

Uba Sani revolutionizes public transportation

launches bus transit project, City train coming

Governor Uba Sani has taken a giant step towards actualizing his administration's modernisation of all sectors of public transportation with the official launch of the Kaduna Bus Rapid Transit (KBRT) System (a 24km corridor from Kawo to Sabon Tasha) and groundbreaking for the construction of the Southern Terminal, an ultra - modern central motor park that will serve as a vital hub for the transportation network on the southern axis of the state.

Governor Uba Sani said at the event that the KBRT, which is the first of its kind in Northern Nigeria and second in Nigeria, marked a significant milestone in his administration's commitment to enhancing public transportation.

"Today, we took a major step towards revolutionizing the transportation system in Kaduna State as I have performed the official launch of the Kaduna Bus Rapid Transit (KBRT) System (a 24km corridor from Kawo to Sabon Tasha) and groundbreaking for the construction of the Southern Terminal," he said.

"The KBRT, marks a significant milestone in our commitment to enhancing public transportation, fostering sustainable urban development, and improving the quality of life of our citizens. The Southern Terminal will provide a modern, organized, and safe environment for travelers and commercial activities. By consolidating the various motor parks into the centralized location, we aim to streamline operations, reduce congestion, improve accessibility, enhance safety and security for everyone," Governor Uba Sani enthused as he performed the launch of the states major transportation project.

"The KBRT and Southern Terminal are the latest initiatives geared towards realizing our administration's vision for a more connected and efficient transportation system in Kaduna State. Because of the strategic position of Kaduna as a transportation and business hub, I have been in consultation with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors to garner their support and commitments towards the smooth implementation of our masterplan on transportation in Kaduna State," the Gov further said.

(Photo Caption: Gov Uba Sani flanked on his left by the French Ambassador H.E Marc Fonbaustier and Dep Gov Dr Hadiza Balarabe while launching the KBRT Park)

Upgrading Kaduna's transportation system

By Shuaibu Gimi

The recent launch of the Kaduna Bus Rapid Transit (KBRT) and the groundbreaking for the construction of an Ultra-modern Central Motor park at Sabon Tasha by Governor Uba Sani are a perfect equivalent of a long-awaited revolution in the transportation sector which has already brought a huge relief to the teeming commuters in Kaduna State. The twin projects hold a big promise for not only the residents of Kaduna metropolis or even the entire people of the state but also all those whose engagements with Kaduna are a matter of survival and development.

By its history, location and size Kaduna deserves much more than it has ever got in terms of transportation system; a particular fact that makes the design and execution of the projects for upgrading the system a fundamental step towards the effective transformation of the state. Both the KBRT and the Ultra-modern Motor Park are initiatives that are desperately required to make Kaduna the kind of model that it should have long been.

A 24 kilometre dedicated transport corridor that runs from Kawo Bridge to Sabon-Tasha and along which there will be well-structured bus stations and shelters for passengers is an infrastructure that will definitely accelerate urban development and ensure people's welfare in the same way the Ultra-modern Motor Park will strengthen the transportation network that facilitates vehicular movements between the southern axis of the metropolis and other parts of the country.

The utmost priority attached to the two projects are a practical demonstration of a commitment to satisfy the yearnings of the people of Kaduna State and even beyond.

KBRT in particular is the first of its kind in the North and the second in the country, which indicates the solid resolve of Governor Sani to fully restore the glory of Kaduna State. As a transportation system that guarantees efficient services in terms of delivery of persons and goods, stronger safety mechanism and protection of the environment, the KBRT is the way to go for any community or society that strives to reach an appreciable level of development.

It is, as the governor explained in a statement, for the purpose of "realising our administration's vision for a more connected and efficient transportation system" that the two projects, for which adequate budgetary provision has been made, were conceived. The confirmation by the Minister of Transportation, Alhaji Said Ahmed Alkali, during the launch event that the two projects are quite in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the current administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was a real morale booster for Governor Uba Sani and, by extension, the people of Kaduna State.

LG Chairmen debunk el-Rufai's allegations against Uba Sani

- Legislature considers legal option

The Kaduna State Chapter of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) has said that the allegations levelled by ex-Governor Nasir el-Rufai regarding the siphoning of funds are false, patently absurd and ill-intentioned.

ALGON further said that "the allegations are meant to mislead the public, create disaffection, and ridicule the all-inclusive, pro-poor and people-oriented administration in Kaduna State."

It will be recalled that the former Governor had accused Governor Uba Sani of diverting local government funds to purchase property in Seychelles, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, the spokesperson of ALGON, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Shehu said that "the Governor Uba Administration stands for the rule of law and due process.

"Transparency and accountability are its watchwords. It supports and respects the financial autonomy of Local Governments. It has never tampered with the funds of local governments," he said.

The spokesman further added that on the contrary, the Uba Sani administration "has been taking measures and executing programmes and projects to complement the efforts of local governments."

Alhaji Muhammad recalled that "some of us served as Local Government Chairmen when Mal. Nasir el-Rufai was in office as Governor. We can testify to the fact that what we have been receiving as monthly allocation since Senator Uba Sani became Governor is more than double the amount we received during Mal el-Rufai's administration.

"Apart from enhanced monthly allocations, we have been operating in an atmosphere devoid of harassment and intimidation, unlike Mal el-Rufai's era that was marked by highhandedness and coercion," he added.

The spokesman further recalled "that during his turbulent and divisive administration, Malam Nasir el-Rufai introduced and recklessly implemented 'Riot Damaged Deductions' targeted at local governments in Southern Kaduna.

"It was a policy of 'collective punishment' for Southern Kaduna people for not supporting his administration. This ill-advised action created disharmony and deepened inter-ethnic tensions in the state. Thankfully, this divisive policy has been reversed by the Senator Uba Sani Administration," he added.

(continuation on back page)

Uba Sani's KASUPDA: The rocket fuel for small businesses

By Comrade Nasir Chikaji

In a visionary step to reshape Kaduna's urban landscape while empowering small businesses, the Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA) has introduced modern container shops for informal traders. This initiative aligns with Governor Uba Sani's commitment to fostering economic growth, ensuring orderliness, and enhancing the state's aesthetic appeal.

The move, facilitated through a partnership with Shelter Method Limited and Icart African, provides traders with well-structured and standardized containers, replacing the clutter of makeshift kiosks that often contribute to congestion and environmental hazards.

KASUPDA's Director-General, Abdurrahman Yahya, emphasized that this is a crucial part of urban renewal efforts to create a more structured and business-friendly environment.

A Game-Changer for Small Businesses

Informal trading is the lifeblood of many Kaduna residents, particularly those who operate along busy roads and city centers. However, the lack of designated spaces has led to disorganized business setups, safety concerns, and conflicts with urban planning regulations. By introducing these modern containers, the government is offering a practical solution—one that balances regulation with economic empowerment.

Governor Uba Sani's leadership has been defined by strategic policies aimed at uplifting small-scale enterprises. From expanding access to business-friendly spaces to launching pro-SME initiatives, his administration recognizes that a thriving informal sector translates into job creation, reduced poverty, and sustained economic growth. This latest effort further reinforces his drive to provide a structured framework for small businesses to flourish.

Beyond Urban Aesthetics—An Economic Masterstroke

While the initiative undoubtedly enhances the visual appeal of Kaduna's commercial hubs, its true impact lies in economic stimulation. By offering approved, safe, and standardized trading spaces, the government is fostering a conducive environment for small-scale traders to operate efficiently without fear of eviction or harassment.

Moreover, this development aligns with broader national economic policies that encourage micro-business formalization. It positions Kaduna as a model for other states seeking to regulate informal businesses without stifling entrepreneurship.

An Inclusive Approach to Urban Planning

Unlike previous crackdowns on informal businesses that left traders displaced, the introduction of modern container shops presents a more inclusive alternative. KASUPDA has invited affected traders to apply for these new spaces, ensuring a smooth transition into a well-organized trading framework.

This consultative approach demonstrates a commitment to governance that prioritizes both order and opportunity.

Governor Uba Sani's administration is proving that economic development and urban planning can coexist without sacrificing one for the other. By supercharging small businesses through structured policies, Kaduna is on the path to becoming a hub of innovation, commerce, and inclusive prosperity.

With this initiative, Kaduna is not just regulating informal trading—it is setting a new standard for how governments can integrate economic empowerment into urban development strategies.

KASUPDA receives NESREA Coordinator, harps on inter-agency synergy

By Nuhu Garba Dan'ayamka

Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA) has received the new Kaduna State Coordinator of National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Mr. Hena Emmanuel Dangari to the state with the assurance that inter-agency cooperation will be strengthened.

The Director General of the Authority, Bldr. Abdurrahman Yahya, Ph.D while receiving the visitors explained that having synergy and collaboration among the various Government Agencies that inter-relate were ways forward in achieving the government set-goals.

He up-held that no government agency can work alone without collaborating with other sister agencies that share a common objective.

The DG pledged commitment and continued support on any work, ideas and initiatives of the relevant agencies of Government in moving Kaduna state forward and assured that his door remains open for making progress.

