practitioners were sensitized on the activities of the Commission and the contents of the developed regulations.

The second workshop was organized at the same venue for 72 stakeholders in zone 2 in the state drawn from membership of Drillers Associations, Associations of Packaged Water Producers, Christian Association of Nigeria, Jamma'atul Nasril Islam, Women organizations, Youth organizations, State Water Corporation (KADSWAC), WASH Committees and Local Government WASH Departments.

KadPPA names Kantoma staff of the month

The KadPPA management has awarded **Bldr Kantoma B. Sunday** the Good Character Award for December 2024. The award is a monthly recognition for deserving staff.

The awardee expressed his appreciation to the Director General for the opportunity given to him, the department, and the staff of the Authority, to prove themselves.



Bldr Kantoma (right) receiving the symbol of his recognition

continued from page 6

PPS's guardian

transferring his services to New Nigerian Newspapers in 1966 from where he retired in 1982 to set up his own printing outfit, Shukrah Printers Ltd. The late Alhaji Magaji is survived by 3 wives, 26 children, 106 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

Among his children are Mal Salisu Magaji an AGM with KASTLEA, Safiya Magaji, a retired Matron, Rabi Magaji an NITT Zaria Staff, Hamisu Magaji of the FRCN Kaduna and Ismael Magaji a lecturer with KASU.

The deceased was also guardian to many siblings of his relatives and associates notable among whom is Prof. Bello Ayuba, the PPS to Gov Uba Sani. A highly religious man, Alh Magaji was a pioneer member of the Hijra Timing Committee and chairman at one time of committee on the construction of the New Nigerian mosque.

Emir of Zazzau flags off house to house property bill distribution in Zaria

By Helen Kafoi

The Emir of Zazzau, HRH Ambassador Ahamad Nuhu Bamalli has said that his emirate will continue to collaborate with the Kaduna Geographic Information Service (KADGIS) to achieve its goals. The Emir stated this when the management of KADGIS led by the Director General, Dr. Bahir Garba Ibrahim visited him in his palace for the flagging off of house-to-house distribution of property bills and application forms for the registration of undocumented property under the Regularization program across the state. Speaking on the commencement of the forms distribution which would use motor bikes, the Emir stressed that the service should ensure that they entrusted the forms in the right hands to avoid defeating the objectives of the exercise

He urged them to ensure proper guidance to help the people provide all the necessary information required for the registrations, for efficient service delivery and quick execution of the CofOs by the Service.

While being optimistic that those who reside in the areas to be regularized under his emirate will comply and

cooperate with the KADGIS team, His Highness further called on KADGIS to expedite the implementation of all CofOs for assets of the Emirate earlier submitted after coordinates were taken for proper records and documentation including the Emirs' reserved lands (Haraba Sarki).

This he says, will help to prevent future land clashes or anybody from trying to acquire any lands of the emirate. The Emir called on all his district heads, stakeholders and people of the area to embrace and comply with the state's new policies on land matters to avoid any form of land or property crises.

Earlier in his remarks, the DG of KADGIS, Dr. Bsahir Garba Ibrahim stated that the team was in the Emir's palace to intimate him with the new reforms for lands and farms initiated by the Kaduna state government in state with the aim of finding permanent solutions to problems associated with lands and farm lands. This he says will

help KADGIS as a government agency in the discharge of her duties and also to the general public to secure their property against fraudulent individuals.

He revealed that the Governor, Senator



The Emir (left) at the flag off of the exercise

Uba Sani has also given approval for the regularization of 28 areas undocumented and have no legal papers and a good number of those areas are in the Zazzau emirate domain.

Dr. Bashir explained that before now, huge penalties were paid for lands that were situated in undocumented areas and have no C of O's, "if someone erects an illegal structure, the penalty was N500,000 but on assumption of office, His Excellency, Sen. Uba Sani reviewed that penalty downward. Now, the penalty ranges from N40,000 to N150,000," he said.

The DG also said that the Governor has given approval for the poor/vulnerable to pay their ground rents in instalments and a 15% discount for any person who pays up his balance within 30 days.

continue on page 20

KADSEMA cautions on fire incidents during dry season

The Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has urged the general public to exercise caution when using naked flames and other flammable items during the harmattan and dry seasons

In a statement, the agency cautioned that these periods are characterized by dry winds and low humidity, making it easier for fires to spread.

