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Uba Sani's campaign for State Police gets presidential assent

By Our Correspondent with additional reports

Governor Uba Sani spent a great deal and effort during his days as a Senator at the 9th Senate of the National Assembly canvassing for State Police. This he believed was the panacea to the country's incessant insecurity. The Governor has not relented in his pursuit of the matter as he seized on every opportunity of the right audience to drum up support for his views for further discourse.

Just last December he seized on the meeting separately with him by different caucuses of the National Assembly who were on condolence visit over the unfortunate development at Tudun Biri in the state to reiterate that there was a need to review the relevant provisions of our constitution to allow for State Police. This he said would enhance intelligence gathering and therefore avoid intelligence failure as evident in incidents across the country. There is no beating local intelligence gathering, he emphasized.

The recent pronouncement by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu appears to be a move at last towards what Uba Sani has championed, as can be gleaned from the outcome of his meeting with Governors, Ministers and other senior government officials at the State House on the state of the nation; this is contained in the statement below:

President Bola Tinubu in company of Vice President Kashim Shettima at the State House met with the 36 States Governors and the FCT Minister. The meeting agreed on common ground to addressing some of the challenges currently facing the country especially the rising cost of food and insecurity.

After extensive deliberations the President and Governors agreed to work together to solve the problems and tackle the economic pressure being faced by the citizens. Below are the key takeaways from the meeting:

1. On addressing insecurity which is also affecting farming and food production, President Tinubu made 3 key pronouncements.

A) More police personnel to be recruited to strengthen the force.

B) *President Tinubu informed the Governors that the Federal Government will work with them and the National Assembly towards putting in place a mechanism that will engender state police instead of the vigilantes that are being used in some states.*

C) The President charged the Governors to strengthen their Forest Rangers and arm them to keep all the forests safe from criminals.

D) *Modalities for State Police and addressing security issues to be discussed further at National Economic Council.*

2. On rising cost of food:

The President directed that the State Governments and Federal Government should collaborate to increase local food production. The President advised against the idea of food importation and price control when local food producers should be encouraged to produce more food.

3. President advised Governors to follow the example of Kano State in dealing with hoarding of

food for profiteering by commodities merchants. He directed the Inspector-General of Police, National Security Adviser, Department of State Services to monitor warehouses hoarding food items across the country and stop profiteering by merchants.

4. President charged Governors to pay attention to livestock development in their states and increase production most especially poultry and fishing products.

5. *President pleaded with Governors to ensure all salary arrears to workers, gratuities to workers and pensioners are cleared as a way to put money into the hands of the people since states are now getting more monthly FAAC revenue.* “Spend the money, don’t spend the people”, he urged the Governors

6. *President Tinubu* implored Governors to create more economic opportunities for the youths in their states to *keep them more* productively engaged.

Our inclusive governance keeps religious crisis at bay - Uba Sani

By Our Correspondent

Kaduna State has kept religious crisis at bay through its inclusive approach to governance, Governor Uba Sani has said.

He said in a media interview that the prevailing peaceful atmosphere in the state since the inception of the present administration owed greatly to its commitment to its dispensing justice and equality irrespective of who was involved.

Gov Uba Sani stated that the bedrock of peace in society was justice founded on equal treatment to all people and "instilling a sense of belonging to all".

The Governor emphasized the diversity and cosmopolitan nature of Kaduna State and cautioned that in such set up leaders cannot afford to cater for the interest of a narrow specific group.

"I took an oath to be fair to everyone irrespective of their religion or ethnic affiliation", Governor Sani stressed.

"Look at what is happening in Kaduna today, we don't have any problem of division", the Governor enthused.

Speaking further the chief executive of Kaduna State said: "Since I was elected there has been no single religious crisis in Kaduna State. And why is this so, it is because of justice".

Governor Sani said that the cosmopolitan nature of Kaduna was a strength not a weakness and urged leaders to always draw a strength from the diversity of their societies by treating all as one family.