The State Coordinator, Mr. Hena Emmanuel Dangari as leader of the team on behalf of the DG/CEO of NESREA, Dr. Innocent Barikor congratulated Bldr. Abdurrahman Yahya, General of KASUPDA for his well-deserved appointment as the Director.

Similarly, he commended the Authority for the great work and stamina to the urban planning and development in the State.

The State Coordinator further explained that the primary mandate of NESREA is to ensure the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

He therefore emphasised that environmental protection is a collective responsibility, stressing that by working together will assist in promoting sustainable development and protect the environment in Kaduna State.

Strategising for educational development:

Measuring progress, planning the future

(A news analysis)

By Rose Ndandok

The Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria has supported the Kaduna State Ministry of Education in a 2-Day workshop to review the Kaduna State 10-Year Education Strategic Plan (ESP) to evaluate the level of implementation of the plan, in an education sector analysis.

The meeting's objectives were to help Kaduna state establish the current status of the education system at both basic and higher levels, strengthen government systems to develop evidence-driven policies and plans as well as to provide capacity enhancement to stakeholders; including community, private and public systems through a co-creation approach.

Necessitated due to changing contexts and emerging trends in the education sector, the need to assess progress and performance, importance of aligning with national and global goals, addressing emerging challenges, strengthening stakeholder engagement as well as several other factors, the review couldn't have come at a better time.

In an opening remark at the meeting, the Director, Education Planning and Physical Development of the Kaduna State Ministry of Education, Salisu Lawal Baba, reiterated the Ministry's readiness to collaborate with stakeholders in the sector to ensure access to quality education in the state. He said that it is important for stakeholders to know that everyone must work together to achieve better results in the sector, as education is key to development.

Baba further explained that the review meeting will serve as a starting point towards developing the next Education Strategic Plan for the state. He thanked PLANE for the continuous support given to the education sector especially its efforts at improving education indices at the basic level.

He further thanked other participants of the training for honouring the invitation to be part of the review meeting and wished participants a fruitful deliberation.

In his remark during the workshop, PLANE Consultant, Dr. Sulleiman Adediran, reiterated the importance of strategic planning especially in the education sector, stressing that lack of planning leads to failure. He further explained that in planning, data is key, because planning without it is futile. He praised Kaduna State Government for insisting on evidence to plan, commended the efforts of the Kaduna State Bureau of Statistics for providing the required data to work with as

well as the unwavering support the state government continues to give to the Bureau to work efficiently and effectively.

Dr. Adeniran further said that he was looking forward to a very robust plan for the state because of the availability of data, as very few states in the country have the kind of data Kaduna has. In his words, “What the document reads is 2019–2029, thus showing we are midway. The meeting is to help us assess how far the plan has succeeded, and what better way than to assemble stakeholders in the sector to assess how far.” He added that the education sector analysis being done is the first step towards doing another strategic plan for the education sector in the Kaduna state.

Also, a Technical Working Group (TWG) has been drafted to drive the process, with the Ministry of Education spearheading its activities. The review is thus in one way, a capacity development program for Kaduna state education stakeholders, which has been made up of both government and non-government actors.

On his part, the Member representing Zaria City Constituency in the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Deputy Chief Whip and Chairman Committee on Education, Barr. Mahmud Lawal Ismail, who was also a participant at the workshop, said he was impressed with the sessions of the workshop, especially for its engaging approach.

He said most of the challenges being experienced in the education sector in Kaduna state have been brought to the fore, ranging from poverty, to insecurity, marginalization and several others, while solutions to such problems have also been proffered. He said he was optimistic that at the end of the program, the state government will invest towards the actualization of the goals and objectives of the workshop.

American firms interested in Kaduna investment – Envoy

Kaduna State is set to attract major investments from top American businesses following assurances by the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, H.E. Richard M. Mills Jr., that investors were eager to take advantage of the state's thriving economic environment.

Ambassador Mills made the disclosure during a courtesy visit to Governor Uba Sani at the Council Chamber of the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna, where discussions centered on strengthening partnerships between the U.S. Government and Kaduna State. The talks focused on capacity building, intelligence sharing, and investment in key sectors such as health, mining, education, and agriculture.

Commending Governor Sani's administration for its inclusive and innovative peace-building strategies, unwavering political will.

The U.S. diplomat's revelation that top American businesses were eager to invest in Kaduna underscores the growing confidence in the state's economic direction.

In his response, Governor Uba Sani reaffirmed his administration's commitment to deepening ties with the U.S. Government, ensuring a business-friendly environment for both existing and potential investors, and developing innovative programs and projects to enhance the living conditions of Kaduna residents.

With this endorsement from the U.S. Ambassador, Kaduna State is poised for significant economic growth, further cementing its reputation as an emerging investment hub in Nigeria.

KADIRS, Freight Haulers strike deal on taxation, regulatory compliance

By Nasir Dambatta

In a strategic move to enhance revenue generation and streamline freight operations in Kaduna State, the Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) has sealed a crucial partnership with the National Freight Haulers Association (NFHA). The agreement, reached during a high-level meeting on March 13, 2025, underscores a shared commitment to improving tax compliance, tackling regulatory loopholes, and optimizing the state's revenue system.

Tackling revenue leakages in freight operations

For years, Kaduna has faced significant tax leakages in the freight sector, with many vehicles operating with fake license plates and expired particulars. KADIRS, under the leadership of Comrade Jerry Adams, is now addressing these challenges head-on by working directly with NFHA to implement a unified interstate road tax policy. This initiative is expected to eliminate tax evasion, enhance transparency, and create a more predictable business environment for transporters.

A data-driven approach to regulatory compliance

During the meeting, Engr. Ado Ahmed, the Northwest Coordinator of NFHA, presented a proposal outlining strategies for improving tax collection and ensuring stricter compliance. KADIRS welcomed the initiative, emphasizing the need for a data-driven enforcement mechanism that will seamlessly integrate vehicle registration, taxation, and regulatory oversight to identify and penalize non-compliant operators.

Balancing revenue growth with business efficiency

Rather than a punitive approach, the agreement aims to strike a balance between tax enforcement and operational efficiency.

The plan includes:

- Simplifying the tax collection process to encourage voluntary compliance.
- Ensuring fair taxation that supports freight operators while maximizing revenue.
- Strengthening enforcement against fraudulent vehicle registration practices.

With these measures, Kaduna's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) is expected to witness a significant boost, while freight businesses will benefit from a more structured and predictable tax system.

A model for sustainable freight taxation

By adopting industry-led solutions, Kaduna is setting an example for other states in leveraging strategic partnerships for better tax administration. The next step will be a formal review and phased implementation of NFHA's recommendations, ensuring that policies align with both government revenue targets and industry realities.

Commitment to continued collaboration

The discussions ended on a highly positive note, with both parties expressing satisfaction and reaffirming their commitment to a lasting partnership. This alliance is poised to enhance tax compliance, strengthen freight operations, and establish Kaduna as a model for effective revenue administration in the transport sector.

By prioritizing collaborative tax solutions, KADIRS is demonstrating leadership in fiscal reform—a move that will not only strengthen Kaduna's economy but also attract further investment into its transport and logistics sector.

How Uba Sani's role in economic inclusion team will transform the North

By Ibrahim Sheikh Adam

Governor Uba Sani's inclusion in the Presidential Committee on Economic and Financial Inclusion is a game-changer for Northern Nigeria. Representing the region in a high-powered team led by Vice President Kashim Shettima—alongside the CBN Governor, Finance Minister, and Minister of Digital Economy—his presence signals a new era of economic empowerment.

With millions of Northerners still financially excluded, Sani's role is more than symbolic—it's strategic. His track record in pro-people governance, financial empowerment, and economic reforms positions him as a critical voice in shaping policies that will unlock opportunities for the North.

Here's how his presence on the team will drive transformation:

1. Expanding Banking Access in Rural North

The North has one of the highest financial exclusion rates, with millions cut off from banking services. Uba Sani's influence ensures targeted policies that will bring banking closer to the grassroots. His digital economy initiatives in Kaduna already lay a foundation for bridging this gap.

2. **Unlocking Credit for Small Businesses**

SMEs, particularly in agriculture and trade, struggle to access affordable credit. The committee's mandate includes innovative financing solutions. With Sani's experience in economic empowerment, expect new credit schemes tailored to Northern entrepreneurs.

3. **Fast-Tracking Digital and Mobile Finance**

Fintech and mobile banking are driving financial revolutions, yet the North remains behind. Sani's role will accelerate mobile banking expansion, digital wallets, and financial literacy programs, ensuring the North isn't left in the past.

4. **Drawing Investment into Kaduna and the North**

Investors follow policy shifts. With Sani in a national economic decision-making position, Kaduna and other Northern states will become prime investment hubs for fintech, agriculture, and infrastructure, driving GDP growth and job creation.

5. **Strengthening Financial Safety Nets for the Poor**

Sani is a known advocate for pro-poor policies. His position on the board allows him to push for:

- Direct cash transfers for vulnerable Northern citizens
- Microfinance initiatives for rural businesses
- Inclusion of women and youth in financial programs

6. **Elevating the North in National Economic Planning**

For years, the North has lagged in financial inclusion, stalling growth. Sani's voice ensures the region gets its fair share in national policy decisions, leading to more rural banking, digital finance hubs, and SME-friendly policies.