It said that to prevent fire-related emergencies, the following precautions are recommended:

- Handle Flammable Materials with Care: Be cautious when handling flammable substances like petroleum products, and ensure they are stored safely.

- Avoid Indiscriminate Bush-Burning: Refrain from burning bushes or other vegetation, as this can easily spread and cause devastating fires.

- Use Electrical Appliances Wisely: Avoid overloading electrical outlets, and ensure that all appliances are properly maintained to prevent electrical fires.

- Be Mindful of Open Flames: Exercise caution when using open flames, such as candles or cooking fires, and ensure they are properly extinguished when not in use.

The statement by the Executive Secretary of KADSEMA Dr Usman Hayatu Mazadu noted that by taking these precautions, we can reduce the risk of fire-related emergencies/hazards and ensure a safer environment for everyone.

"Let's work together to prevent fire outbreaks and protect our communities!" the ES said.

Legislative Writers Forum honours Engr Mubarak of KADRUWASSA for landmarks in water, sanitation services

By Bulus Godwin

Kaduna State has something to celebrate! Engr. Mubarak Shehu Ladan, Director General of Kaduna Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (KADRUWASSA), has received the prestigious Award of Excellence as the best performing Director General of RUWASSA for 2023/2024.

Engr Ladan's Leadership at the Agency had resulted in the following achievements:

1. Improved Access to Clean Water: KADRUWASSA has increased access to clean water through construction and rehabilitation of water schemes in rural communities and small towns.
2. Enhanced Sanitation Facilities: The agency has upgraded and constructed new sanitation facilities in communities and institutions in rural areas and small towns.
3. Community Engagement: Engr Ladan has fostered strong community

engagement, ensuring rural communities are actively involved in planning, implementation, and maintenance of water and sanitation projects.

4. Attracting Interventions: Under Engr Ladan's leadership, Kaduna State has benefitted from various new interventions from development partners. Receiving the award, Engr Ladan expressed gratitude to the Legislative Writers Forum for the award, dedicating it to the entire KADRUWASSA team and the WASH team across Kaduna State. He also acknowledged the unwavering support and commitment of His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani, Governor of Kaduna State, whose administration's rural transformation agenda has provided the necessary impetus for



Engr Mubarak (left) receiving his award from a representative of the forum

KADRUWASSA's successes.

Some staff of the Agency spoken to described the award as a testament to the effective leadership and vision of Governor Uba Sani, whose efforts to prioritize rural development and improve the lives of citizens in Kaduna State are yielding positive results.

They congratulated Engr Mubarak Shehu Ladan and the KADRUWASSA team on this well-deserved recognition! would hope that this award inspires continued excellence in improving water and sanitation services for all.

Uba Sani's ADC and Sir Kashim Ibrahim House Police Unit Commanders get new ranks



Gov Uba Sani being assisted by AIG Ibrahim Baba Zango and spouses of the newly promoted officers, during the decoration ceremony at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House Kaduna



Gov Uba Sani receiving an award presented by Arewa Think Tank from Minister of Solid Minerals Mr Dele Alake at Arewa House, Kaduna



Gov Uba Sani welcoming the new AIG Force Criminal Investigation Dept. (North West Zone) Ibrahim Baba Zango to the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna.



A cross section of members of the delegation of ECWA worldwide and council members of the Supreme Council on Sharia in Nigeria during separate courtesy calls on Gov Uba Sani at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna.



Kaduna Peace Model and Sobowale....

continued from page 4

The state government has a vested interest in ensuring the safety and security of these routes, as they are essential for economic activity and connectivity. It is imperative to understand that the security of federal highways is a shared responsibility, and the state government cannot simply relinquish its role in safeguarding these vital infrastructures.

