

Kaduna House of Assembly probes multi-million dollar debts

The Kaduna State House of Assembly has set up a committee to look into loans, grants and project implementation issues which have left the state awash in accusations and counter accusations as to the propriety or otherwise of the disclosure by Gov. Uba Sani of the mounting local and foreign debts which were weighing his administration down. Usman Yakassai reports that the Assembly may have waded into solving the Jigsaw sorounding the debt web:

The Kaduna State House of Assembly has constituted a committee to look into the intricate web of financial dealings, loans, grants, and project implementations spanning from 2015 to 2023 which many see as a bold move to uncover the true financial situation of the state is mysteries over project failures.

This initiative came on the heels of Governor Uba Sani's eye-opening revelation at a recent Town Hall Meeting, that the state was grappling with a staggering debt legacy of \$587 million, 85 billion Naira, and 115 contractual liabilities left behind by the previous administration. The disclosure has sparked widespread calls for thorough scrutiny of the loans acquired by the previous administration, and intense scrutiny of key officials involved in loan procurement, project execution, and fund utilization.

Apparently, responding to these demands, the House has charged the committee with the crucial task of summoning prominent figures, including former Speakers of the 8th and 9th Assembly, Commissioners of Finance, former MDs of Kaduna Markets, Senior Counselor to the former Gov Jimi Lawal, and former Commissioners of Budget and Planning to appear before it.

This was contained in a motion of urgent public importance, moved by Hon. Mugu Yusuf, which was unanimously seconded by other members of the Assembly at the Tuesday sitting presided over by the Speaker Yusuf Dahiru Liman.

After deliberations, the Speaker stated that the ad hoc committee would investigate abandoned projects and foreign loans received by the previous administration, as residents of the State have a right to be informed about government's financial position.

It was learnt that those invited were possessing intricate knowledge of loan modalities, associated conditions, and the status of abandoned projects of the period under review.

They are therefore expected to shed light on crucial details that could facilitate the recovery of funds earmarked for projects that were ultimately neglected.

Members of the ad-hoc committee include Hon Lawal Aminu, representing the Doka/Gabasawa constituency, as chairman.

Other members are Hon Mugu Yusuf, representing the Kaura constituency; Majority Leader Munira Sulaiman Tanimu; and Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriation, Shehu Yunusa Pambegua, among others.

Kaduna Govt denies taking \$17.69m loan

Kaduna State Government has described as totally false the news making the rounds, notably in the BBC News Service that the current administration under Governor Uba Sani had taken foreign loan worth \$17.69 million.

Commissioner of Finance, Shizzer Nasara Bada, in a statement on Wednesday, declared:

"We did not borrow the said amount or any other amount as reported. The claims are entirely false and fabricated."

"There is a clarity for borrowing and it is crucial to understand that borrowing activities by subnational entities in Nigeria are strictly governed by a framework comprising the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Debt Management Office (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2003, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, the Investments and Securities Act 2007, and the Fiscal Sustainability Plan: Fiscal Framework for Sub-National Governments in Nigeria", she explained.

She affirmed that according to the findings of the State Ministry of Finance, "specifically through Mr. Caleb Hyuk, Head of the Debt Management Unit (DMU), the Kaduna State Government under the

[Kaduna General Hospitals not renovated in 20 years — Uba Sani](#)

Gov Uba Sani, has said that the 32 general hospitals in the state have not been renovated in the last 20 years.

He stated this on Thursday when he hosted the All Progressives Congress (APC) stakeholders from the 23 LGAs of the state who paid him homage for the Eid-el-Fitr at the Government House in Kaduna.

The governor said the situation has made residents travel to neighbouring states for medical care. He said his administration has resolved to remodel, reconstruct and re-equip six general hospitals — two in each of the three senatorial zones of the state.

"In the last one month, I have received reports from our Deputy Governor, who is one of the most prominent, established public health specialists in Nigeria, that our 32 general hospitals in Kaduna as we speak, most of them are not functional," Gov Sani said.

"Because of that, most of the patients from Kaduna have to travel to some neighbouring states for medical attention.

This is unacceptable.

That is why we have decided to remodel and reconstruct at least six of the 32 general hospitals.

This project will be starting by the grace of God on Monday, that is in the next few days."

Governor Uba Sani (photo caption)

“We have to invest in healthcare, particularly at the secondary healthcare level. It is simply because most of these hospitals I mentioned have not been given attention in the last 20 years, that they are in their current situation.”

The Governor further said his administration is also focusing on the education sector. He said after the abduction of schoolchildren in the Kuriga community, the government embarked on the assessment of all junior secondary schools and primary schools in the state.

Gov Sani said there are over 1,500 schools that need to be fenced in line with the safe school initiative policy.

“For this reason, I approached some well-meaning citizens of the state, particularly in the private sector and as we speak, two of our prominent citizens here in Kaduna, Kashim Bukar, the owner of Barbados, as well as Adamu Atta, the owner of Fifth Chucker, have decided to fence 100 schools. We thank them for their effort and support,” he added.

The Six General Hospitals — two from each zone slated for renovation — are:

1. General Hospital Rigasa, in Igabi LGA
2. General Hospital Maigana, Soba LGA
3. General Hospital Gwantu, Sanga LGA
4. General Hospital Kafanchan, Jemaa LGA
5. General Hospital Giwa, in Giwa LGA
6. General Hospital Ikara, in Ikara LGA

Kaduna Govt denies taking \$17.69m loan

The government further clarified that the legal provisions outlined in relevant statutes are clear regarding external borrowing by government entities.

"The Debt Management Office (Establishment, Etc.) Act, 2003, explicitly mandates that no external loan can be approved or obtained without prior presentation of its terms and conditions to the National Assembly for approval. Additionally, any external loan must be accompanied by a guarantee issued by the Minister," she said.

The government further explained that

"it is evident that the allegations of borrowing \$17.69 million by the Kaduna State Government are baseless. Governor Uba Sani's administration has not initiated any new borrowing endeavors, and as of the present date, no such funds have been borrowed."

The statement urged the general public to

"disregard the erroneous report and refrain from succumbing to misinformation."

ICAN confers excellence award on Gov Uba Sani

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) has conferred an award of excellence on Gov Uba Sani for implementing fiscal policies that are directly impacting on the people.

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance, Lawal A Habib, received the award on behalf of the governor in Lagos where the Commissioner of Finance Shizzer Nasarawa Bada was appreciated for implementing internationally accepted fiscal policies such as the *Integrated Payroll and Accounting Systems (IPAS)*.

KADSG commences distribution of relief materials to IDPs

The Kaduna State Government through the State Emergency Management Agency (KADSEMA) has flagged off first phase of relief materials distribution to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kaduna State.

The distribution which kicked off in Kajuru LG is aimed at providing relief materials to over 40,000 persons.

This is a significant step towards easing the burden and ensuring the welfare of the IDPs by the State administration.

While catering to those in the IDP camps, the state government in collaboration with security agencies has made efforts in resettling some of the IDPs in their ancestral communities.

Tuk Ham festival enjoys Govt support

In line with the state Government agenda to promote and encourage tourism assets and potentials across the state, the government has lent its support to the 2024 Tuk Ham Cultural Festival.

The theme of the event this year was:

"Journey Through Time: Perspectives on the Legacy of Nok Civilization on Ham Culture"

Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, represented by the Administrator of Kafanchan Municipal Authority, Mrs. Phoebe Sukai Yayi, in her speech expressed Governor Uba Sani administration's resolve to promote the Ham famous culture to its rightful position in the global community.

The Administrator of Jaba Local Government Council, Hon. Mrs. Nita Byack George in her remarks, commended Governor Uba Sani for the administration's unwavering effort towards restoring peace in the subregion and the state as a whole, which she said made it possible for the Ham community to mark her cultural festival after six years of postponement.

Organized Labour lauds Gov Uba Sani

The organized labour has praised Governor Uba Sani for his transparency and accountability.

The Kaduna NLC Chairman flanked by the other labour leaders made this known during the State of Kaduna Townhall meeting.

The NLC Chairman said he had enumerated 10 important achievements and one of them is the fact that Kaduna state civil servants were enjoying freedom and ready to support the administration to achieve

its objectives.

He also said the appointment of a Special Adviser on Labour Matters has further cemented the relationship between the government and the organized labour.

Lastly, he commended the state government for the release of a total of N6.5 billion for payment of pension and gratuity which demonstrates his commitment to the welfare of Kaduna workers.

Dep Gov holds Ramadan Iftar with S.A, Political appointees and others from Sanga LGA

The Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe during the just concluded Ramadan organized fast breaking with elected and Uba Sani's political appointees from Sanga Local Government Area in her official residence.

Those in attendance were Permanent Secretary Alh Abba, Alh Bashir Muhammad, S. A Mustapha Yamusa Rigasa and all Gov Uba Sani's political appointees that hailed from Sanga Local Government.