7. **Aligning Kaduna's Economic Strategy with National Plans**

Sani has laid out a clear economic vision for Kaduna. Now, with a seat at the national table, he can seamlessly align Kaduna's economic strategies with federal policies, securing funding and reforms that will uplift the entire North.

A Defining Moment for Northern Prosperity

Uba Sani's presence on this committee isn't just about inclusion—it's about transformation. With his leadership, Kaduna and the North will see unprecedented financial empowerment, economic expansion, and policy-driven growth.

The North is rising—and Governor Uba Sani is leading the charge.

Sheikh Adam contributed the piece from Kaduna.

KSSQAA hosts FEQAS for strategic collaboration

The Kaduna State Schools Quality Assurance Authority (KSSQAA) recently welcomed a high-profile delegation from the Federal Education Quality Assurance Service (FEQAS) as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen education quality assurance in Nigeria.

The FEQAS team, led by Mr. Idowu Samson Ayodele (Director), included Mrs. Ayishat Sulaiman, Mrs. Olubaji Olubunmi Yetunde, and Mr. Aladetoyinbo Oluropo Bucknor, all Deputy Directors. They were received by Professor Usman Abubakar Zaria, Director-General of KSSQAA, alongside top management staff of the authority.

During the engagement, Professor Abubakar Zaria delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting KSSQAA's strides in system strengthening, school evaluation, policy enforcement, and digitization. His address covered the agency's pivotal role in accrediting and monitoring over 2,000 examination centers, conducting high-stakes examinations, enforcing compliance in private schools, and developing a Whole School Evaluation (WSE) tool to rank schools based on measurable quality indices.

Professor Abubakar Zaria also expressed deep appreciation to Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Dr. Uba Sani, for his unwavering commitment to education reforms, particularly his visionary leadership in prioritizing...

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5 key takeaways from Uba Sani's iftar dinner with Kaduna APC

By Nasir Dambatta

Here are five key take-aways from the Iftar dinner hosted by Governor Uba Sani for Kaduna APC executives:

Party unity and reaffirmation of APC ideals

The gathering served as a platform to strengthen the APC's internal cohesion. By rededicating themselves to the party's ideals, Governor Sani and the executives reinforced their collective commitment to the APC's mission in Kaduna State.

Acknowledgement of government achievements

Governor Sani highlighted his administration's successes in various sectors, positioning them as a driving force behind the growing number of decampees from other political parties. This affirms that the APC's governance in Kaduna is delivering tangible results.

Rising political dominance of the APC

The recent influx of defectors into the APC signals increasing public confidence in the party's leadership. The iftar gathering not only celebrated this trend but also served as a strategic moment to consolidate the party's growing influence.

Emphasis on stakeholder engagement

The governor reiterated the importance of continuous dialogue with key stakeholders, recognizing their critical role in promoting development, peace, and stability across Kaduna communities. This signals a governance style rooted in consultation and inclusion.

Strengthening political strategy for future elections

By hosting APC executives at the state and local levels, Governor Sani demonstrated the need for a coordinated political structure ahead of future elections. The engagement is likely to energize grassroots mobilization and reinforce the APC's stronghold in Kaduna.

"Politicise insecurity and face the wrath of the law"

Governor Uba Sani has warned politicians who were in the habit of making political capital out of security matters in name of opposition to desist from doing so or face the consequences. He said their antics are jeopardizing the lives of innocent people which should not be allowed to continue.

Governor Uba Sani vowed to deal with this category of politicians who derive joy in the escalation of insecurity in order to further their political nests.

The Governor stated this at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, when he received 58 kidnapped victims from the state who were released by security forces and handed over to the National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu.

"The merchants of insecurity will not be happy with the release of these innocent souls because they are benefiting from insecurity."

"As an elected Governor, I swore to protect the lives and property of the people of Kaduna State and we have been doing our best to fulfil this obligation," he stressed, adding:

"Through our Kaduna Peace Model, which emphasises the use of non-kinetic approach, Birnin Gwari which used to be a no-go area for most people has become peaceful."

He recalled that:

"Bandits had laid down their arms and markets that have been closed down for over 10 years have now been reopened and business activities have started booming in Birnin Gwari and parts of Giwa local government ravaged by insecurity."

Governor Uba Sani assured the people of Kauru, Kajuru, and parts of Kachia who are experiencing pockets of bandit attacks, that they will soon be "sleeping with their two eyes closed because security forces are on top of the situation."

The Governor opined that:

"The success that the non-kinetic approach has yielded is a source of anger to most people who don't have the welfare or wellbeing of our people at heart. They only go on social media to express their anger."

He said that he did not mind if political opponents insult him on social media but promised to "deal with those whose past time is to spread lies and politicise insecurity in Kaduna State."

"Politicising insecurity is not opposition and those elites who are doing so on social media don't really care about the masses. They are just posting messages to further their political interests," he added.

The Governor recalled that the 59 released kidnapped victims were given psycho-social therapy and treatment by the Kaduna State Government for 11 days, adding that one of them is still undergoing treatment.

Governor Uba Sani said that the state government will support the victims to get back on their feet, through grants to aid their businesses and farming activities.

Speaking earlier, Pastor Danlami Mutane, who commended the government for taking good care of them, further thanked the National Security Adviser for facilitating their release.

In essence, the Iftar dinner was more than a ceremonial event—it was a well-calculated political and governance strategy aimed at consolidating power, enhancing party unity, and reaffirming the APC's dominance in Kaduna State.

KDSG denies recruiting 7,900 teachers

The Kaduna State Government has denied reports that the present administration of Governor Uba Sani has recruited 7,900 teachers to boost the education sector.

In a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the state governor, Ibraheem Musa, the government explained that the Commissioner of Education, Professor Muhammad Sani Bello, was misquoted.

He said:

"The Commissioner addressed the media at the maiden edition of our Quarterly Ministerial Press Briefing, but at no time did he make that statement."

While acknowledging that reports on the recruited teachers might have been a slip of the pen, the governor's spokesperson charged journalists on accuracy.

Recall that the Commissioner of Education, Professor Muhammad Sani Bello, had during a quarterly ministerial press briefing organized by the office of the Principal Private Secretary for ministries and agencies at Sir Kashim Ibrahim Government, Kaduna, maintained that all programmes and policies of the present administration were carried out in line with the governor's campaign promises.

According to him, the administration has constructed more schools and additional classrooms, as well as improving the quality of learning in the state.

"At the basic education level under SUBEB, more than 600 classrooms have been constructed since the beginning of this administration and quite a number are being renovated and the era of having students studying in an environment that is not conducive for learning has been averted," he said.

The commissioner further praised Governor Uba Sani's commitment to education, which according to him, was evident in the governor's first Executive Order reducing tuition fees in all state-owned tertiary institutions.

Kaduna workers benefit from Tricycle, Electric Motorcycle Loans

By Peter Ibrahim

The Kaduna State Government has launched an innovative transportation loan scheme, providing state workers with access to tricycles and electronic motorcycles.

The program was officially inaugurated at Murtala Square by Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, who represented Governor Uba Sani at the ceremony.

The initiative enables state employees to acquire these vehicles through subsidized loans that will be repaid via convenient salary deductions.

This arrangement is designed to make repayment manageable for workers while improving their mobility and quality of life.

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Gov Uba Sani orders immediate payment of Malam Mohammed Bature Jibrin's Entitlements

Governor Uba Sani has directed the immediate payment of entitlements owed to Malam Mohammed Bature Jibrin, whose photos, which went viral on social media, highlighted claims that the Kaduna State Government dismissed him in 2020 without settling his entitlements, which reportedly contributed to his mental health issues.

As a gesture of compassion, the Governor has instructed that Jibrin's entitlements be paid before the end of the week.

Additionally, he has summoned an emergency meeting with the Kaduna State Pension Bureau to address other similar cases, particularly those who were dismissed or retired without receiving their owed entitlements.

Quarterly ministerial press briefing

"Uba Sani's education policies have yielded positive outcomes"

Governor Uba Sani has enacted policies and programmes that are expanding access to education and providing conducive learning atmosphere, resulting in positive outcomes in the education sector.

The Commissioner of Education, Professor Muhammad Sani Bello, who stated this at the quarterly ministerial press briefing which held at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, said the Governor's policies are in line with his campaign promises.

Prof. Bello pointed out that the administration has constructed more schools and additional classrooms, as well as improved the quality of both learners and teachers since he assumed office.

"At the basic education level under SUBEB, more than 600 classrooms have been constructed since the beginning of this administration and quite a number are being renovated and the era of having students studying in an environment that is not conducive for learning has been averted," he said.

According to him, 62 new secondary schools have been built under the AGILE project, promising that 50 new ones will be constructed before the second anniversary of this administration.

Professor Bello further disclosed that the six science secondary schools that are funded by the Islamic Development Bank are now up and running.

"That project started 16 years ago, but it was stalled and abandoned, it is this administration that completed the schools and more than 2,000 students have been enrolled in those schools which are pure science schools," he recalled.