Furthermore, the comparison of the Kaduna security situation to the Israel-Gaza conflict is fundamentally flawed. The dynamics of conflict in Kaduna are rooted in local socio-economic issues, including poverty, unemployment, and land disputes, rather than the ideological and territorial disputes that characterize the Israel-Gaza situation. Such a comparison oversimplifies the complexities of the challenges faced in Kaduna and detracts from the need for tailored solutions that address the specific circumstances of the region. It is crucial to approach the Kaduna security

crisis with an understanding of its unique context, rather than drawing inappropriate parallels that do not contribute to meaningful discourse. Finally, the preference for diplomacy and non-kinetic approaches to conflict resolution cannot be overstated. While military action may seem like a straightforward solution to the problem of banditry, it often leads to unintended consequences, including civilian casualties and further entrenchment of hostilities. A scorched earth military strategy risks alienating local communities and exacerbating the cycle of violence. Instead, a diplomatic approach that emphasizes dialogue, community engagement, and socio-economic development is more likely to yield sustainable peace. The "Kaduna Model" embodies this philosophy by prioritizing non-kinetic strategies that seek to address the root causes of insecurity rather than merely treating its symptoms.

In conclusion, while Dele Sobowale raises important concerns regarding the security situation in Kaduna, his arguments fail to consider the collaborative nature of the "Kaduna Model," the significance of Kaduna getting involved in ensuring security in federal highways, the inappropriateness of comparing Kaduna to the Israel-Gaza conflict, and the necessity of a diplomatic approach to conflict resolution. It is essential to support the ongoing efforts of the Kaduna State government and federal agencies in their quest for peace and security, rather than undermining their initiatives with calls for intervention that do not take into account the complexities of the situation. A united front, grounded in collaboration and understanding, is the key to achieving lasting peace in Kaduna and beyond.

(Abdullahi Ahmed is with the Leadership Newspaper)

Gov Uba Sani is ThisDay “Governor of the Year”

Governor Uba Sani has been nominated as “GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR” by ThisDay Awards due to his significant strides in tackling insecurity in Kaduna State through a multifaceted approach. It could be recalled that the Governor set up Kaduna State Security Trust Fund to support security operations and has also initiated three-pronged approach to address security challenges which are centered around

the following; Enhanced Collaborations, Proactive Governance and Joint Strategy with Northern States.

These efforts by Governor Uba Sani have contributed to a drastic reduction in security incidents in recent months. All these in addition to his numerous strides in other sectors such as Education, Health, Infrastructure, Agriculture, Justice System, Social Interventions amongst others.



Gov Uba Sani

Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVS) empowers personnel for improved service

By Yunusa shehu Ibrahim

In a bold and strategic move to enhance security operations, Zone 1 of the Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVS) has taken a pioneering step by organizing a comprehensive workshop in Zaria aimed at equipping its personnel with modern techniques for improved operational efficiency.

This landmark event is a testament to KADVS's commitment to safeguarding lives and property across Kaduna State through continuous capacity building and professional development.

The State Commander, Rtd Brigadier General Umar Mohamed Ibrahim In his message, to the event appreciated the effort of the Kaduna State Governor and Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs for their tireless effort towards securing the state.

He also lauded the dedication and expertise of the resource persons drawn from diverse professional backgrounds. He urged participants to integrate the new knowledge and skills into their daily responsibilities to strengthen security frameworks across the state.

Bala Galadima, the Zone 1 Coordinator, expressed deep appreciation for the workshop's success. He reaffirmed the zone's unwavering commitment to intensifying efforts to protect lives and property. His pledge to "redouble efforts" highlights the resolve to adapt and evolve in the face of emerging security challenges in the state.

The workshop covered a broad range of security-related topics, providing personnel with well-rounded knowledge and practical skills. The key areas of focus included:

Proper Arrest Procedures and Handling of Suspects: Educating personnel on lawful arrest protocols to prevent misconduct and abuse of power.

Emir of Zazzau flags off house to house... *continued from page 17*

During a similar visit by Dr Bashir Garba Ibrahim and his team to the palace of the SA Gbagyi II of Kaduna State, HRH Ishaku Yari (JP), at Ungwan Boro Kaduna, he informed the traditional ruler of the commencement of the regularization program in his territory and also about other new land reforms initiated by the State Government and solicited for the support of the ruler and all the other traditional rulers and people of his domain.

He stressed that the SA Gbagyi II's domain has earned lots of peoples attraction and also experienced a lot of land disputes because the area is situated in the new Kaduna City.