The iftar aimed at forging unity with the appointees, elected members, APC party leaders and other influential indigenes of Sanga Local government Area to pray for the present administration to succeed, and to also encourage unity among members for the benefit of Sanga indigenes especially those living in the various villages.

In his short remarks during the iftar, the S.A to the Governor, Mallam Mustapha Yamusa Rigasa thanked the Deputy Governor and other members for the special honour, recognition and acknowledging him as the son of the soil of Sanga LGA despite the fact he was born in Igabi LGA of Kaduna.

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APC Congratulates Naymarie Francesca Musa

Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, on behalf of the Chairman, Patrons, Matrons, Stakeholders, Exco, and the entire membership of “APC Ciki da Waje”, congratulated the Kaduna State APC Acting Women Leader, Mrs. Naymarie Francesca Musa.

She said that the appointment is due to the hard-work and exemplary leadership displayed by her during her role as the Kaduna State APC Deputy Women Leader.

"We pray to Almighty God to guide her in her new role to continue with the good works she has started," Dr. Hadiza said.

[Kaduna State Pension Bureau releases the list of Pensioners, families of Deceased persons](#)

The Kaduna State Government has released the Accrued Rights of retirees and death benefits to the families of the deceased to various Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs).

The Kaduna State Pension Bureau is therefore informing the retirees and families of the deceased who retired under the Contributory Pension Scheme, to approach their various Pension Fund Administrators for their benefits which include a 25% Lump sum and Pension while Families of the Deceased should claim all of the entitlements with returns on Investment.

[Dep Gov launches Taskforce on Ginger Blight FG approves N1.6bn to ease farmers' losses](#)

By Peter Ibrahim

The Deputy Gov Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe has launched the Federal Government Emergency and Recovery Intervention Taskforce on the Ginger Blight Epidemic.

The inauguration was held at the Yar'adua Centre, Murtala Square and was attended by representatives of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Engineer Abubakar Abdullahi, who chairs the Task Force, as well as the Executive Secretary of the National Agricultural Development Fund, the President of the National Ginger Farmers Association of Nigeria, and ginger farmers from the affected local government areas.

The Commissioner of Agriculture Alhaji Murtala Dabo, General Manager of Kaduna Agricultural Development Agency Mohammed Rili, and other senior government officials from Kaduna State were also present.

The task force, which include members from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Agricultural Development Fund, Kaduna Agricultural Development Agency, and other stakeholders from the private sector, was established to investigate and implement preventive, mitigation, and corrective measures to address the epidemic and revitalize the ginger value chain in the affected states.

As the 2024 farming season approached, the Federal Government Task Force is providing much-needed assistance to the affected farmers who suffered losses due to the 2023 ginger blight epidemic. This support included farm inputs like fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, and other necessary supplies to enable them to cultivate their land in the interim.

Meanwhile following the efforts of Governor Uba Sani in advocating for support for farmers affected by the Ginger Blight disease outbreak in Southern Kaduna, President Tinubu has directed the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to allocate N1.6 billion to the affected farmers with the aim of minimizing future losses and maintaining the vital role ginger production plays in Nigeria's food security and overall GDP contribution.

The Ginger Blight Epidemic Control Taskforce Support Initiative launched in Kaduna is aimed at repositioning Nigeria's Ginger status and bringing massive economic prosperity not only to Kaduna State but Nigeria as a whole.

The recovery component is being implemented through the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADFUND).

Kaduna to address housing deficit – Gov. Uba Sani

Governor Uba Sani has reiterated the commitment of the State Government to address the housing deficit in the state. He stated this when he received in audience the MD/CEO of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), Hon. Oyetunde Ojo and his top management team at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna.

He said that the FHA and Kaduna State were forging a partnership to provide mass housing for the people.

"We are happy with the commitment shown by FHA. I have therefore directed the Kaduna Geographic Information System (KADGIS) to identify a suitable site that will be allocated to FHA," Gov. Sani said.

"We are committed to addressing the housing deficit in Kaduna State in line with our administration's policy thrust and President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda," the Governor added.

KDGS warns against street vandalism

Just as the state government has embarked on the repairs on non-functioning street lights, some unpatriotic individuals have been vandalizing the facilities.

Kaduna Roads Management Agency (KADRA) described the incidents as worrisome. It said in a statement that security lights are for security and to beautify the town and enhance visibility for road users.

While warning of consequences for those involved, it urged the youth and community leaders to join in protecting public projects.

Emotions run high as Kuriga students reunite with families

Emotions were very high in Kaduna weeks ago on a Wednesday, as Governor Uba Sani finally reunited the Kuriga Students with their families at a well-attended event on Katuru Road in the state capital:

Both freed students and their parents expressed gratitude to the governor for giving their quest for freedom relentless attention and effort.

The Governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) Dr. Abdulkadir Muazu Meyere, conveyed the administration's vow of ensuring the freed pupils studied up to tertiary level.

Dr. Meyere, in his remark at the handing over event, urged the parents to remain steadfast in being prayerful for the safety and security of Kaduna State.

Also speaking, the representative of the Kuriga community, Idris Abdullahi (Madakin Kuriga) expressed gratitude to the Governor for "giving his all, to freeing our children and consistently consoling us in moments of tensions, until formal handing over of our children."

He also hailed the government for paying sufficient attention to the royal fathers of the community through continued strategic meetings and a series of badly-needed support, including with palliatives.

He then prayed that "this should be the last of such a very tragic incident," to which there was resounding "Amen" from those in attendance.

The Sarkin Kuriga, in his address, also extended gratitude to Governor Uba Sani, "for not resting until our children breathed an air of freedom; I commend his steadfastness and the cooperation of President Bola Tinubu, the NSA - Malam Nuhu Ribadu and security agents in general".

On her part, the Commissioner for Human Services & Social Development, Hajiya Rabi Salisu, expressed joy over the release of the pupils and noted that governor Uba Sani's wish of taking the freed pupils to Aso Rock Villa in the near future would be great.

Representative of the male students, Suleman Lawal said it was with utmost joy that they recalled the efforts of the Governor for their release.

On her part, representative of the female students, Aisha Muhammad, who was fondly addressed as "Barrister" expressed happiness with the fatherly role the governor played tirelessly to ensure they returned home and unharmed, just before she burst into tears.

A 'lieutenant' to "Barrister," barely said "I wish to profusely thank the governor" before she also burst into tears, while many of the female parents sobbed, for joy.

The handing over of the 137 students to their parents by the State government came about 48 hours after psycho-social process as directed by Governor Uba Sani, to determine the risks condition of trauma and physical health challenges, if any, amongst the freed victims ahead of the handover.

They were also hosted to a special Ramadan dinner at the Government House, Kaduna, ahead of the formal reunification with their parents.

The SSG was joined by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Malam Sani Liman Kila, Commissioners of Internal Security and that of Human Services, Samuel Aruwan, and Hajiya Rabi Salisu among others.

Meanwhile, Government of Kaduna State, has declared its support for the family of Malam Abubakar, the Kuriga teacher who died while in captivity due to health issues.

The government has granted automatic scholarship to his children up to tertiary level and provided the sum of 10 million Naira to support the family during this challenging time.

[Kaduna elders, traditional rulers, others call for prosecution of defaulting contractors](#)

On Saturday 30th March 2024 Gov Uba Sani chaired yet another Town Hall meeting at the Murtala Square where He among others laid bare the statement of accounts of the state. Stakeholders not only applauded his courage but urged him to pursue run-away contractors who had by their action constituted a cog in the wheel of progress in the State:

Kaduna elders, traditional rulers and other stakeholders at the March 30th 2024 town hall meeting in Kaduna unanimously endorsed the decision of Governor Uba Sani to take action against all fugitive contractors who collected mobilization money on contracts and refused to complete projects awarded them in some parts of the State.

They said the action was not only aimed at cheating the people of Kaduna state but also to discredit the government of Governor Uba Sani.

The stakeholders condemned the action of some of the contractors who abandoned the projects since from the 29th of May 2023 after they had collected mobilization and later ran away without completing the projects.

The unanimous decision from the elders came shortly after Governor Uba Sani took time to explain to citizens the debt profile of the state and the resultant deduction of over seven billion naira from Kaduna State's statutory allocation by the World Bank and other debtors.

Participants at the town hall meeting were particularly shocked at the disclosures by the Governor, Commissioner of Finance, and the Commissioner of Budget and Planning that the Kaduna State Government could not pay March salary (2024) due to the huge deductions and the action of

contractors during the previous administration who collected money for contract but defaulted and by not completing the projects.

Gov. Uba Sani appoints Engr Bashir Garba Ibrahim as DG KADGIS

By Helen Kafoi

Governor, Uba Sani, has appointed Engineer Bashir Garba Ibrahim as the Director General of Kaduna Geographic Information Service (KADGIS). He takes over from Mohammed Jalal who has been appointed a Special Adviser to the Governor.

Engineer Ibrahim holds a Master's and Doctorate degrees in Engineering Management from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. He has his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the same institution.