He argued that the policies of the present administration have manifested in good learning outcomes as can be attested by the results of national examinations conducted by WAEC, NECO, and NABTEB.

Professor Bello disclosed that the percentage of students who passed with five credits in those examinations before the coming of this administration was 54%, adding that the percentage is now 67%.

The Commissioner further recalled that Governor Uba Sani's commitment to education was evident in his first Executive Order, which reduced tuition fees in all state-owned tertiary institutions by 40%.

According to him, the reduction in school fees increased student's enrollment at Kaduna State University (KASU), Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, and the College of Education Gidan Waya.

"Before the arrival of this administration, many students have had to leave tertiary institutions in Kaduna State for tertiary institutions in neighboring states. Some completely left school all because of the fee regime that was imposed by the last administration," he added.

Prof Bello also disclosed that Kaduna State-owned tertiary institutions have introduced new courses that have passed through the Resource verification of regulatory agencies.

According to him, KASU courses were verified by the National Universities Commission (NUC), while those of Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic were accredited by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), adding that the National Commission of Colleges of Education accredited the courses of the College of Education Gidan Waya.

The Commissioner also revealed that the Uba Sani administration is committed to reducing the number of out-of-school children by building more schools to expand access.

According to him, the Kaduna State initiative is the first of its kind and it is being supported by five Development Partners, including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Education Above All (EAA), Save the Children International (SCI), and UNICEF.

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Quarterly ministerial press briefing

Uba Sani initiates 78 roads, commissions 21

Governor Uba Sani inherited liabilities of unpaid contractors, over invoicing and lack of documentation in roads construction, as well as low capacity utilisation in the water sector, Commissioner of Public Works and Infrastructure, Arc Ibrahim Hamza, disclosed this at the Quarterly Ministerial Press Briefing at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House. He said however that the Governor has overcome most of the challenges.

Arc Hamza pointed out that the present administration thought out-of-the-box and came up with workable solutions that enabled the continuation of inherited projects and the initiation of new ones.

"Since the coming of this administration in the last 22 months, the government of Senator Uba Sani has done remarkably well. We have tried, notwithstanding the bedevilling challenges and obstacles that we encountered in the Ministry itself and all the parastatals."

"We have largely overcome almost all the challenges that we met. These challenges are not limited to liabilities inherited, vandalization, lack of proper documentation. Contracts were awarded without documentation. Some were over-inflated and there were no records," he said.

"So, we had to just sit down, thought out-of-the-box, and to see how we can remedy all these things. So, we can batlin between the challenge of remedying the wrongs that were created in the past and making progress. But thank God, everything is going well," he said.

The Commissioner however said that the Governor Uba Sani administration has awarded 78 road projects, totaling 775 kilometers, in the last 21 months in spite of the challenges.

According to him, 21 of these roads "have already been completed and have been put into use, thereby creating more economic activities across the 23 local governments."

"Last week, we also launched the completion of the Kaduna Bridge from Kabala Costain to Aliyu Makama Road, which will decongest traffic on the major road artery of Ahmadu Bello Way–Junction Road," he added.

Arc Hamza lamented that there were a lot of challenges beneath the Urban Renewal Programme of the previous administration because of the liabilities that his Ministry inherited.

The Commissioner argued that some contractors received payments that are enough "to finish the project but they have not finished the project and they were bringing claims that are outrageous."

According to him, some of the claims can finance the construction of new roads projects, after the contractors have been paid previously for the amount of work done.

"So, we had to sit down and see how we can go through these challenges and make sure that we settle in peace so that we can make progress. This is part of the reason why we didn't jump directly to continue such projects," he added.

The Commissioner disclosed that the Governor Uba Sani administration met capacity utilisation of the water supply scheme at less than 5% but has now risen to 30% and by the end of the year, it will reach 100%.

He recalled that a lot has been done or invested in the water sector by the previous administration "but unfortunately, the result is not commensurate with what has been invested."

"Some money was also borrowed from Islamic Development Bank to the tune of about \$81 million. Another loan was collected again to the tune of \$101 million for distribution from African Development Bank. There was also another reform by the federal government in the tune of \$17.2 billion," he disclosed.

According to him, Governor Uba Sani declared a state of emergency in the water sector because of the challenges bedevilling it and "that effort has tremendously improved water supply in Kaduna State."

KDSG strengthens capacity of WASH officers on data management

By Bulus Godwin

Kaduna State is taking significant steps to improve its water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Towards this end, the Kaduna State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) has trained WASH Coordinators and Monitoring and Evaluation Officers on data management and reporting using the WASH Map application.

The training is crucial in enhancing their capacity to establish a more efficient and robust data gathering and management system¹.

Director General of RUWASA, Engr. Mubarak Shehu Ladan, emphasized the importance of data-driven decision-making, stating that accurate data is essential for securing support from development partners like UNICEF and the World Bank.

He urged Local Government Chairmen to take responsibility for financing WASH department operations to meet targets and achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6.1 and 6.2 by 2030.

The training was well-received by participants, with the Chairman of WASH Coordinators in Kaduna, Shehu Aliyu Lere, expressing gratitude to the organizers and the Kaduna State Government for providing them with the opportunity to improve their skills and enhance their work.

Gov Uba Sani ensures access to scholarship, removes tax clearance as condition

Governor Uba Sani has introduced policies at the Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board, that have enabled students from humble backgrounds to obtain sponsorship with ease, Executive Secretary of the Board, Professor Yahya Ibrahim, has said.

He told newsmen in Kaduna that the Governor has ordered the removal of tax clearance as a requirement for accessing scholarship.

He said that though essays writing were still a requirement to access scholarship, it is however done to determine areas of students' weakness that require support.

Prof Ibrahim disclosed that Governor Sani has created seven Scholarship Awards Zonal Units to make it easier for students in rural areas to be screened; explaining that these zonal units have eased the burden of coming to the Board's headquarters in Kaduna and the associated congestion.

He added that 30 computers were also provided to the various units in Zaria, Kafanchan, Kachia, Pambegua, Makarfi, Kaduna-North and Kaduna South zones to simplify the applications process.

He further said that the Board now conducts on-the-spot scholarship enrolments for indigenous citizens across tertiary institutions, which effort has enlisted over 4,330 potential beneficiaries awaiting disbursement.

Prof Ibrahim also disclosed that a total of 3,397 students have been awarded local scholarships from May 2023 to date. Thirty students have benefitted from the third-party Tertiary Education Loans.

"The Board has also secured 50 scholarships for Secondary School students, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, for indigent students from the Indomie Noodles DOFILL Company Kaduna."

"The inclusion of government special scholarship intervention programs for innovation, aviation, meritorious, underprivileged, and People with Special needs (PLWD) students, is the state in the heart of His Excellency's agenda," Professor Ibrahim further said.

The Executive Secretary maintained that Governor Uba Sani has given employment to the six medical students that recently graduated from Cuba and 14 of their counterparts who passed out from Uganda.

"The 14 nursing graduates from Uganda were all automatically employed into the Kaduna State civil service by the State Government," he announced.

KSSQAA hosts (FEQAS) for strategic...

(continued from page 7)

The text continues to explain that:

- Discussions with FEQAS explored areas for collaboration, including the national adoption of unified quality assurance frameworks.
- There was emphasis on funding strategies for state-level quality assurance agencies, integration of technology-driven school evaluations.
- The FEQAS delegation praised KSSQAA's efforts in digital transformation in school monitoring, examination management, and stakeholder engagement.

The visit was described as a **significant milestone** in aligning Kaduna State's education quality assurance practices with **national and global best standards**, aiming for better learning outcomes for Nigerian students.

Kaduna, DUFIL (Indomie), award 100 Scholarships to the Indigent

The Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board, Dufil Prima Foods (Indomie) have awarded scholarships to 100 indigent students across the state.

The initiative is part of Indomie's Back-to-School Programme, which reinforces a shared commitment to empowering young minds through education.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of the Board, Prof. Yahaya Saleh Ibrahim reaffirmed the Board's commitment to removing financial barriers to education.

"Public-private partnerships like this are crucial to ensuring no child is left behind. By working together, we are securing a brighter future for Kaduna State and Nigerian youth," he said.

The scholarships, covering tuition, learning materials, and essential expenses, will support students from 10 different schools across Kaduna State. Indomie's Regional Manager (North), Abraham Elkupo, praised the initiative, stating:

"Through this partnership, we are bridging gaps in access to quality education. This is how we build a prosperous Nigeria."

The Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board and Kaduna State Ministry of Education remain dedicated to fostering strategic collaborations that expand educational opportunities.

The initiative is a testament to Uba Sani's vision for an inclusive, knowledge-driven economy, ensuring that every child has the chance to succeed.

At a similar meeting, the 23 local government chairmen in Kaduna State also passed a vote of confidence on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Uba Sani, dismissing recent criticisms against the state administration as the handiwork of "**political jobbers**."

Addressing a press at a conference in Kaduna on Friday, the Spokesman of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), Kaduna State chapter, Mohammed Lawal Shehu, who is also Chairman of Soba Local Government, reaffirmed their loyalty to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Uba Sani, commending the **governor's achievements** in governance, security, and economic development.