The DG stated that the Kaduna State government is hoping that in the next ten years, residents of his domain will not need to go to town to meet their needs

because all social amenities such as hospitals, schools, banks, markets, security outfits, recreational facilities and the likes will be situated in the area such that nothing will make the residents leave the environment for any purpose.

He appealed to SA Gbagyi to meet with all traditional heads under his jurisdiction and inform them that of the new innovations introduced intended to eliminate all forms of land disputes in the area for peaceful coexistence, progress and development to the people.

In his response, the SA Gbagyi II, HRH Ishaku Yari (JP) said that he was in full support of all the new strategies devised by the KADGIS team to bring an end to land related problems and land disputes in his chiefdom.

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

continued from the December 2024 edition of the magazine

By Emmanuel Ado

The award no doubt highlights Governor Sani's significant investments, strong commitment and strategic adaptation of the Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) towards transforming the state's healthcare sector, anchored on an effective primary healthcare system. The grand objective is the actualization of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Kaduna State has remained a strong partner of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, Aliko Dangote Foundation, and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency.

Governor Sani whose vision is to build healthy communities, where the poor and vulnerable have access to quality healthcare and health tourism has shown a determination to complete the ultra - modern Specialist Hospital at Millennium City, Kaduna and the remodeling, equipping and upgrading of 13 (thirteen) General Hospitals in the 3 Senatorial Zones of the State. In 2024 the administration had upgraded and furnished 290 Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) with state-of-the-art equipment. And the results of these efforts are showing in the modest drop in the maternal and child mortality figures.

For Governor Sani's efforts in the healthcare sector, he deserves a A+.

The area where Governor Sani deserves an outright A ++ is definitely in the economic sector. For instance Kaduna State is one of the four (4) states that in 2024 attracted foreign investments and that is waging a sustained war against poverty with several social programmes. From May 2023 to date, the state has attracted over \$503 million actualized investments; these include the Sunagrow International Oil Ltd for the construction of \$50 Million Soya Bean Oil Refining Plant, StarAgric West Africa Ltd for the establishment of the Kaduna Agri-Market System Initiative, Qatar Sanabil Kaduna Economic City Project, and Ming Xing Lithium Processing Plant. While arrangements are underway for the commencement of the Special Agricultural Processing Zone (SAPZ), a partnership between the Kaduna State Government and the African development Bank (AfDB).

Governor Sani, genuinely worried by the high level of multidimensional poverty had from his very first day in office as governor declared an unconditional war on poverty and invested in tailored social investments programmes and interventions designed to sustainably improve the poor and vulnerable households' income. The Governor deserves huge commendation for employing social protection programmes and investments as the strategy for waging the unrelenting war against poverty in all its ramifications. The war stems from Governor Sani's appreciation of the negative consequences of ignoring the impact of extreme poverty on the people and stability of the State.

The Kaduna State Government, through the Kaduna State Enterprise Development Agency (KADEDA), in the year under review supported 8,649 nano and micro businesses with grants to expand their businesses while the A Kori Talauchi programme empowered 4,912 underserved women across the state.

Other initiatives by the Governor Sani's administration includes Financial Inclusion to address the exclusion of the poor, underserved and vulnerable from financial services which has denied them access to social intervention programmes of the state and the Federal Government. Findings have shown that there are indeed economic opportunities, but that a sizable portion of Nigeria's population is excluded from the financial system and unless other state governments take decisive actions like Governor Sani they will be unable to access formal financial services like credit, or benefit from the improvement in the payment processes.

In the 21st century not having a bank account can be likened to a financial death sentence of some sorts as the individual cannot participate in the formal financial system, nor benefit from improved access to credit. The end result would be the continued endemic poverty of the poor.

Despite the the economic challenges Governor Sani's administration has given a credible account of itself in the implementation of the 2024 budget in virtually all the sectors including the upgrade in rural infrastructure where 68 road projects, covering a total of 700 kilometers have been completed and has upgraded urban road infrastructure. Same with education. A total of 62 new secondary schools, 39 Junior and 23 Senior Secondary Schools, have been constructed across the 3 Senatorial zones to cater to the growing educational needs of the state. It's also building three Vocational and Technological Skills Acquisition Cities to equip its youths with the requisite skills to enable them take up jobs in industries and other businesses investing in the state.