Prior to his current appointment, he served as the Special Adviser for Information and Communication Technology to the Governor.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Muhammad Shehu Lawal Shuaib said that Engineer Ibrahim is an experienced educationalist, researcher, scholar, and engineering professional, having served Nigeria in various capacities that cut across several sectors in education, engineering, research, procurement, and public service.

He has worked at reputable institutions such as the AirForce Institute of Technology (AFIT) Kaduna and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

He has also held various positions such as Managing Director, AFIT Consult Limited, Director - Centre for Defence Procurement, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and Director Public Procurement Research Centre, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

While at the Ahmadu Bello University between 2016 and 2020, he served as secretary to several committees such as University Tenders Board, University Procurement Planning Committee, University Project Monitoring Committee, University Payment Improvement Committee.

At the Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna, he held positions such as Chairman Curriculum Development (BSc/PGD/MSc Procurement and Supply Chain Management) Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Coordinator Technical Drawing Courses (Mechanical Engineering Department), and Chairman Curriculum Review (BSc/PGD/MSc Automotive Engineering) Department of Automotive Engineering.

He was the National Coordinator Committee for Directors of Works and Physical Planning of Nigerian Universities in 2014 and served as Chairman of the Committee for the Restructuring of Procurement Division and Project Management (NARICT) Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

The new DG is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Chain Management (UK), Member, Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Member, International Association of Engineering Senior Professional Engineer (IAE), Member, Council for the Regulation of Engineering (COREN), Fellow, African Society of Engineering Management and President (SEM), Member, International Industrial Accident Investigation Member (IIAI) AE, Fellow, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and Fellow, Nigeria Association of Evaluators.

I am loyal to Governor Uba Sani

Hon Bello El-Rufai, a member of the House of Representatives was at pains explaining his position over the reaction to *Gov. Uba Sani's* statement on the financial position of the state. He also distanced himself from what people termed the misguided comments of his brother *Bashir El-Rufai* on the matter thus:

It's a known thing in politics that some people won't rest unless there are fights between one another. I am in the middle, and I could even be meeting with the Governor soon.

Two weeks ago, I had to call my brother and tell him to drop a tweet, but he refused. He is over 30 years old. People should stop confusing our handles.

I am loyal to Governor Uba Sani, and I will not criticize him publicly. No one will make me do that. He mentored me, gave me my first government job, and believed in my election. This too shall pass.

The rural development being done in Kaduna State is impressive. Nigeria, as a whole, not just Kaduna, is facing financial constraints. As leaders, we are all elected to do what we can with what we have and improve it.

I honestly do not see what the fuss is all about.

The governor is the leader of the state, and for the sake of transparency, even though Malam as the outgoing governor put it in his speech how much money he was leaving in the state, it is within the governor's duty, of course, for the sake of transparency, to let the citizens of the state know the financial position.

And now, let me clarify, social media attacks will never shake my boss, Governor Uba Sani. So, a few attacks from people for obvious reasons coming at him is not the reason he did what he did.

Government needs support not diversions

At times like these, Government needs total support from both party members and opposition alike. This will aid in facilitating the implementation of government's policies towards achieving sustainable development.

The *Kaduna State Government*, under the stewardship of *Senator Uba Sani* is working round the clock to deliver on the promises made during campaigns despite the global economic challenges.

The Governor, through his vast experience and networks, which cut across different strata, has adopted different mechanisms towards achieving this feat.

The massive investments witnessed within a short period of time speaks volumes of his administration's steadfastness.

Kaduna State has witnessed development across all sectors, ranging from Education, Healthcare, Social and Infrastructure Developments, Poverty Alleviation, to mention but a few.

There is a need for all stakeholders, both within and outside the State, to support this Government to deliver on the mandate it promised.

Musa Bawa, Coordinator and Chairman, Coalition of APC Support Groups

KDSG: land mines, thorny & bumpy roads

Governor Uba Sani is the most overburdened governor in Nigeria after that of Kano. He inherited ₦587B (Appr ₦850B) foreign debt with dubious and unfavorable repayment terms and further local debts of over ₦250B as well as uncompleted projects that would require over ₦1 trillion to complete.

This is just as he is facing shrinking revenue on account of increasing insecurity.

Luckily, he did not inherit arrogance, broken promises, vindictiveness, insensitivity, and know-it-all attitude. With his consultative nature, listening ears, compassion, and teamwork, he has the potential to move ahead in spite of the land mines planted all over and around him.

Safe trip Uba Sani on your thorny and bumpy roads.

Malam Shehu Mahdi contributed this through @shehu_mahdi

Government is on the right course

The All Progressives Congress (APC), Kaduna State Chapter, heartily congratulates His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani, in the manner and style he has successfully been navigating the affairs of our State.

His administration of inclusiveness, particularly in the distribution of projects across the state, and the securing of lives and properties of residents is, in fact, unparalleled, unprecedented, and unmatched.

His zero tolerance for criminality and the total commitment to security and safety was manifested in the timely release of the Kuriga kidnapped students.

This singular act has attracted love and support to His Excellency, not only to his Government but to our great Party, the APC.

We are assuring His Excellency of our total support and prayers as he continues to show outstanding and definitive leadership in the management of our dear State.

We do acknowledge with great conviction that it is His Excellency's unmatched leadership qualities that have earned him the desirable appointment as the "*Coordinating Governor of the North-West*" by His Excellency, *Dr Umar Ganduje*, the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress.

We are not in any doubt that Governor Uba Sani will deliver and do us proud in the discharge of that responsibility to the North-West region.

Alir Care E K Jekada, rtd, PhD, mni. State Chairman, APC, Kaduna State

Kaduna State Government did its duty to the citizens

What the Government did today is one of the best things that has ever happened in Kaduna State.

I think what the Governor did is evident enough to tell us where we are from, where we are now, and it will give us the right to predict where we are likely going.

Alh. Lawal Samaila Yakawada, former Kaduna State SSG

ChatGPT said:

Here's the **full text extracted** from **Page 9** that you uploaded:

Informing people of the state's finances is part of accountability

By Muhammad Lawal Shehu

The town hall meeting is a stock-taking process, where every thorny issue is laid bare. In business, it is important to have a fine grasp of your stock management to make sure your business can grow.

In black and white, the Governor simply explained his challenges, success and future plans, to his employers!

Invariably, he began his speech by saying:

"I stand before you today as your Governor to report my Stewardship thus far"

He continued:

"Despite the huge debt burden of 587 million dollars, 85 billion Naira and 115 billion Naira contractual liabilities sadly inherited from the previous administration, we remain resolute in steering Kaduna state towards progress and sustainable development."

We have conducted a thorough assessment of our situation and are sharpening our focus accordingly.

In other words, the Governor merely assured the citizens of Kaduna State of his commitments to move the state forward, despite the challenges and paucity of funds.
It was a confidence-building interactive session.

Running a Government in my opinion is different from running a secret cult.
In the former, you are always obligated to render account to your employers—in this case, the electorate.
While in the latter, everything is shrouded in utmost secrecy, as the name implies.

As the Chief Press Secretary, I have been inundated with enquiries from all angles.
Ranging from why some projects are yet to be completed, to why the Governor is sometimes seen outside the state.

The Town Hall Meeting provided the opportunity to explain all the burning issues that were hitherto complex or so it seems.

I witnessed when the Governor swore with the Holy Qur'an to be just and fair as a leader of over the 10 Million citizens.
I can't recall a situation where he promised not to be accountable to the very people that elected him.

Malam Muhammad Lawal Shehu
Chief Press Secretary to the Governor

Appointment of Uba Sani as Northwest APC Coordinating Governor: An endorsement of his People-Centred Leadership Style

By Emmanuel Jekada

The Kaduna State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has received with joy the appointment of Senator Uba Sani as the Northwest Coordinating Governor for the APC, by the party's National Leadership.

This appointment stands as a resounding endorsement of his people-centred leadership style.

Keen followers of the activities of Governor Uba Sani are aware that immediately after his election as governor, he opened his doors for regular consultation with Kaduna State leaders of thought.

He has convened numerous Town Hall meetings to interact with the governed.
In less than One Year in office, he has proven that he is leader for all.
He has succeeded in uniting different parts of Kaduna State, thereby building trust in government.

It is on the strength of the above, that the Kaduna State chapter of the APC assures the numerous party faithful in Northwest region of Senator Sani's commitment to an open leadership style characterised by thorough consultation and inclusivity.

His dedication to serving the people and prioritizing their welfare is commendable, he is never in doubt, and remains central to his approach as a leader.

Furthermore, we wish to pledge our unwavering support towards Senator Sani in his new role, acknowledging his capabilities and vision for the progress and advancement of the state, the region and most importantly, our beloved party.

It is with great confidence that we look forward to working closely with him to achieve the Six (6) thematic goals set for him by our party apex leadership.

We want to thank the leadership of our party, under the guidance of His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje for finding Governor Uba Sani worthy of this role.