Mohammed said:

"We, the 23 Local Government Chairmen of Kaduna State, unequivocally acknowledge the strides recorded under the leadership of Governor Uba Sani. His administration has ensured accountability, transparency, and synergy across all tiers of government," the statement read.

The ALGON Spokesman described Uba Sani as a "unifying governor" who has fostered peace across religious, ethnic, and political divides in the state.

He continued:

"He has provided an environment where all citizens can pursue their livelihoods without fear of intimidation or harassment. His administration has also been proactive in addressing security challenges through strategic and diplomatic interventions."

On job security, they noted that the governor had safeguarded the rights of **public servants** by ensuring employment stability and preventing arbitrary dismissals.

"Unlike in the past, civil servants in Kaduna can now work without fear of sudden retrenchment. This has boosted morale in the public sector," the chairmen stated.

They also highlighted his administration's efforts in rural development, economic growth, and financial inclusion, saying:

"Over two million new accounts have been opened for underserved and vulnerable persons under Governor Uba Sani's watch. His administration has also invested in agricultural initiatives, healthcare, and education, improving the lives of rural dwellers."

The LGA bosses warned against inciting statements:

"As members of the APC, including those of us who worked closely with the previous administration, we believe true statesmanship requires supporting one's successor and ensuring the smooth continuation of governance."

They called on political actors to uphold decorum and respect the leadership of Governor Uba Sani.

"In the interest of stability and good governance, we strongly urge these political merchants to refrain from unguarded statements that could destabilize Kaduna and Nigeria as a whole," they concluded.

Uba Sani's education policies

(continued from page 10)

The Commissioner further said that the Bureau of Statistics has mapped out Kaduna State and identified communities where there are no schools, adding that:

"Under that project, we are going to have 102 new schools and over 200 existing schools will be renovated."

Professor Bello said that the aim of the project is to ensure that no child treks more than one kilometre to get access to school.

He further said that the Special School for Gifted Children at Millennium City is 90% complete and the **Tsangaya Bilingual Schools Project** has been significantly expanded with UBEC-IsDB support.

Kaduna first lady extols women's hard work

(Image Caption: First Lady Hajiya Hafsat)

Kaduna State First Lady, Hajiya Hafsat Uba Sani has extolled the virtues of women, in particular their incredible achievements and contributions to development.

She said in a message on the occasion of the International Women's Day that women needed to be celebrated for their strength, resilience, and determination to create a more equal and just society.

"As we mark this special day, we're reminded that women's empowerment is key to unlocking a brighter future for all. When women are given the opportunity to thrive, they lift up their communities, drive innovation, and inspire positive change," the statement said.

"So, let's take a moment to appreciate the women who have paved the way for us, and those who continue to break down barriers and push boundaries. Let's celebrate their triumphs, and support them in their struggles," she added.

"Here's to the women who are redefining what's possible, and inspiring us all to be better versions of ourselves. May we continue to work together towards a world where every woman and girl can live their lives with dignity, respect, and equality," the first lady said.

In his message to the occasion, Governor Uba Sani observed the importance of the day aimed to reflect on women's struggles for equality, recognition, enhanced opportunities and better living conditions.

"I want to specially salute Nigerian women, and indeed women of the world for their incredible strength, resilience, creativity, and unwavering determination," Governor Uba Sani added.

The theme of this year's celebration, "**Accelerate Action: Turning Promises into Progress**," is a call to action. It reminds us that we have made promises to women and girls around the world; promises of equality, justice, and opportunities. But promises are not enough. We must turn these promises into tangible progress," the Governor stated.

He said that Kaduna State has been taking practical steps to address the barriers that hinder women's participation in the socio-economic development of the state.

"We have put in place robust legal frameworks that will guide our implementation of programmes and projects for women's empowerment. For us to make sustained progress, women must be given equal access to opportunities. Together, we can build a more inclusive and equitable society for all," Governor Uba Sani added.

Hajj 2025: Kaduna's proactive approach to a flawless pilgrimage

By Yunusa Muhammad

As the call to prayer echoes across Kaduna, a different kind of journey is unfolding—a spiritual one, known as the Hajj. Over 3,900 Muslims from Kaduna State are preparing to answer this sacred summons, with their hearts set on the holy city of Makkah.

However, before they embark on this sacred journey, a dedicated team is working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the journey is as seamless as their faith.

Governor Malam Uba Sani's commitment to a "seamless operation" is not just a political pledge, but a driving force behind the Kaduna State Pilgrims Welfare Agency (KSPWA). The state's support ensures that pilgrims can travel with peace of mind, knowing their accommodations are conveniently located close to the Haram Mosque—a luxury secured through the unwavering efforts of state leadership.

"All activities are fully supported," affirms Malam Salihu Abubakar, the Executive Chairman of the KSPWA, his voice filled with determination.

However, achieving a flawless Hajj requires more than good intentions. It demands collaboration and coordination to overcome logistical challenges. That's why Malam Salihu and his team are working to strengthen partnerships with key agencies such as FAAN, NCAA, and NIMET, ensuring smooth operations from start to finish.

"The safety and well-being of our pilgrims is our top priority," he emphasizes, a sentiment echoed by Vanatau Lulufa, the NCAA Regional Manager, who reassures the Agency with a promise of a "hitch-free operation."

"Our partnership with the Hajj airlift program is a longstanding one, and we are committed to strengthening it further. We will work tirelessly to ensure the operation proceeds without any hitches," says Lulufa.

His reassurance brings relief to Salihu, who appreciates the agency's commitment to maintaining open communication and keeping the Pilgrims Welfare Agency updated on any developments affecting the flights.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain. A visit to the Hassan Usman Katsina International Airport reveals some stark realities: an incomplete control tower and frequent power outages that could hinder operations. Alhaji Abdulaqid Mohammed, the Air Traffic Manager, welcomed the

delegation but expressed concerns about the state of infrastructure. The unfinished control tower serves as a constant reminder of the challenges ahead.

(continued on page 19)

Kaduna Health Board applauds OAFLAD's 'Free to Shine' initiative, pledges support

By Mariam Bukola Oyewo

Dr. Bello Yusuf Jamoh, Executive Secretary of the Kaduna State Primary Health Care Board (KSPHCB), has commended the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, for her dedication to reducing new HIV infections among women of reproductive age and preventing mother-to-child transmission through the *'Free to Shine'* campaign.

Speaking at the Northwest flag-off of the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD) *"Free to Shine Campaign"* in Kaduna, Dr. Jamoh described the initiative as a significant step toward improving maternal and child health.

"I must commend the First Lady for championing the Free to Shine Campaign as a beacon of hope for millions. Her dedication to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and advocating for the health of women and children across Africa is truly commendable," he stated.

Senator Tinubu emphasized that the initiative aims to ensure that every child born with HIV receives adequate treatment and support to thrive.

"To complement the Free to Shine Campaign, I have also decided to advocate for the triple elimination of HIV/AIDS, Syphilis, and Hepatitis by 2030. This campaign will cover the six geopolitical zones of the nation," she announced.

Expressing concern over Nigeria's high burden of HIV/AIDS, she cited the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's 2024 report, which revealed that over 100,000 children and nearly two million adults live with HIV.

"Also, it is reported that most infants born to HIV-positive mothers are not tested within the first two months of birth, largely due to the fact that the mothers are not aware or they are ignorant of the consequences of their inaction," she revealed.

The First Lady also **highlighted Hepatitis and Syphilis** as major public health concerns, warning about their severe consequences:

"If Syphilis is left untreated, it can result in miscarriages, stillbirths, congenital anomalies, and neonatal and infant deaths, among other complications," she stated.

Dr. Jamoh had also **commended** Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani, for prioritizing primary healthcare and strengthening the fight against infectious diseases.

“Governor Uba Sani’s unwavering support for primary healthcare in Kaduna State has laid a solid foundation for impactful interventions. His commitment ensures that essential health services reach the grassroots, strengthening the fight against HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, among other diseases,” he stated.

In his remarks, Governor Uba Sani lauded the First Lady’s leadership and commitment to vulnerable groups:

"Senator Oluremi stands for the vulnerable, the poor, and the underserved. She is now deploying her skills and competencies in the service of African women and children," he said.

The Governor reaffirmed his **administration’s commitment** to partnering with OAFILAD to develop and implement strategies to eliminate HIV/AIDS, Syphilis, and Hepatitis in Kaduna State.

Kaduna workers benefit from Tricycle...

(continued from page 9)

Speaking at the launch, Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Balarabe emphasized the state government’s commitment to enhancing worker welfare through practical solutions that address daily transportation challenges faced by civil servants.

The scheme is a collaborative effort between multiple stakeholders, including the Kaduna State Government, Nigerian Labour Congress, Payancle Digital Services Limited, and Optimus Bank. This partnership demonstrates a collective commitment to improving workers’ welfare through accessible transportation options.

The launch ceremony at Murtala Square was well-attended, with senior government officials, Labour Union leaders, and numerous state government employees present to witness the inauguration of the program.