There is no doubt that the 2025 "Sustaining Rural Transformation and Inclusive Development" budget of N790 billions of which N553 billion (70%) is for Capital Expenditure, and N237 billion (30%) is for Recurrent Expenditure would consolidate on the impressive achievements of the 2024 budget. As expected, Education has the lion share of the budget, with N206.6 billion (26.14%), with Health following closely with N127 billion (16.07%), Infrastructure N106 billion (13.41%), Agriculture N74 billion (9.36%), Security N11.2 billion (1.42%), and Social Welfare N9.8 billion (1.24%).

The capital allocation reflects Governor Sani's continued focus on infrastructure, with particular emphasis on rural roads, healthcare facilities, education infrastructure, and housing projects. Key projects that will make an impact on the economic wellbeing of Kaduna State citizens.

The signing of the budget into law by Governor Sani means that the new financial year for the Kaduna State Government will begin on the first day of January, which has placed the state in a unique position in achieving full alignment of the calendar and fiscal years a feat many state governments are struggling to achieve. **concluded**

Emmanuel Ado is a Public affairs commentator resident in Kaduna

Millennium city residents get Land Ownership Rights on Gov Uba Sani's birthday

Gov Uba Sani marked his 54th Birthday, on 21st December, 2024 by approving the granting of Offer of Statutory Right of Occupancy to those who have purchased un-regularized government land in Millennium City, in Chikun LGA Kaduna. The residents were hitherto, to lose their title in the area. The Governor's kind gesture, was in recognition of the fact that they had

invested and occupied the area for several years and therefore, approved the regularization of their titles.

The presentation of the offers to those affected was done by the Management of KADGIS, led by the Director General, Dr. Bashir Garba Ibrahim who went house to house to present the offer letters to each of the claimants.

The Millennium city residents who were elated with the governor's gesture, commended him for approving their titles and prayed for the success of his administration.

Uba Sani's peace model.....

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Dr Kanyip: Well, I wouldn't want to compare ours with the amnesty In the South-South, Southeast. There are two different indices and the factors are not playing together.

Kaduna is peculiar so we want to approach it from the peculiarities of Kaduna state and to us this process we have adopted is best suited for us. The long-term plan is that, we have tried it and it's certainly working, we are in Giwa and it's working there, Chikun is next it's working so far. So, if it works, the issue of long-term planning is the issue of sustainability. We just sustain it and see how we can institutionalize it and that's all.

TV Host: Okay, so how is this funded, this initiative? How is this funded? Is there any expectations from state government or even international partners to aid in this?

Dr Kanyip: Yes. We have started the process, as you said, the long term implication will involve collaboration with other donor agencies and international organizations. But they have to see the work first and so far so good. The sincerity that the state government has executed the programme with so far shows that it is going to work for us to attract international assistance.

TV Host: Alright, now, before we go what measures are being taken to ensure

that this initiative is not perceived as a sign of weakness or a sign of government's inability to combat insecurity?

Dr Kanyip: I don't think the process through dialogue is a sign of the strength the government has. Dialogue and peace process are two very strong approaches and weapons being used to ensure that the state controls the peace and security of its citizens. You cannot toy with the lives of the people because you want to show strength. What would strength proof at the end if your citizens are still there being killed every day and there is a better way to address this issue. It doesn't make sense to say that you want show might and at the end you leave piles of bodies of your citizens dead. If you have value and you love the lives of the people you govern then the approach that will bring peace, safety and security should be adopted and I think that's what Kaduna State government has done. So I think dialogue is not a sign of weakness on the side of the government, I don't think so. The people are also involved in the peace process. So they have a strong understanding of the process. The process is not isolated, they are part of it and they have accepted it, and that is why we're implementing it.

Benefits and Challenges of financial....

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Training: On a periodic basis, financial operators should be trained to learn new concepts and trends as the financial sector is experiencing reforms on regular interval.

Promote financial literacy: Individuals, groups and cooperative societies should be given rudimentary knowledge of the financial sector in order to enhance their financial literacy. When equipped with requisite knowledge and skills, they can take informed financial decisions.