This choice has proven that our party is in safe hands and under the watchful eyes of visionary leaders.

In addition, we wish to also extend our special commendations to President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his remarkable contributions to the party and the progress recorded under his leadership.

His fatherly involvement and guidance have been instrumental in shaping the party's strength and trajectory.

The Kaduna State Chapter of the APC reiterates its commitment to upholding the party's manifestoes and the SUSTAIN agenda of Senator Uba Sani.

We are optimistic about the positive impact this appointment will have in furthering the strength of our party and the development of the Northwest region.

Air Commodore Emmanuel Jekada Rtd
Is the Chairman, APC Kaduna State

You gain nothing from ethnic hatred or religious bias

By Professor Pat Utomi

I'm a Christian from Niger Delta, but most of the things I've ever achieved occurred through the help of non-Christians and non-Niger Deltans.

I was actually looking for a way to get a banking license for a wealthy Nigerian so I approached one Fulani prince whom I'd never met before.

After telling him my mission, he told me that I should register my own bank instead of being another person's agent for registering banks.

I was shocked, wondering how an ordinary me would be able to afford the process of owning a bank.

The Fulani prince told me that I should not worry, that he will get me a banking license and even arrange for wealthy Nigerians to patronize me as a help for me without demanding for any kobo.

That was how Platinum Bank came into being through the help of a northern Nigerian I never knew in my life.

2. I was a young graduate during Shagari Administration when one man came to my residence in a massive car with escorts and told me that the powerful Yoruba Chief Bayo Kuku wanted to see me in his super mansion in Ikoyi.

I got there and the great Chief Bayo Kuku told me that he has always read what I wrote on taxation policies and he had personally discussed me with Nigerian Vice President Alex Ekwueme.

He proceeded to ask me how much I will receive if I was told to write a single position paper for Ekwueme on taxation policies.

Then, the price of Volkswagen Beetle was N2,000 so I told Chief Bayo Kuku it will cost Ekwueme N2,000. Chief Bayo Kuku burst into laughter and said:

"...so all those your grammar is only worth the price of a Volkswagen Beetle...?"

Chief Bayo Kuku then opened a briefcase, brought out N10,000 cash (brand new Mercedes Benz was then sold for N5,000) and gave me to write just one position paper, even though I've never met him in my life, and he was not even from my tribe.

3. Chief Bayo Kuku took me to Vice President Ekwueme, and within one week of knowing Ekwueme, I was shocked one day when Ekwueme told me:

"...lest I forget, President Shagari read your position paper and insists on employing to replace the professor that left his administration..."

This was how I became an employee of the Nigerian President Shagari (a Muslim Fulani) without having met him before.

4. When I was writing my PhD, I distributed my questionnaires as expected. One day, a man arrived in a big car with escorts and told me that his boss wanted to see me. I followed him and when we got to the boss, I was shocked to the marrow to see that the boss was the highly powerful Alhaji Alhaji. Alhaji Alhaji (a northern Muslim) told me that a fellow northern Emir read my questionnaire for my PhD and recommended that he, Alhaji Alhaji, employ me as his PA on financial matters.

I couldn't talk for almost 2 minutes because of the shock.
You need to know how powerful Alhaji Alhaji was in those days.

Summary:

I've been helped by Yorubas and northern Nigerians particularly Fulanis far more than my own Niger Deltans.

Don't allow anybody to push you into ethnic hatred and religious bias because you only stand to lose, not gain, from it.

*Professor Pat Utomi,
Founder of Lagos Business School,
Lives in Lagos State.*

Gov. Uba Sani: A man of his word

By John Danfulani

By noon of the 30th March 2024, Governor Sani presided over a Town Hall meeting in Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Hall in Murtala Square, Kaduna.

A broad spectrum of citizens and all political appointees were invited as usual.
Since mounting the mantle of leadership on 29th May 2023, the Governor has organized and chaired similar fora, time and time again.

Intermittent and perpetual interfaces with mandate givers which falls under the cacophony of citizens engagement is a kind of keeping faith with one of his cardinal objectives.

The interactions bestow him with quintessential opportunities to report remarkable and transformational progress made in executing the social contract entered in March of 2023, answer questions, and listen to observations from attendees.

Many revolutionary democratic leaders do that — especially in political climes that actors are undeniably stronger than institutions set to check their excesses.
This confirmed and affirms the reality that the Governor is a promise keeper and a faithful servant of the people.

His characteristics are inflicting lethal punches to the maxim that power corrupts its holders.

Little wonder, he earned the trust of all manner of people and groups in the state.

This is about the first time, in a very long time, that all ethno-religious clusters and sundry interests are feeling comfortable with the leadership in the state.

Nothing generates and sustains such trust than exhibition of compassion, kind-heartedness and meekness by a leader.

Let me close this epistle by paraphrasing the prayers of Saint Francis Of Assisi:

Lord continue to grant Governor Sani the grace and wisdom to heal, where there are wounds; to make peace, where there is trouble; to unite, where there is disunity; to mend, where there are broken hearts; to comfort, where there are bereaved; and the wisdom and righteousness to run a good race up to 2027 and beyond.

God bless our own version of FDR and Lee Quan Yew, Governor Sani.

Dr. Danfulani contributed this from Kaduna

Top Govt officials brainstorm on ways to boost IGR

Kaduna State Government moved to shore up its internally generated revenue (IGR) as top ministry and other MDA officials converged and engaged in discussions at the recent meeting of the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) committee.

Headed by the Commissioner of Finance Shizzer Nasara Bada (represented by the Permanent Secretary Lawal Habib), the meeting included the Accountant General of the State Bashir Suleiman Zuntu who sought ways of boosting the state revenue and invariably its capacity to render critical services to the people.

In his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary Lawal A. Habib stated that a good revenue performance by revenue generating Ministries, Departments, and Agencies would enhance investment in **human capital development**, good governance as well as public-private partnership, infrastructural investment, and economic diversification in Kaduna State.

He therefore called for active participation and seriousness by all.

In his remarks, the co-chairman of the IGR meeting, the Accountant General of Kaduna State Bashir Suleiman Zuntu reiterated that there was urgent need by all relevant stakeholders to focus and improve the IGR.

The Accountant General further highlighted some ways to improve Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Kaduna state, which include implementing tailored strategies such as:

- **Sector-specific Initiatives:**
This could include incentives for investment, infrastructure development, and skills training programs.
- **Local Tax Reforms:**
This may involve updating tax rates, expanding the tax base, and implementing measures to reduce tax evasion and avoidance.
- **Enhanced Tax Compliance:**
This could involve simplifying tax processes, enhancing enforcement efforts, and leveraging technology for more efficient tax collection.
- **Revenue Diversification:**
This could include exploring options such as property development, leasing of state-owned assets, and public-private partnerships in service delivery.
- **Capacity Building:**
Investing in building the capacity of state revenue agencies to improve their effectiveness in revenue mobilization. This may involve training programs, technology upgrades, and institutional reforms to enhance economic performance.

The Accountant General further urged the revenue generating MDAs to embark on Public Awareness Campaigns to educate citizens and businesses about their tax obligations and the benefits of paying taxes.

This, he said, can help foster a culture of tax compliance and reduce resistance to tax reforms.

Kaduna State's Legal Evolution: Transforming Case Management with Innovation and Efficiency

Kaduna State has made significant strides in modernizing its legal system with the implementation of a Case Management System (CMS). Hadiza Oyiza Ismail reports on the effort:

This initiative is a rarity among Nigerian states, showcasing Kaduna's commitment to efficient and transparent case handling.

The journey towards establishing the Case Management System commenced with meticulous planning and coordination with the unflinching support of Suleiman Shaibu SAN, the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice.

All members of the Ministry of Justice have been tasked with the responsibility of inputting criminal case data into the database, ensuring accurate and up-to-date records, and overseen by assigned legal counsel to ensure data accuracy.

Upon receipt of case diaries at the Ministry of Justice, the litigation office promptly enters relevant information into the CMS.

This system facilitates seamless tracking of cases and provides accessible information to anyone seeking details about cases handled by the ministry.

To bolster this innovative approach, the Ministry capitalized on available technology resources such as computers and scanners.

Furthermore, a collaboration with the Public and Private Development Centre - PPDC - resulted in the provision of batteries, solar panels, internet systems, and internet connectivity for up to one year.

Additionally, file racks were provided for efficient storage of case files.

Capacity-building workshops were also conducted for Ministry of Justice staff, fostering understanding and demonstrating the efficacy of the Case Management System.

This transformative project is supported by the Court Administration and Case Management Project of PPDC with the support of the US Department of State, alongside dedicated consultants.

As of now, over 200 case files have been successfully uploaded, granting prosecutors access into the database for streamlined case handling.

The CMS, designed by makeshift consultants, operates as a web domain facilitating the recording, storage, access, and organization of case file data.