The vehicle loan initiative aligns with broader efforts of the Uba administration to enhance worker welfare while promoting eco-friendly transportation alternatives in Kaduna State. Officials expect the program to reduce transportation costs for state workers while contributing to reduced emissions in the state.

Payancle Digital Services Limited will provide service and charging stations across the three (3) Senatorial Districts of the state to ensure sustainability of the initiative.

Muslim, Christian clerics in Kaduna applaud Uba Sani's peace, development efforts

In a remarkable demonstration of leadership and commitment to unity, Governor Uba Sani has hosted the Council of Imams and Ulamas, Christian clerics and community elders from across Kaduna State to a series of special Iftar dinners at the Kaduna State Government House.

The high-profile gathering, held in the spirit of Ramadan, provided a platform for religious leaders and community leaders to discuss issues bordering on state affairs. The gathering seized the opportunity to commend the Governor's relentless efforts in fostering peace, development, and interfaith harmony across the state.

Speakers lauded the Kaduna Peace Model, a groundbreaking initiative under Governor Uba Sani's administration that has successfully bridged divides and enhanced peaceful coexistence.

At one of such meetings with the Council of Imams and Ulamas, speakers said the model was a shining example of "**responsive and responsible leadership**," noting its tangible impact in reducing tensions, strengthening communal relations, and promoting security.

Beyond peacebuilding, the clerics applauded the administration's strides in bringing development closer to the grassroots, ensuring that every segment of Kaduna society benefited from governance. Christian clerics also highlighted the Governor's inclusive approach, which has continued to unite the people, irrespective of ethnic or religious backgrounds.

Governor Uba Sani, in his remarks, expressed gratitude to the elders for their unwavering support and prayers.

He reiterated his administration's **commitment to sustaining peace, improving security, and deepening good governance** in Kaduna State.

"I thank the esteemed Council of Imams and Ulamas for honouring us with their presence and praying fervently for the continued peace and progress of Kaduna State. Our administration remains steadfast in ensuring that development reaches every community while fostering harmony among all citizens," the Governor stated.

The **Iftar event** underscored the Governor's unwavering dedication to inclusive governance and his recognition of the crucial role religious leaders play in sustaining peace.

With the overwhelming endorsement of the Kaduna Peace Model, Governor Uba Sani's administration continues to set the pace for innovative and people-driven leadership in Northern Nigeria.

“Our goal is to make Kaduna an IT hub”

By Nabilah Hassan

Deputy Gov Dr. Hadiza Balarabe

Governor Uba Sani is focused on making Kaduna State a **beacon of technological innovation** and business excellence, by fostering partnerships and gender inclusivity.

The Governor is also deepening the penetration of broadband and other infrastructure to make Kaduna State a major IT hub of ideas that will give birth to innovations.

The Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Balarabe, who disclosed this at the Arewa Ladies4Tech Alumni Hangout which held at Kaduna on Wednesday, noted that the Governor's efforts have not gone unnoticed.

"Only a few weeks ago, our Governor and State received the Broadband Infrastructure Excellence Award for pioneering broadband friendly policies from the National Broadband Alliance of Nigeria (NBAN)," she disclosed.

While emphasizing the critical role of technology, the Deputy Governor also noted that **"the digital revolution is no longer a distant dream; it is our current reality, and it is a reality that we must embrace wholeheartedly."**

Dr. Balarabe commended ArewaLadies4Tech partners for empowering women in technology, adding that **"your determination and resilience are not only transforming individual lives but are also significantly contributing to the technological advancement of Kaduna State and Nigeria as a whole."**

Dr. Balarabe further said that Kaduna State is also striving to promote women empowerment and gender equality because women play a vital role in **driving economic growth and development**.

According to her, the Governor Uba Sani administration is committed to providing women with the necessary support and resources that will enable them succeed.

"We are committed to providing the necessary resources, infrastructure, and policies that will facilitate innovation, inclusive growth, and global competitiveness," she promised.

In her **opening remarks**, the Commissioner of Business Innovation and Technology, Mrs Patience Fakai, said that the event is not just the **celebration of the over 5000 participants** that benefited from the ArewaLadies4Tech Project, but the **collective progress** in advancing technology and innovation in Kaduna State.

The Commissioner commended **Data Science Nigeria (DSN)** and **Google.org** for making the ArewaLadies4Tech initiative possible, and all other stakeholders that are empowering women in technology.

"Your commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and inclusivity is groundbreaking and immensely vital for our society's advancement. You are not only shaping the future of technology but also inspiring

countless young women to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)," she added.

Mrs Fakai pointed out that technology is now the cornerstone of **economic development and social transformation**, adding that Governor Uba Sani "has been very deliberate in tech-inclusion, especially as it pertains women."

According to her, Kaduna State is committed to fostering an enabling **environment that supports innovation and entrepreneurship**.

"We believe that through strategic collaboration with initiatives like ArewaLadies4Tech, we can bridge the gender gap in technology, enhance digital literacy, and empower more women to become leaders in this field," she argued.

There's also a small section on the side:

Dinatu is KADPPA staff of February 2025

Dinatu Saliu has emerged the recipient of the Good Character Award at KADPPA for February 2025. She expressed her appreciation to the Director General of the KADPPA, **Engr Sanusi Aminu Yero**, the management staff and the committee members for her recognition. The award was instituted to encourage staff in the Agency to imbibe high productivity attitude for the progress of the establishment and the state generally.

(Photo caption: Dinatu (left) with DG KADPPA)

Uba Sani revolutionizes public transportation...

(continued from page 2)

"I consulted our dear President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR on our plan. He was not only impressed with our vision and comprehensive implementation strategy, he promised the full support of the Federal Government. True to Mr. President's words, the sum of 100 Billion Naira was provided in the 2025 Budget of the Federal Government for the construction of the Kaduna Light Rail-Transit (KLRT). This gesture is indeed heartwarming. President Tinubu has always been there for Kaduna State. We owe him a debt of gratitude." The Governor further said.

He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the French Development Agency (AFD), a partner in the project, and the French Ambassador to Nigeria for their unwavering support and collaboration in making this project a reality.

"Their commitment to sustainable development and investment in our infrastructure has been invaluable," Governor Uba Sani said.

He also expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their support towards the realization of these initiatives.

"We appreciate our transport unions, NURTW, NARTO, RTEAN and other relevant stakeholders. To the dedicated teams who worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition, thank you for your commitment and perseverance. Your hard-work is reflected in today's achievement. We are confident that the KBRT and Southern Terminal will serve our communities well for generations to come," the Governor assured.

Earlier, before the official launch and groundbreaking, the governor received in audience the French Ambassador to Nigeria, H.E. Marc Fonbaustier, and officials of the French Development Agency (AFD), the partner in the KBRT Project.

Where Ambassador Fonbaustier said that his trip to Kaduna was his first official trip to the North which was deliberate and strategic. France and Kaduna State have had a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship.

The KBRT project, he said, was a testament to the strong partnership between France and Kaduna State and assured of the French Government's commitment to strengthening the existing partnership and exploring new areas of cooperation.

The **Minister of Transportation, Said Ahmed Alkali** commended Kaduna State for taking a giant step in its quest to modernize the transportation system in Kaduna State, pointing out that the Kaduna Bus Rapid Transit will facilitate the realization of the **Renewed Hope Agenda** which prioritized transportation as an enabler of economic growth.

He assured of the Federal Government's support for the actualization of the KBRT Project, and commitment to the speedy execution of the **Kaduna Light Rail Project**.

At a press conference, the Director General of Kaduna State Transport Regulatory Authority (KADSTRA), **Engr. Ibrahim Inuwa**, said that the project, conceived by Governor Uba Sani, after long and careful planning will introduce a **24-km dedicated transit corridor**, complete with well-structured bus stations and shelters.

Engr. Inuwa Ibrahim said that Governor Uba Sani was committed to modernizing urban transport and that the KBRT project is expected to provide safer and more reliable transport, decongest the urban center, reduce travel time, and improve road safety and environmental sustainability.

The KADSTRA DG also said the KBRT project was more than just a transport initiative, but a **game-changer** for the economy of the state and urban development, calling on the public to support the project and embrace the new era of structured, modern, and efficient public transportation in Kaduna.

Engr. Ibrahim said the project was being implemented by KADSTRA, in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD); stressing that the project is poised to transform the way Kaduna moves, enhancing mobility, stimulating economic growth, and creating job opportunities for residents.

"AFD plays a significant role globally in supporting sustainable development projects such as the KBRT, reinforcing its commitment to fostering urban growth, economic stability, and climate-friendly transportation systems worldwide," he added.

He said that Governor Uba Sani has demonstrated his commitment to the project by allocating significant funds, including **₦97 million** in counterpart funding in 2023 and **₦699 million** in the 2024 budget; adding that the 2025 budget has also earmarked **₦30 billion** for the project, with **₦5 billion** set aside for counterpart funding.

"Moving forward, residents of Kaduna should expect to see visible progress, with the construction of transit corridors and the installation of necessary infrastructure," the KADSTRA CEO added.

Engr. Ibrahim noted that for years, Kaduna had faced transportation challenges, including congestion, unregulated commercial transport operations, and inefficiencies that affect the movement of people and goods.