Support the development of inclusive financial products: Encourage financial institutions to develop innovative products and services that cater to the specific needs of low-income individuals and businesses.

Foster public-private partnerships: Encourage collaboration between government, financial institutions, and other stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise for effective financial inclusion initiatives. Both parties should identify and address specific challenges faced by women, youth, and other marginalized groups in accessing financial services.

By implementing these recommendations, Kaduna State and Nigeria can create a more inclusive and equitable financial system that benefits all citizens.

Dr. Abubakar (FCNA., ICTI., FCISM., FWAIA) is Kaduna State Auditor General.

By **Bulus Godwin**

Kaduna State has taken a significant step towards improving access to climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. This is because the state alongside Adamawa State has partnered with the Accelerated Sanitation and Water for All (ASWA III) Project, a Dutch-funded initiative, to enhance WASH services in the states.

The ASWA III project focuses on three primary areas: Increasing Access, Strengthening Institutions, and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). These areas aim to expand sustainable WASH services, enhance WASH policies and institutions, and promote community-led approaches

Kaduna State boosts access to climate-resilient WASH facilities

to sanitation.

The program's objectives are threefold: Improve Health Outcomes, Reduce Poverty and Inequality, and Promote Economic Growth. By achieving these objectives, the program aims to enhance health, address poverty and inequality, as well as foster economic growth through improved WASH services.

In Kaduna State, the ASWA III project was launched with expected beneficiaries of over 300,000 people the Director General, KADRUWASSA, Engr. Mubarak Shehu Ladan said. The Kaduna State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

Agency (KADRUWASSA) plays a crucial role in the project's implementation by providing technical support, facilitating stakeholder engagement, and ensuring the sustainability of WASH services, in the two local government areas selected for the programme, Lere and Kagarko LGAs.

The project also emphasizes capacity building in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), focusing on reporting WASH and CLTS with reference to key indicators like gender sensitivity, transformative issues, institution and community engagement.

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Only Uba Sani, Sanwo-Olu honoured

“The Northern Elders' Forum make bold to say that the recently proposed Tax Reform Bills by the Federal Government were clearly in the breach, with regards to adhering to the above listed common characteristics of reforms and public policy-making process, all over the world and in conformity with the global best practices,” it added.

Similarly, another opposition came from a notable northern politician, Buba Galadima, who alleged that the tax committee failed to consult with governors, and that the legislative document was only fair to Ogun and Lagos states.

In a counter position, however, Oyedele, while featuring Sunday on Arise TV, insisted that at different times the committee scheduled appointments to meet with the governors at both the individual and group levels, but they didn't honour their invitations.

The tax expert said: “We have more than 20 government institutions represented. We have the private sector, whether it's manufacturers, whether it's women in business. We have 45 students from 22 universities across Nigeria.

“In addition to that, we had extensive engagement with the governors. I went to the governors' forum. We wrote and wanted to meet with six governors, one from each of the six geopolitical zones. Up until this moment, it's only the governor of Lagos state we were able to see.”

“The other governor who was willing to welcome us was the governor of Kaduna state. And after all the logistics, we agreed on the date, on that day he wasn't able to attend. It was the deputy governor that hosted us. I will not name the other governors, but I can actually if I need to. They didn't have time for us.

“The governors' forum themselves invited us four times and canceled four times. The fifth time, we were kept waiting until 1:30 a.m., in the middle of the night. By the time they had time for us, they said we had 15 minutes.

“And I said, Your Excellencies, we have a lot to talk about. They said, tell us how our revenues will go up. Even that, we couldn't say in 15 minutes. We had a half-day engagement with the finance commissioners from across Nigeria. We've had more than four engagements

with the heads of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from all over Nigeria.

“We've had engagements with different groups, more than 40 sectors, from manufacturers to SMEs to FinTech. And these things were published,” he added.

He further said his committee severally met with over 120 northern clerics and regularly engaged with northern groups including the League of Northern Democrats.

“I'll tell you that we had an interesting meeting with the Ulamas. They are the clerics, mostly from the north. There were over 120. We had to explain everything to them. And many of them, when we were done, were praying for the work we had done because there was a lot of misinformation previously.