Its implementation aims to provide insights into handled cases, improve organizational procedures, and enhance the overall efficiency of case file management at the Ministry of Justice.

Uba Sani's Six Actions for Kaduna's Education Boom

By Nasir Abdulkadir

Governor Uba Sani's administration has ignited an **education explosion** in Kaduna State, and the impact is being felt far and wide.

With a bold and ambitious vision to transform the state's education sector, the governor has set in motion a chain reaction of positive change that promises to uplift generations to come.

At the heart of this revolution is a commitment to quality education for all. Governor Sani's government has invested heavily in upgrading infrastructure, training teachers, and introducing innovative curricula that prepare students for success in an increasingly complex world.

From state-of-the-art classrooms to digital learning platforms, the administration is leaving no stone unturned in its quest to create a world-class education system.

But this education explosion is not just about bricks and mortar; it's about empowering young minds to think critically, solve problems creatively, and lead with confidence.

Governor Sani's vision is to create a new generation of leaders who will drive progress, innovation, and economic growth in Kaduna State and beyond.

The results are already speaking for themselves. Enrollment rates are soaring, academic performance is improving, and students are emerging as change-makers in their communities. Parents, teachers, and policymakers are all taking notice of both the ongoing transformation and the one underway, and the excitement is palpable.

School fees reduction:

Governor Uba Sani has reduced school fees in state-owned tertiary institutions, which were increased by 200% by his predecessor, Nasir El-Rufai, in 2021.

Recruitment of teachers:

Governor Uba Sani has recruited 7,000 teachers to strengthen the state's education system.

Addressing out-of-school children:

Governor Uba Sani has expressed concern over the high number of out-of-school children in Kaduna State and has promised to address this issue.

Collaboration with international organizations:

The governor has collaborated with international organizations such as the Kuwait Fund to support education initiatives in the state.

Scholarships and empowerment programs:

Governor Uba Sani's administration has also introduced scholarships and empowerment programs for students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Governor Uba Sani's education explosion is not just a game-changer for Kaduna State; it's a beacon of hope for Nigeria and beyond. As a nation, we face numerous challenges, but with visionary leaders like Governor Sani, we can create a brighter future for all.

The education explosion in Kaduna State is a testament to the power of leadership, innovation, and determination. Let us celebrate this success and strive to replicate it across our great nation.

Gov Uba Sani approves key appointments

In line with his administration's efforts to reinvigorate the machinery of government and quicken the pace of governance, Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has made the following fresh appointments:

1. **Rt Hon Nuhu Goroh Shadalafiya** – *Chairman, Kaduna State Legislative Service Commission* (Confirmed by the Kaduna State House of Assembly)
 2. **Ahmed Abdullahi Maiyaki** – *Managing Director, Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC)*
 3. **Ibrahim Abdulkarim Adamu** – *Managing Director, Kaduna Market Development and Management Company*
 4. **Engr Idris Aminu** – *Managing Director, Kaduna State Power Supply Company (KAPSCO)*
 5. **Mr Bamali Abu Nehemiah** – *Senior Special Assistant on Security*
-

Details on appointees:

- Rt. Hon. Nuhu Goroh-Shadalafiya, from Kagarko Local Government Area, holds a Masters in Public Policy Analysis from Nasarawa State University. He was a member of the Kaduna State House of Assembly (2015–2019, 2020–present), Deputy Speaker (2018–2019).
- **Ahmed Maiyaki**, the new MD of KSMC, holds Masters and Bachelors degrees in Mass Communication from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He has extensive experience, including Acting Chairman of the Data, Research & Verification Committee of ICC (2022–2023), and Deputy Director, Strategic Communication, Kaduna State Campaign Council (2022–2023).
- **Ibrahim Abdulkareem Adamu**, the new MD of the Kaduna Market Development and Management Company, is a seasoned accountant, born in 1966 in Saminaka. He holds B.Sc. and Master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, and International Affairs & Diplomacy from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He is a Fellow of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN).
- **Engineer Idris Aminu** of KAPSCO was born in 1986. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering from Igbiniedion University and Master's degrees in Disaster Risk Management and Information Management from Ahmadu Bello University. He previously worked with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).
- **Bamali Abu Nehemiah**, Senior Special Assistant on Security to the Governor, holds a B.Sc. in Criminology and Security Studies and has served in several key positions, including in the Presidential Villa, State House Abuja, and DSS Headquarters.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, **Malam Muhammad Lawal Shehu**, noted that the appointments were based on the proven track records of the appointees and their commitment to serving Kaduna State.

The strategic appointments reflect the administration's commitment to harnessing the brightest and most innovative minds to move Kaduna State forward.

Governor Uba Sani urged the new appointees to be diligent, fashion effective strategies, and operational plans to move the state forward. He wished them God's guidance in their duties.

The appointments took immediate effect.

Further new appointments include:

1. **Alman Kazah** – *General Manager, Finance and Administration, Kaduna Market Development Management Company (KDMMC)*
2. **Prof. Mahmud Sodangi** – *Special Adviser, Project Monitoring, Implementation & Results Delivery (PMIRD)*
3. **Dr. Abdullahi Baba Ahmed** – *Managing Director, Kaduna State Roads Agency*

Uba Sani: Acting on Sardauna's script

By Ibraheem Musa

In size, political stature and achievements, Sir Ahmadu Bello loomed large across the arena. Sardauna, as he was called, built people, edifices, and institutions as Premier of Northern Nigeria. However, the Colossus was killed in 1966 and as yet, his political **dexterity remains** unparalleled in the north.

Specifically, Senator Uba Sani, the Kaduna State Governor, is approximating him in some respects. Right now, he is building bridges, **embracing people and accommodating all tendencies** on the political spectrum.

Figuratively, he has erected a Big Tent and Muslim clerics, as well as **Christian clergymen**, including politicians and nonpartisans, the young and old, are now under one roof.

Likewise, projects are **spread across local governments**, among the three senatorial districts and between urban and rural areas.

The Governor, from all intents and purposes, is deliberate about inclusion. Last October, he hosted elders and senior citizens, comprising retired Generals and **civil servants**, accomplished businessmen, seasoned politicians from all parties, as well as elder statesmen of Kaduna State.

In fact, Alhaji Abubakar Mustafa, former Head of Service, and retired General Zamani Lekwot, are Co-Chairmen of the **Kaduna Elders/Senior Citizens Forum**, a peace-building advisory body.

Similarly, in his strategic engagement, Senator Uba Sani chairs the quarterly **Inter-Religious Harmony Committee**, where he rubs minds with religious leaders.

On Saturday, 30th March, 2024, he hosted Kaduna State Council of Ulama and Imams at **Sir Kashim Ibrahim House**, to the breaking of Ramadan fast.

In particular, Sheikh Khalifa Sani Zaria, Sheikh Tukur Al Mannar and Imam Kabir Kassim, Chief Imam of Kafanchan, as well as Malam Muhammad Mai Barota, were at the Iftar.

Similarly, **Christian clergymen** like Reverend Joseph Hayab, Kaduna State CAN Chairman, Archbishop Mathew Manoso Ndago, Reverend Bitrus Gajere, and Apostle Comfort Kato, were among the 35 pastors that broke fast with the Governor on Sunday.

Politically, Governor Uba Sani has been wooing the opposition. In the last ten months, to join hands in building Kaduna State.

Indeed, spokesman of Kaduna State PDP Campaign Council, Alhaji Yakubu Lere, has hearkened to the call and last July, he pitched tent with APC.

Likewise, the Chairman of Chikun Local Government, Mr Salasi Musa and his Councillors have left PDP, a party on whose platform they were voted into office.

Similarly, Kajuru Local Government Chairman, Hon Ibrahim Gajere, has voted with his feet, so has Hon Mathias Siman, his counterpart at Kaura Area Council.

Last Monday, Alhaji Mukhtar Ramalan Yero, ex-Governor of Kaduna State, formally ditched PDP for the ruling APC.

Likewise, financial **inclusion tops** the Governor's agenda, signposting an Executive Order to empower **Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises**, as well as providing succor to individuals.

Last Monday, Senator Uba Sani flagged off the distribution of palliatives, especially to the **poor, vulnerable and underserved**, as well as senior citizens of Kaduna State.

Cumulatively, the Government is spending **₦11.4 billion** for the exercise.

Indeed, 128 trucks of rice and maize worth **₦3.4 billion** were distributed, targeting 200,000 households, in this second round of palliatives distribution.

Approximately 1,000,000 persons are expected to benefit across the three senatorial districts.

Similarly, the sum of **₦4.2 billion** has been earmarked for cash, grants, fertilizer, and farm inputs distribution.

Beneficiaries include vulnerable households, smallholder farmers, MSMEs, Persons With Disability (PWDs), Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Orphans, and market women and youths.

Likewise, **₦3.3 billion** has been released for Pension and Gratuities, as well as Death Benefits to families of deceased civil servants.

Besides, civil servants are benefitting from a ₦500 million Revolving Loan Scheme.