"Recognizing the need for a structured and sustainable urban transport system, the KBRT Project was conceived to bring order, safety, and reliability to public transit," he said, explaining that **"this transformative project will introduce a 24-km dedicated transit corridor from Kawo Bridge to Sabon Tasha, with well-structured bus stations and shelters strategically placed along the route."**

Hajj 2025: Kaduna's Proactive Approach to...

(continued from page 14)

"We are always ready to serve," Alhaji Abdulmajid says, his eyes scanning the busy tarmac.

"But the incomplete tower and ongoing power outages are significant obstacles. Currently, our operations are limited to daylight hours, as we cease at 5 pm due to these challenges."

The delegation observed the inner workings of the airport's facilities, from the control towers to the bustling apron and sophisticated air navigation services. While the dedication of air traffic controllers is evident, the question remains: can this commitment overcome the operational challenges posed by inadequate infrastructure?

Despite the obstacles, Alhaji Abdulmajid remains optimistic.

"We are doing everything within our power to ensure a smooth airlift," he says, reiterating that the priority is ensuring that every pilgrim from Kaduna departs from the airport without any issues.

UMZA Airlines has been confirmed as the carrier of Kaduna pilgrims, which is a significant step forward. But logistics are only part of the equation. Equally important is the **spiritual preparation** of the pilgrims.

Recognizing the importance of community leaders' support, Malam Salihu led a delegation to visit the Emir of Zazzau, His Royal Highness Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli. This visit was not merely symbolic but an important step in securing the continued guidance and support of the traditional leadership.

"The Emir's guidance and support are crucial," says Malam Salihu, acknowledging the valuable role the Emir plays in ensuring the success of the pilgrimage.

As the number of registered pilgrims exceeds 3,900, the KSPWA is leaving no stone unturned. The agency is conducting a comprehensive enlightenment program across all 23 Local Government Areas in the state. These sessions cover everything from **Saudi Arabian regulations** to the **fundamental teachings of Hajj**.

"Attendance is mandatory," Malam Salihu insists, underscoring the importance of thorough preparation.

The education centers are buzzing with eager learners, absorbing the knowledge that will shape their spiritual journey. As the first flights approach, a sense of anticipation fills the air. There is a blend of hope and determination — a collective effort to ensure that the spiritual journey of Kaduna's pilgrims remains unhindered by logistical challenges. This Hajj is more than a pilgrimage: it is a **testament to the resilience**, collaboration, and unwavering faith that bind the community together.

The eyes of Kaduna are fixed on the skies, watching, waiting, and praying for a journey blessed with peace and success.

Uba Sani's scholarship reforms:

4 ways to equal opportunity

By Fatima Ajia Muhammad

Governor Uba Sani's scholarship reforms are **more than just policy tweaks** — they are a **game-changer** for students across Kaduna State. By removing barriers and expanding access, his administration is proving that governance can be both **compassionate and impactful**.

Here are four powerful ways these reforms are shaping a future of equal opportunities:

1. No More Tax Clearance Hurdles

For years, the tax clearance requirement blocked many underprivileged students from accessing scholarships. Governor Sani abolished this barrier, ensuring that financial aid reaches those who truly need it — not just those who can afford the paperwork.

2. Scholarships Brought Closer to Students

Before now, rural students had to travel long distances just to apply for scholarships. To fix this, the government set up **seven zonal offices** in places like **Zaria**, **Kafanchan**, and **Makarfi**, each with 30 computers, making the process smoother and more accessible.

3. More Beneficiaries, More Impact

Since May 2023, over **3,397 students** have received local scholarships, with **4,330 more onboarded** for future disbursement.

Tertiary education loans are now also within reach, ensuring that financial constraints no longer dictate a student's future.

4. Inclusive and Specialized Scholarships

Governor Sani's administration is redefining scholarship access with **tailored programs** for innovation, aviation, meritorious students, the underprivileged, and people with special needs. Even 50 secondary school students have benefited from a partnership with **Indomie DOFIL**, proving that no student is left behind.

Kaduna's Bright Educational Future

Governor Uba Sani isn't just funding education; he's **reshaping the future** by **breaking cycles of poverty** and ensuring that **talent, not wealth, determines success**.

His administration's bold moves are setting a gold standard for compassionate leadership, proving that when governance prioritizes the people, society thrives.

Kaduna's students finally have a government that truly has their backs — and the results speak for themselves.

Kaduna distributes massive agric inputs to farmers

By Ruth Yakubu

The **Kaduna State Government** has **commenced** the distribution of free agricultural implements and inputs to cooperatives societies in the state.

Comprising 10 members, each cooperative was given a package that consisted of:

- An 18-horsepower tiller
- An 18-horsepower 3-inch solar-powered irrigation pumping machine
- A 13-horsepower 2-inch solar-powered water irrigation machine
- A gasoline-powered water irrigation pump

Each cooperative also received:

- 30 bags of Urea and NPK fertilizers (translating to three bags per member)
- One motorized knapsack sprayer
- One carton of herbicide
- One carton of pesticide

It will be recalled that Governor Uba Sani had launched the **Dry Season Agricultural Empowerment Programme** at a ceremony at Murtala Square on February 16.

The distribution of the farming implements commenced on Saturday, as the **Commissioner of Agriculture**, Alhaji Murtala Mohammad Dabo, gave out the items to benefiting cooperatives at the Ministry's central warehouse at Dankade village.

Speaking at the event, the Commissioner said it was the **first time** that the Government was distributing free farm implements on such a massive scale in the history of Kaduna State, describing the support as **unprecedented**.

Murtala disclosed that government's gesture is aimed at **ameliorating the pains** that farmers go through to irrigate their farmlands, especially due to the rise in petrol prices.

"Fuelling their pumping machines on a weekly basis eats into the profit margins that they would have naturally made.

This massive support that is coming from the Governor is going to help greatly in bringing down the cost of production, which should ultimately bring down prices," he said.

The Commissioner further disclosed that the Uba Sani administration has procured a **combined harvester** which will help farmers in reducing their cost of production.

He added:

"Last year, we had to go to Borno State to hire.
The wheat farmers in Galma were paying and queuing for their turn.
Today, these machines are ready to move to the field and start harvesting."

According to him, the benefiting cooperatives comprise **real farmers** who were chosen **irrespective** of their political or ethno-religious identities.

Speaking to journalists, **Malam Garba**, Chairman of the **Dry Season Farmers' Cooperative Society Zaria**, said:

"Today is a day of joy to all farmers in Kaduna State.
Since Kaduna State was created, there has never been this kind of government intervention."

He emphasized:

"We have been given all that is required to enable dry season farming free."

The Chairman also advised beneficiaries to **put the implements into good use**, and further warned that they **should not sell the items**, adding:

"Government spent a lot of billions to purchase them and gave us free of charge."

KASUPDA holds stakeholders engagement at Kujama district head's palace

By Nuhu Garba Dan-ayamaka

Traditional title holders in **Kujama District** in **Chikun Local Government Area** have been advised to inform and sensitize their people on the important need for them to obtain their buildings' approval.

The **Director General** of the Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (**KASUPDA**), **Bldr. Abdurrahman Yahya, Ph.D.**, gave the advice during a stakeholders' engagement programme held at the District Head's Palace of Kujama.

A statement by the Assistant Director of the Public Affairs Unit of the Authority, Nuhu Garba Dan'aymaka, stated that the engagement programme was led by the DG to enable him:

- Familiarize himself with the people
- Solicit for their cooperation and support to the Authority

The DG emphasized the **commitment and concern** of the present administration of Sen. Uba Sani to assisting the people to get their development permits.

He called on them to strive to benefit from the gesture.

Bldr. Abdurrahman Yahya noted that the turnout of people in areas within the district who were approved regularization and others that were allowed to receive and process their applications for building approval like:

- **Byagi Villa**
- **Romi**
- **Sabon Tasha**
- **Gwanin-Gora**

...was still **low**.

He appealed to the traditional and religious leaders to prevail on their people to obtain their development approvals to enable better planning, safety, and security in their areas.

The **District Head, Stephen Yarima Ibrahim**, in response, pledged his commitment to carrying the message to his people and assured that he would meet with stakeholders in the area to discuss further.

While commending Governor Uba Sani for prioritizing the people's needs and thanking the DG for the open-door policy, the District Head also expressed appreciation to KASUPDA's leadership.

FMC Kafanchan begins clinical service in six months

Minister of Health Prof. Ali Pate (left) with Gov. Uba Sani during a courtesy call

Dr Jimoh Salawudeen,

Director of Hospital Services, Federal Ministry of Health, has said that the newly established Federal Medical Center (FMC), **Kafanchan**, will commence services in six months.

He made this announcement during an inspection tour of the Kafanchan General Hospital, which is being upgraded into an FMC.

Dr. Salawudeen toured the facility accompanied by **Amos Magaji**, member representing Jaba/Zangon Kataf Federal Constituency, and the newly appointed **Chief Medical Director** of FMC Kafanchan, **Dr. Haruna Abubakar**.