“We had meetings also with some sections of the north. I was with the League of Northern Democrats. So if they call me today, most times I get less than a 24-hour notice. I have to fly around to go to different places. So we are happy to discuss. We are willing to discuss,” he added.

Only Uba Sani, Sanwo-Olu honoured our invitation

- Presidential Committee on tax reforms

The raging controversy over the Tax Reforms Bills doesn't appear to be abating as the chairman of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms, Taiwo Oyedele, faulted claims in some quarters that the panel was not all-inclusive and didn't consult widely with the governors.

He said despite several overtures made to the governors, only Kaduna state Governor Uba Sani and his Lagos counterpart, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, honoured the committee's appointments.

Prominent northern groups and major stakeholders including the Northern Governors Forum (NGF), as well as the Northern Elders Forum (NEF), among others, have consistently expressed their opposition to the bills.

Before the National Assembly for legislative works are the Nigeria Tax Bill

2024, the Tax Administration Bill, the Nigeria Revenue Service Establishment Bill, and the Joint Revenue Board Establishment Bill, all forwarded by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

For instance, the NEF, through its management board chairman, Al-Amin Daggash, had said: "...Nigerians in general and Northerners in particular, are not really against the introduction of any form of good and meaningful reforms by those in positions of authority, at the federal, state or local government levels.

"Even though, we shall remain very implacable in reaffirming that, our practical experiences teach us, that, going by global best practices, successful reforms are known to be underpinned by strict adherence to certain common cardinal characteristics of the public policy-making process.

"For convenience of exposition, these similarities include, but, not limited to the under listed basic essentials: Extensive pre-reforms early engagements with experts and critical stakeholders, in order to secure their buy-in.

"Establishing a very well-defined media/communication strategy, that clearly articulates the full import of the reforms and disseminates public awareness and mass enlightenment on a nationwide scale.

"Designing a robust, transparent and inclusive implementation mechanism. Pro-actively putting in place a well-sequenced process, in order to ensure that the meticulously planned reforms, really meet the society's desired and anticipated outcomes."

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Scholarship: Uba Sani expands access to all

Governor Uba Sani has refocused the Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board to reflect his administration's policy of inclusion without sacrificing merit.

The Executive Secretary of the Board, Professor Yahya Sale Ibrahim, who disclosed this at a media briefing, said that the Governor's new template has started bearing fruits.

Professor Ibrahim said that students from humble backgrounds and those from rural local governments and remote rural communities are now benefitting from foreign scholarships, which has expanded and enriched the Kaduna State Scholarship award system. The Executive Secretary noted that "in the past, beneficiaries of foreign scholarships were mostly from urban local governments like Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Igabi, Zaria, Sabon Gari, Jema'a and Zangon Kataf local governments.

"But the all-inclusive government of Sen

Mal Uba Sani changed the narratives within the shortest time," he disclosed.

According to the Executive Secretary, prior to the coming of Governor Uba Sani, the beneficiaries, "were mostly from middle and upper middle-class families who attended elite secondary schools and whose parents can sponsor their wards to any University abroad."

Professor Ibrahim pointed out that the Uba Sani administration has made deliberate efforts to include students from "remote local governments and those from humble backgrounds, to benefit from the scholarship scheme without lowering standards."

The Executive Secretary argued that the last set of beneficiaries who graduated as medical doctors showed that the lower segment of Kaduna State was carried along in the selection process."

"For example, there was a female beneficiary who lived in Television village Kaduna, whose father is deceased

amongst the new medical doctors.

"There's another one from Jaba local government whose father is a retired civil servant.

"From Ikara local government, there's also someone who benefited from the foreign scholarship. His father is also a retired civil servant, and today, he is a medical doctor," the Executive Secretary explained.

Professor Ibrahim thanked Governor Uba Sani for giving the young medical doctors employments, in order to boost the stock of personnel in public hospitals.

"The impact of His Excellency's decision to employ these young and talented medical doctors in terms of reduction in waiting time to see doctors will improve the health sector," he added.

"The gesture will also serve as impetus for students on scholarship to put in their best, knowing that their hardwork will be rewarded," he added.

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