From enabling religious harmony to being even-handed to all citizens and providing succor to the vulnerable, including extending a handshake to political opponents, Sir Ahmadu Bello fostered the concept of "one north, one people."

Senator Uba Sani may as well be reading from that playbook.

Tribute: Aliyu Makama – A Dedicated Colleague and Friend

By Abdullahi Shehu

Every soul will taste death. Then, to us, you will be returned. It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to our colleague and friend **Aliyu Makama**, the Public Relations Officer of LGSB.

Aliyu's sudden and tragic passing has left a profound void in our hearts and in the halls of our organization.

Aliyu was more than just a colleague; he was a pillar of strength, a mentor, and a friend to many.

From the moment I joined the LGSB team, Aliyu extended his hand in friendship, exchanging brilliant ideas and offering guidance and support whenever needed.

As a professional Public Relations Officer, Aliyu's dedication to his craft was unmatched.

His ability to communicate effectively, build bridges, and foster positive relationships with stakeholders was truly admirable.

He approached every task with enthusiasm and professionalism, leaving a lasting impression on everyone he encountered.

Beyond his professional achievements, Aliyu was known for his compassionate nature and infectious optimism.

He had a way of brightening even the darkest days with his contagious smile and...

Kaduna State unveils Children Amplified Prevention System

By Nabilah Hassan

The Kaduna State Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (KADBUSA) recently convened a Stakeholders Forum to unveil the Kaduna State **Children Amplified Prevention System (KdCHAMPS)** Initiative.

The KdCHAMPS System, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a first of its kind globally, proposes the **combination of evidence-based prevention interventions** targeting children across a wide range of developmental stages from the prenatal stage to adolescence in order to benefit from the multiplicative synergistic effects of these interventions.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Aisha A. Sadiq, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, representing the Commissioner of Health, stressed the priority of Healthcare and Human Capital Development under the present administration and pointed out that healthcare is not complete without addressing issues related to Mental health and substance abuse.

She shared statistics that indicate that 40-60% of the population of Kaduna stand to be the direct beneficiaries of the KdCHAMPS initiative by KADBUSA and that programs like these are key to securing the future of the State.

The meeting had top ranking representatives from the UNODC HQ, Vienna; Chief of the United Nations Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation Section, Giovanna Campello, Crime Prevention Criminal Justice Officer, Georgia Dimitropoulou and representative of the Country Director of UNODC Nigeria, Dr. Akanidomo Ibanga.

Participants expressed excitement at their partnership with Kaduna State to become the first place globally to implement an evidence-based system of prevention in line with global best practices.

The UNODC emphasized their willingness to continue to provide technical support to the Kaduna State Government throughout the implementation of the Initiative.

Stakeholders present included the Commissioner of Sports, the State Representative Chikun Constituency, Hon. Jesse Tanko, heads of key agencies and departments from the ministry of education and ministry of human services and social development, civil society partners like Save the Children

Foundation, Rotary Club of Nigeria, Kaduna Chapters, and private sector stakeholders like the Proprietor of Essence Schools Kaduna.

They resolved to prioritize **evidence-based interventions**, working together assiduously to realize the goal of the KdCHAMPS of creating a safer, healthier, and more informed environment for **our children and adolescents**.

Gov Uba Sani approves key appointments

(continued from page 15)

Anna Kazah, the General Manager, Finance and Administration, Kaduna Market Development and Management Company (KMDMC) is an Associate Chartered Accountant and Financial Analyst.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics (Second Class Upper Division) from the Kaduna State University, Kaduna.

Prior to her appointment as General Manager, Finance and Administration, KMDMC, she was an Audit Supervisor with Sulaimon & Co Chartered Accountants.

Prof. Mahmud Sodangi, the Special Adviser, Project Monitoring, Implementation & Result Delivery (PMIRD) is a distinguished Quantity Surveyor and Engineer.

He holds a Professional Fellowship from the University of Turku, Finland, a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, an M.Sc in Construction Contract Management and a Bachelor's degree in Quantity Surveying from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Prof. Sodangi brings to his new position, decades of experience as a researcher, project manager and Engineer in reputable organizations across the world.

Prior to his latest appointment, he worked as a Professor at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Abdullahi Baba Ahmed, the Managing Director, Kaduna State Roads Agency (KADRA), holds a First Class Bachelor's degree in Quantity Surveying from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, an M.Sc. in Civil Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Engineering Management from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dr. Ahmed is a seasoned private and public procurement expert, duly converted and inducted into the Federal Government's Public Procurement Cadre by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

Prior to his appointment as MD KADRA, he was a Special Adviser to the Kaduna State Governor on Project Monitoring, Implementation and Results Delivery (SAD - PMIRD).

He also worked as a Procurement Officer at the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), from July 2011 to July 2023.

Tribute: Aliyu Makama – A Dedicated Colleague and Friend

(continued from page 16)

Positivity. His presence in the office will be sorely missed, but his spirit will continue to inspire us all.

Tragically, Aliyu's life was cut short by a senseless act of violence. His untimely death serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of cherishing every moment we have with those we hold dear.

To LGSB, Aliyu's family, friends, and loved ones, we extend our deepest condolences.

May we find comfort in the cherished memories we shared with Aliyu, and may his legacy of kindness and professionalism live on in each of us.

Though he may no longer walk among us, **Aliyu Makama will forever remain in our hearts.**

Rest in peace, dear brother. You will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

Allah ya jikan ka da rahama, ya sa ka huta. Allah ya albarkaci zurriarka, in tamu za Allah yasa mu cika da imani.

Abdullahi Shehu is with the LGSB.

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

This rejoinder though provoked by the mischievous headline of The Peoples Gazette newspaper "Uba Sani Fetes in Lagos as Bandits Abduct 230 Kaduna School Children" is beyond a rebuttal, and an admonition of the newspaper. More significantly, it is an opportunity to elevate the argument from the pedestrian coverage of a serious incident by the newspaper, to get the federal government to move from words to actions.

*For the information of The Peoples Gazette newspaper, Governor Sani was not feting in Lagos but was on an **official** assignment to honour and engage with Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), who was **conferred with the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo Prize for Leadership** for his outstanding contribution to agricultural development of Africa, on behalf of the farmers of Kaduna State.*

Had Governor Sani not attended the event, it would have been a crime against prosperity because Kaduna is an agricultural state, the number one in corn, ginger, millet, tomatoes production etc.

The Peoples Gazette newspaper, because it was on a mission, blithely refused to acknowledge that reputable world leaders attended the event to celebrate Adesina's sterling achievements.

These included President Bola Tinubu, represented by Kashim Shettima, his vice; General Gowon, GCFR, former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, his vice Namadi Sambo, Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who chaired the event; Azali Assoumani, President of the Republic of the Union of Comoros; Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia, Faure Gnassingbe, President of Togo, and the former President of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama.

So, I put it to The Peoples Gazette that Governor Sani didn't attend frivolous event. And because Governor Sani is alive to his responsibility, once he was informed of the unfortunate situation, he hurried back to Kaduna and visited the traumatized community who, in spite of their pains, joyfully welcomed him because they know him and are aware of his efforts to bring the insurgency to an end.

For the purposes of argument, let's assume that Governor Sani was in Kaduna state and that he didn't have to attend the programme in Lagos. What would he have done to stop the attack? Would he drive the armoured tank and chase after the bandits, or order the understaffed and ill equipped Nigerian Armed Forces and Police to chase after the bandits that he absolutely has no control over? Wasn't Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State in Maiduguri when the terrorists struck? Did his presence stop the attacks?

And again, assuming Governor Sani was attending The Peoples Gazette Annual Awards, when these children were kidnapped, would it have gone to town with the same screaming and mischievous headline? Most certainly, the headline would have been different.

As governor, Uba Sani has a responsibility to engage in trips within and outside the state, to attend functions, to network, and to attract investment to his state.

Recently, Governor Sani was in the president's entourage during the State Visit to Qatar. The visit not only helped Governor Sani to strengthen the existing partnership between his state and the Qatari Government and the state-led humanitarian organisation, Qatar Charity, but to explore new areas of cooperation.

Governor Sani's fruitful meetings have attracted investment in solid minerals, agriculture, and energy. CGK GLOBAL, a waste management company, has indicated its readiness to invest 150 million dollars in the generation of hydrogen and electricity.

Also, two Abu Dhabi based companies, Masdar and Taqa, have expressed interest in collaborating with the Kaduna State Government in the areas of power generation and distribution using gas.

The media has a responsibility to set a National Agenda, and it is a duty that it must discharge, rather than to peddle attempt at politicizing Governor Sani's official visit.

The Peoples Gazette ought to be at the forefront in the campaign for the federal government to tackle the fundamental issues that have made the violence against children and indeed all Nigerians possible.

The Peoples Gazette should champion the entrenchment of true federalism so that governors can be held responsible whenever there is a security breach. So long as governors remain glorified Chief Security Officers, generals without troops, so long are we going to engage in misplaced blame, which is unfair to the governors of the 36 states and not just Governor Sani.