He explained that the visit's purpose was to assess infrastructure, equipment, and personnel at the hospital and to identify gaps to be filled by the ministry before full operational status.

Dr. Salawudeen stated:

"To be honest, a lot of things are already on ground for the takeoff of this Federal Medical Centre in Kafanchan.

From what we have seen here and the opportunities we have for expansion, the ministry is satisfied and we are good to go.

We are going to go away now and immediately start work on bridging the gaps we have identified as a ministry."

He added:

"A lot has already been inserted in the 2025 budget for the smooth takeoff of this hospital. We also have to ensure that the staff are assessed and placed properly based on their latest qualifications."

Dr. Salawudeen thanked **Governor Uba Sani** for the ongoing renovation work in the general hospital, noting it would ease the burden on the federal government.

He also assured current hospital staff that they would be **absorbed into the FMC** after proper verification of their credentials.

In his remarks, **Amos Magaji**, who sponsored the bill for the establishment of the FMC in Kafanchan, said:

"Having an FMC in Kafanchan would mean referral was brought closer to people with critical health challenges and would also create job opportunities for the area.

Before, if there was any critical health challenge, you referred them to Jos, Kaduna, and Keffi, but now it is closer.

If you were spending N10,000 to go to those places on referrals, now you are going to spend much less."

The lawmaker lauded **President Bola Tinubu** for approving the FMC for Kafanchan, recognizing it as a major step in meeting the people's healthcare needs.

Also speaking, **Chief Medical Director Dr. Haruna Abubakar** affirmed his commitment to turning the institution into a **center of excellence**, calling for public support.

Kaduna builds synergy against HIV and AIDS

By Affiong Edim

In a significant move towards achieving a free HIV/AIDS Kaduna State and in line with His Excellency's commitment to the health sector, **Hajiya Umma K Ahmed**, Commissioner of Health, recently hosted **Dr. Temitope Ilori**, Director-General of the **National AIDS Control Agency (NACA)**.

Dr. Ilori's visit aimed to inaugurate:

- The **National Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT)**
- The **ART Acceleration Plan Committee**

This highlights Kaduna State's strong commitment to combating HIV/AIDS.

During her welcome address, the Commissioner emphasized Kaduna State's alignment with Nigeria's **Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children Action Plan**.

This plan outlines a **crucial framework** to combat the disease. Key strategies include:

- Expanding PMTCT services across all antenatal care settings (public, private, traditional, or informal)
- Reaching women in their homes to overcome socio-cultural barriers
- Prioritizing HIV testing for children and adults on antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- Strengthening data systems to monitor progress and identify service gaps

(Continued on page 22)

Kaduna APC stakeholders pass vote of confidence on Uba Sani

An **appraisal meeting** of the **All Progressives Congress (APC)**, Kaduna State Chapter, held on Thursday, 27 February 2025 at the Kaduna State Liaison Office, Abuja, expressed **overwhelming confidence** in the leadership of **Governor Uba Sani**.

The meeting reviewed the performance of the APC administration at both federal and state levels, concluding:

- **Resounding verdict of confidence** in Governor Uba Sani.
- Endorsement of **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu** at the national level.

The meeting, chaired by Governor Uba Sani, had notable attendees including:

- Rt. Honourable Abbas Tajudeen (Speaker, House of Representatives)
- Former Governor Mukhtar Ramalan Yero
- Honourable Minister of Environment, Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal
- APC leaders like Alhaji Garba Datti Muhammad (Babawo) and others.

After exhaustive discussions, the **Stakeholders**, in a statement by the state secretary **Yahaya Baba Pate**, resolved:

1. That caucus meetings at Zonal, Local Government, and Ward levels in Kaduna State, where new members and returnees will be introduced, should be held **before the second anniversary** of the administration.
2. That relevant stakeholders should open or reinvigorate **party offices** at the grassroots within three months.
3. That both **President Tinubu** and **Governor Uba Sani** deserve commendations for their leadership and good governance.

Thus, a **unanimous vote of confidence** was passed.

Kaduna builds synergy against HIV and AIDS (continued from page 21)

Continuing the earlier article:

- The **newly inaugurated committee**, chaired by the Commissioner, was tasked with collaborating effectively to create an environment where no child bears the burden of HIV.
 - The Commissioner highlighted the **importance of team roles**, urgent need for **unified action**, and plans to **expand PMTCT services**, including:
 - Partnerships with **traditional birth attendants** and **informal providers**.
 - Broader access to services for **infected children**.
 - Dr. Temitope Ilori (DG of NACA) provided context on Nigeria's challenges, noting a **2021 analysis** that showed major gaps in service.
 - Plans now aim to **bridge implementation gaps** and ensure continuous collaboration among **partners**.
-

Varsity of Applied Sciences Kachia gets Governing Council, Principal Officers

President Bola Tinubu has:

- Appointed **Bishop Matthew Kukah**, Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, as **Pro-Chancellor** and Chairman of the Governing Council of the **Federal University of Applied Sciences, Kachia, Kaduna State**.

Other key appointments:

- **Prof. Qurix Williams Barnabas** as Vice-Chancellor
- **Sanusi Gambo Adamu** as Registrar
- **Ibrahim Dalhat** as Bursar
- **Prof. Daniel Abubakar** as University Librarian
- **Mr. Thomas Etuh, Fabian Nwaora** (South East), **Prof. Femi Taiwo** (South West), and **Zarah Bukar** (North East) as Governing Council members.

All were selected based on distinguished careers, leadership, and dedication to education advancement.

President Tinubu urged the officers to:

- Use their expertise to position the university as a **hub of excellence** and **academic research**, in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda.
- Lay a solid foundation as the university prepares to **admit its first cohort of students** in **September 2025**.

Note: The **Federal University of Applied Sciences** was formerly **Nok University**, renamed after federal takeover.

KDSG pledges to boost water supply to Kaduna

The **Kaduna State Government (KDSG)** has:

- Reaffirmed its commitment to **revitalize** the water supply system.
- Ensured availability of **potable drinking water** for residents of Kaduna City and environs.

Governor Uba Sani inspected the Kaduna State Water Treatment Plant at Kakuri, which had suffered neglect over the years.

Key efforts highlighted:

- **₦800 million** paid to clear outstanding salaries and wages of **KADSWAC** staff.
- **₦1.3 billion** spent on settling **electricity bills**.

- Over **₦400 million** used to purchase **water purification chemicals**.
- **₦1 billion** invested in replacing vandalized and nonfunctional **water pipelines**.

Achievements:

- Water production was at **5%** when Governor Uba Sani assumed office.
- Now increased to over **25%** within 20 months.
- **Projection: 100% production** by end of 4th quarter 2025.

Government is also investing in:

- **Rehabilitation and retrofitting** of **12 water treatment plants** and **distribution mains**.

No time for idle talks – Uba Sani

Governor Uba Sani emphasized that:

- His focus remains on **serving the people**.
- He refuses to engage in "baseless and idle talks."

Achievements over 20 months include:

- Intervention in **agriculture**.
- Enhancement of **education**.
- Improvement of **security**, especially in **insecurity-prone areas**.

Specific projects:

- **Pipe-borne water supply** will be addressed in all **23 local governments** by end of the year.
- **State of emergency** declared in the water sector at the beginning of his tenure due to poor water capacity (<5%).

Results so far:

- Water production capacity now at **30%**, aiming for **100%** by year-end.
- **Salary backlog** of KADSWAC staff paid.
- Settled **₦1.3 billion** in electricity debts.
- Retrofitting **all small water supply schemes** across **23 LGAs**.

Security improvements:

- Peace has returned to **Birnin Gwari** and **Giwa LGAs**.

- **Birnin Gwari cattle market**, closed for over 10 years due to insecurity, is now **reopened and booming**.

Additional initiatives:

- **Governor Uba Sani** appreciated **social media influencers** for promoting government activities.
- Pledged support and hinted at **employment opportunities** for those qualified among influencers when available.

Kaduna LG Chairmen debunk el-Rufai's allegations against Uba Sani

- Legislature considers legal option

Summary:

The Chairmen of the 23 Local Governments in Kaduna State, through ALGON, responded strongly to allegations made by former Governor **Nasir el-Rufai** against the current administration of **Governor Uba Sani**.

Key points:

- **Governor Uba Sani's** Rural Transformation Programme has revitalized rural economies, restored peace, created jobs, and opened inaccessible areas for agriculture.
- ALGON emphasized the **wildness and baselessness** of the allegations, urging the public to **disregard el-Rufai's statements**.
- Chairmen are focused on **developmental challenges**, not political distractions.
- They criticized el-Rufai for not **cross-checking his facts** before making public statements.

Kaduna State House of Assembly's response:

- Took **serious exception** to el-Rufai's criticisms.
- Threatened **legal action** for redress.
- Emphasized that **all Honourable Members** of the Assembly **met constitutional requirements** for election.
- Noted that many Assembly members criticized by el-Rufai also served during his tenure, making his criticism **contradictory**, given that he praised them while in office.

At the bottom, there's a **photo caption**:

Gov Uba Sani (4th right seated) in the midst of social media influencers after an Iftar at the Government House, Kaduna.