Why are we not having a massive recruitment into the military and police to ensure a decisive defeat of the terrorists? The president promised a massive recruitment into the security agencies, why is that not being followed up on.

Governor Sani has walked his talk. On the assumption of office, he immediately recruited 7,000 men and women into the state vigilante services. A vigilante officer paid a supreme price, engaging the terrorists with his dane gun. Of course, he stood no chance against the better armed terrorists.

I have implicit confidence in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to change the narrative. He will certainly bequeath Nigeria, an armed force that will defend the territorial integrity of Nigeria.

concluded

Ex-KADGIS DG Jalal appointed Special Adviser, hands over to successor

By Helen Kafoji

Governor Uba Sani has appointed Mohammed Jalal Special Adviser on Community Engagement. Malam Jalal is the immediate past Director General of the Kaduna State Geographic Information Service (KADGIS).

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Muhammad Lawal Shehu said that, the Special Adviser Community Engagement is a Chartered Project Manager, Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Project Management, Ghana, Chartered Facility Manager, Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Contract Project & Facility Management (CICPFM), Associate Member of the National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria (NIMN) and Associate Member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA).

He holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Architecture from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a Postgraduate Diploma in Management from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, a Diploma in Facility Management from the CICPFM, a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management from the American Academy of Project Management (AAPM).

Malam Jalal began his post NYSC career with an architectural firm Environment Seven Limited, Kaduna in 1992 and later joined former Afribank and subsequently worked with Diamond Bank and the former Savannah Bank, Reliance Bank, Equitorial Trust Bank and Ecobank in various capacities. He has over 26 years of valuable banking work experience.

Malam Jalal was first appointed as the Zonal Head (North) for Ecobank in the SME Team and has subsequently held various positions within the Ecobank Group including Branch Manager, Country Head LEAN Transformation Project, Project Manager, Head - Property & Realty Services, Head - Ecobank Business Services (EBS), Head - Commercial Banking for North-West, Zonal Head - Premier Banking, NWM and Area Manager, Kaduna.

He was appointed Commissioner (Economic Intelligence) at the Kaduna State Fiscal Responsibility Commission in 2019 and upgraded to Executive Chairman of the Commission in 2022.

Mohammed Jalal is highly skilled and knowledgeable in Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Land Administration, Property & Real Estate, Strategy Development & Implementation, Project Management, Facility Management, Leadership and Service Excellence, Banking and Finance, Architecture, and Change Management, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, the former KADGIS DG has handed over to his successor, Dr. Bashir at an occasion witnessed by management and staff of the service.

He thanked the Kaduna State Governor for the opportunity afforded him to serve in the capacity and also the KADGIS Management and staff for the opportunity given to him to work with them. He said that the time he has stayed in KADGIS for 8 months, had impacted greatly on his entire life, as he had learnt so much and has had so much influence on him.

Malam Jalal congratulated the new DG and wished him all the best in his new assignment. He called on all members of the management and staff of the Service to accord the new DG the maximum cooperation and support he received from them while heading the service and assured of his availability should the need for him arise anytime.

On his own part, the new DG, Dr. Bashir Garba Ibrahim, thanked Mohammed Jalal and the KADGIS Management staff for the warm reception and the Governor, Uba Sani for finding him worthy to handle this challenging assignment.

Bashir informed the Staff that he has come to KADGIS to work with all, to change the negative narratives of the service.

He said that his own style of leadership is to work with everybody as a team, to improve on the working principles of the service.

Ministry, UNICEF train officials on services to Kuriga community

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Development in collaboration with UNICEF recently organised an Integrated Training of Community Facilitators on an emergency Service Delivery for affected population in Kuriga. The event was part of the deliberate effort to rehabilitate the community after the recent shock of abduction of 137 students of schools in the area.

The chief of field officer UNICEF Kaduna, Mrs Theresa Pamma on the occasion congratulated the Kaduna State Government and Governor Uba Sani for the safe return of the children and further extended her congratulations to Commissioner Human Services and Social Development Hajiya Rabi Salisu for witnessing the rescue of the children successfully and unharmed.

She sent her condolences to the family of the teacher that was kidnapped alongside the children and who lost his life in captivity.

Mrs Theresa commended the efforts of the Commissioner and her untiring support in seeing the return of the Kuriga kidnapped school children. Furthermore, she narrated the tireless efforts of the Commissioner in seeing the returned children received necessary treatment and fully reunited with their loved ones as well as settled properly in their various homes and communities.

Child Protection Officer, Wilfred Mamah, spoke of how UNICEF will collaborate with Kaduna State government and other agencies to support the affected children and counsel them on how to overcome the trauma that was inflicted on them as a result of the Kuriga attack.

"The children are ours and their returning to us is great achievement and a call for celebration. We celebrate the triumph of good over evil and we pray such incident never happened again," he said.

He announced that the UNICEF and Kaduna State government would launch a 3-day, psycho-social support of the affected children as well as their parents as what is good for the goose is also good for the gander.

The training is an integrated and collective endeavour to swim the affected children out of their sorrows and fright. All sectors like the Child Protection Agency, Ministry of Education and other agencies synergized together and acted upon the restoration of peace and unity among the affected community.

The Commissioner Human Services and Social Development Hajiya Rabi Salisu, extended her profound regards and appreciation to Kaduna State Government for acting swiftly and efficiently to see the safe return of the affected children, and to the UNICEF for collaborating with KDSG through the Ministry Human Services and Social Development to deliver the 3-day psycho-social support to the affected area (Kuriga).

The Commissioner condemned the attack, noting:

"I was restless and couldn't sleep a second until the children were rescued" and assured that the Kaduna State is doing whatever it could to protect the lives and properties of its citizens.

The training included support to help meet the mental, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the affected children and their families. It was also meant to ensure and build:

1. Sense of safety to the children and the community at large.
2. Calming: To bring easiness and calm the victims from the post-traumatic experience of the attack.
3. Self and community efficacy: In which every individual within the Kuriga community will be carried along.
4. Social connectedness: The government will create social connections and strengthen social outreach to the community.

Kaduna House of Assembly chides Bello El-Rufai on comments

The Kaduna State House of Assembly has reacted to what it termed the erratic and unruly actions of Hon. Bello El-Rufai, member representing Kaduna North Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives over his social media comments and alleged disrespect following the establishment of a committee to investigate financial dealings, loans, grants, and projects implementation from 2015–2023 in Kaduna State.

Hon. Bello El-Rufai was reported to have taken to social media with two tweets, insinuating a call to "fight" and disrespecting the entire Legislative Arm of Government.

According to a statement from the Legislature, he sent insulting and subtle threat messages to the Rt. Hon Speaker of Kaduna State House of Assembly, Hon Yusuf Liman via WhatsApp. The statement signed by Malam Suraj Bamlali, spokesperson to the Speaker of the House added that the screenshots of these tweets and messages have been widely circulated, causing concern among the citizens of Kaduna State.

It is disheartening that a Federal Lawmaker, entrusted with representing the people, would resort to such behavior, attempting to obstruct the lawful functions of the State Assembly, Malam Bamlali said.

The Kaduna State House of Assembly wants to reassure the good people of Kaduna State that it remains steadfast in its commitment to serving without fear or favor.

The members of the Assembly took an oath to uphold the integrity of their office and ensure due diligence in their duties, regardless of any attempts at intimidation or threats, he further said and assured that threats and intimidation from anyone, including Federal Lawmakers, will not deter the Kaduna State House of Assembly from its pursuit of justice and accountability.

The Assembly remains resolute in its mandate to provide checks and balances and uphold the rule of law in Kaduna State.

Malam Bamlali urged the people of Kaduna State to remain vigilant and steadfast in their support for transparency, accountability and the rule of law.

"The Kaduna State House of Assembly will continue to serve the interests of the state and its citizens," he further stated.

Uba Sani's zero tolerance for corruption

(continued from last edition)

By Emmanuel Ado

Corruption is an ugly reality that has proven to undermine and erode trust in government and has adversely affected the capacity of government to achieve its developmental goals. The question moving forward is, what are Governor Sani's strategies to mitigate endemic corruption?

First, passionate observers of the unfolding Uba Sani phenomenon believe that the government is on the right path, by ordering the management of KASU to refund the unauthorized levies which it flagrantly collected from the hapless students despite clear directive from the government.

On KASTLEA, the governor has instituted an inquiry into the conduct of the operatives, in clear demonstration of his respect for the rule of law, which gives the accused an opportunity to defend himself. Furthermore, he has called on citizens to report any violation of the law, which many people didn't take note of, empowers the people and co-opts them into the war on corruption.

Obviously, the government needs to do more to clean the Augean stable in the state university. This follows the startling revelations that have since come to light, of the procurement of books for the library that are supplied and returned to a popular bookshop in Kaduna, the non-funding of the departments, diversion of IGR, unmerited promotions and the use of old answer sheets to print question papers etc.

Governor Sani has also truly set up an administrative panel to investigate these allegations. He should start by taking a look at the report of the visitation panel and implement all its recommendations.

In the case of the notoriously corrupt, uncouth and highly unproductive KASTLEA personnel, most of whom resume under trees when not extorting motorists, Governor Sani should order an immediate reorganization to weed out dead woods, and those who remain should be retrained and properly equipped. This will hopefully address the deep contempt the public has for the agency.

Many would agree that Governor Sani should vicariously hold the managements of KASU and KASTLEA responsible for the manifest shortcomings of their organizations due to apparent failure to supervise and provide leadership. He will be justified in whatever further actions he eventually takes.

No doubt, there is a compelling need for Governor Sani to drive the message home that his war against corruption would be unrelenting and total. By punishing proven cases of graft and abuse of office, he has made the point that government officials would be held accountable for their actions. This is a vital component of his anti-corruption effort.

Feelers across Kaduna state indicate that Uba Sani's actions have continued to receive applause from the people. There has been an overwhelming support for his actions to reduce corruption to the barest minimum. To the people of Kaduna state, Governor Sani is a Daniel that has come to judgment, because of their belief that the outcome of the war will enhance transparency and accountability in government, which will ultimately impact positively on their lives.

While there is no magic wand to tackle corruption, clear evidence of institutional weakness, applying sanctions when there are infractions like Governor Sani has done, is one of the ways to go. The other commendable step is the wholesome reform of the system to make committing act extremely difficult, because the perpetrators bypass or exploit weaknesses in existing laws and regulations to carry out their crimes.

Sensitization campaigns to change the attitude of public servants would equally help. Governor Uba Sani's strategy of tackling corruption proactively derives from the sage that prevention is better than cure.

This approach will definitely go a long way in reducing corruption. He has equally showed that he has the political will to tackle dishonesty dealings among public officials beyond reiterating his zero-tolerance for abuses in the ministries, departments, agencies and state-owned institutions. His loud and clear statements have continued to reverberate and demonstrated to everyone that his administration remains committed to protecting its citizens against fraudulent actions by public servants, and that his zero-tolerance for corrupt practices knows no sacred cow.

(concluded)

Emmanuel Ado is a Public Affairs Commentator resident in Kaduna.

Development Agency says enrolment in its programme is free

The Kaduna State Enterprise Development Agency has cautioned the general public to be wary of fraudsters who were charging fees on the KAD-CARES (A Kori Talauci) Programme of the State Government.

A statement from the agency said that the ongoing operational grants disbursement by the Governor of Kaduna State is targeted at helping businesses grow and was rendered free.

Enrollment and verification for the KAD CARES (A Kori Talauci) programme is entirely free, the statement said.

KADEDA explicitly stated that no individual or organization has been authorized to collect any form of payment for enrollment or subsequent verification and disbursement.

Therefore, applicants and beneficiaries are strongly advised against making any payment to anyone in connection with their participation in the KAD CARES (A Kori Talauci) programme, the statement advised.

“We urge you to contact the Kaduna CARES Programme Secretariat promptly on 070052333722, should anyone request payment for participation or claim to represent KADEDA and request payment after disbursement,” the agency stated adding:

“Alternatively, if such solicitations occur, we encourage you to report the incident to the nearest Police Station for appropriate action.”

The statement emphasized that KADEDA was committed to ensuring transparency, fairness, and equal access to opportunities for all applicants in the Kaduna CARES (A Kori Talauci) programme.

Let us sustain sense of communal living

Being a goodwill message by Gov Uba Sani on the occasion of the Eid-Fitr celebrations in Kaduna

I wish to felicitate with my fellow Muslim brothers and sisters in Kaduna State, Nigeria and across the globe on the joyous occasion of Eid-El-Fitr, the celebration of end of the Ramadan fasting, one of the five Pillars of Islam.

The Ramadan period afforded the Muslim faithful the world over the opportunity to demonstrate the values of charity, compassion and cooperation, as well as reflect, seek forgiveness, and show gratitude to Almighty Allah for His countless blessings. It renewed, among the faithful, a strong sense of community as people gathered in Mosques and community spaces to share iftar meals with their neighbors. As we celebrate the occasion of Eid-el-Fitr, I urge the Muslim faithful to imbibe in their daily lives the lessons of Ramadan, which includes self-control, discipline, sacrifice, perseverance, and total devotion to the will of Almighty Allah.

I call on all Nigerians to use the Eid-el-Fitr celebration to pray for the restoration of peace and security in our communities. May we see the end of terrorism, banditry, insurgency, kidnapping and other forms of violent crime in Nigeria.

As Nigerians, we must continue to pray for our leaders and ask Almighty Allah to guide and strengthen them so that they can lead our states and country to the path of progress and sustainable development.

Our dear President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR is working very hard to secure the country and stabilize the economy. We must give him all the support and cooperation.

In Kaduna State, we have not wavered in our determination to degrade criminal elements laying siege to our communities. We have forged solid partnerships with federal security forces and strengthened the Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS). Working with our dear President, the National Security Adviser and

the Nigerian Army, we secured the release of our abducted Kuriga school children. We give Almighty Allah all the glory.

We have taken steps to improve internally generated revenue, reduce cost of governance and ensure efficient management of our human and material resources to transform the state. We are making steady progress. We are determined to change the face of Kaduna State. We want to make rural living a pleasurable experience. We are focused on turning Kaduna State into an international business hub; the investors choice destination.

Above all, we are working assiduously to rebuild trust and make our dear state an "oasis of peace and harmony." To quicken our pace, we require the total commitment and support of our people, and sustenance of the sense of community built during the Ramadan period. May Almighty Allah be our guide as we continue on this journey of restoration.

Happy Eid-El-Fitr!

Senator Uba Sani, Governor, Kaduna State. April 9th, 2024.

Federal Commissioner NPC distributes relief items in Kaduna South LGA

Federal Commissioner, National Population Commission (NPC) Hajiya Sa'adatu Dogonbauchi has distributed 3000 bags of rice to the needy in Kaduna South LGA.

She said that the aim was to provide support and to ensure that everyone can observe Ramadan and Celebrate Sallah with dignity and peace of mind.

She described the occasion as truly humbling experience to see the smiles and gratitude on the faces of those who received the package.

"Knowing that I am able to provide sustenance and support to so many families fills my heart with immense joy and gratitude," the federal commissioner said.

"I successfully allocated slots to our Party, the All Progressives Congress and to all 13 Councillors from the 13 wards of Kaduna South Local Government Area, prioritizing the distribution to ensure the package reached the grassroots level. In this allocation process, no distinctions were made based on party affiliations or religious backgrounds," she added.

Hajiya Dogonbauchi commended the Kaduna South APC Party Chairman, Hon. Ibrahim Yakubu Soso, all the 13 Councillors and party stakeholders, and urged them to continue working together to uphold the principles of fairness, inclusivity, and service to society for all.

"Again, after much consideration and reflection on the challenges facing the women of Kaduna South Local Government, I have made a heartfelt decision to donate my entire salary for the upcoming year to empower the women of Kaduna South Local Government," Hajiya Dogonbauchi, added.

"I firmly believe that investing in the empowerment of women is not only a moral imperative but also a powerful catalyst for positive change and sustainable development. By supporting women, we can unlock their full potential and create a more equitable and prosperous society for all."

"I call upon each and every one of us to continue praying for the well-being, wisdom, and success of our esteemed leaders, President Bola Tinubu, Vice President Kashim Shettima, and our Kaduna State Governor, Malam Uba Sani."

"Together, let us strive to build a State and a nation that thrives on unity, progress, and compassion," she further said.

SPORTS

(Kaduna Outlook Page 23 — Vol. 1 No. 4, April 2024)

Gov. Uba Sani has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SWA Sports Ltd, which attests to the administration's commitment to developing sports in the state.

According to the Governor, the MOU was a strategic partnership aimed at bolstering sports infrastructure, developing talent, and promoting a culture of athleticism in Kaduna State.

Together with SWA Sports, we look forward to realizing our shared vision of a healthier, more active, and peaceful community through sports, while leveraging on the revenue generation opportunities a developed sports ecosystem will enable, Governor Uba Sani stressed.

Pictures (top left) show Gov. Uba Sani and the Director of SW Sports, Aisha Shuaibu, signing the MOU while officials of both sides watch.

1st YEAR SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The *Kaduna Outlook* magazine is publishing a special edition in May 2024 to mark the **one-year anniversary** of the Governor Uba Sani administration in office.

The edition will feature an exclusive interview with His Excellency on the administration's journey so far – the achievements, challenges, and the course to the future.

The *Kaduna Outlook* welcomes advertorial goodwill messages and other felicitations on the occasion from individuals, MDAs, Corporate Organisations, LGAs and Associations across the state in commemoration of the milestone. Find herein our advertisement rates for the placement of messages as desired.

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