Kaduna State Security Trust Fund takes effect

By: Our Correspondent

Governor Uba Sani has signed into law the Kaduna State Security Trust Fund Bill 2024. The Bill repealed the State Security Trust Fund Law No.22, 2018.

The new law empowers the tiers of government and security agencies in the state on security matters.

In effect, the law is to provide money for the acquisition and deployment of security equipment and such human, material and financial resources shall be necessary for the effective functioning of all Federal, State, Local Government and other security agencies working in the state.

Part of the Fund shall be reserved for the training and retraining of security personnel.

Under the Law a Board of Trustees is set up known as the State Security Trust Fund Board of Trustees. which shall:

- (a) be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
- (b) have power to sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- (c) be capable of holding, purchasing, acquiring any property movable and immovable.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor Muhammad Shehu Lawal explained that Unlike the repealed State Security Trust Fund Law 2018, the Kaduna State Security Trust Fund Law 2024 will be private sector driven as representatives of the private sector will play a prominent role in the management of the Fund.

The private sector representatives will manage the Fund in collaboration with other critical stakeholders in the security sector. The new Law is also designed to align with global best practices and serve as a model for other sub-nationals.

The signing into law of this important bill, is clear indication that the State Government is committed towards degrading terrorists, bandits, kidnappers and other criminal elements who have been laying siege to some communities in Kaduna State. The Security Trust Fund will enable the State Government to support local and federal security agencies with equipment and logistics. In Addition, security personnel will be trained and retrained to respond effectively to current and emerging security threats. Funds would also be devoted to Psychological Operations, aimed at winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Governor Sani while signing the bill made a passionate appeal to corporate organizations and public-spirited individuals to donate generously to the Fund as Security was everybody's business. "We must join hands to uproot the evil elements destroying our local economies and the livelihoods of our people," he said.

[CSC Promotes 66 staff](#)

By Mansir Isah

The kaduna State civil service commission has approved the promotion of 66 staff from the ministry of health and human services.

The approval came up during the 2nd full Commission meeting for the year 2024 held at the commission's conference hall, which was chaired by the chairman Alh. Sule Shehu Allah Allah Banu Lafiya alongside his permanent commissioners, permanent secretary, directors and other senior officers of the commission.

Full Commission meeting is a gathering by members which consists of the chairman and four permanent commissioners that usually take place to approve or reject promotion of a staff whom in the cost written examination and oral interview have met the conditions laid, and also obtained

the provided marks that qualifies him to be promoted to the proposed rank. Other issues are: the commission is responsible for looking into recruitment of new staff into the service by following the due process such as screening, cross checking of credentials to find out whether it's suitable for the employment in terms of relevancy and cognate experience and to also test the ability of a candidate by interview.

However the commission is also responsible for looking into disciplinary matters of the state civil service when ever the need arises. In his remarks the permanent secretary civil service commission comrade Shehu Usman Saliha have urged the staff promoted to utilize the opportunity towards moving the state civil service forward and to continue complying with the state civil service rules and regulations.

KADCHMA launches mobile platform to ease access to healthcare *By Mock Samuel Kure*

The Kaduna State Contributory Health Management Authority KADCHMA has launched the KADCHMA Support Application for all its enrollees under the State Contributory Health Scheme as well as those who are yet to join.

Launching the KADCHMA support Application held at the Ministry of Health conference Hall, the Commissioner of Health Hajiya, Umma K Ahmad commended KADCHMA for the initiative saying it marked a significant milestone for the healthcare sector of Kaduna State.

Hajiya Umma, said the introduction of the online platform and mobile app signify a new chapter in our efforts to provide high Quality and accessible healthcare for all residents of Kaduna State. Earlier, the Director General KADCHMA Mallam, Abubakar Hassan said the platform and application will not only make it easier for Subscribers to access information but also allow them to provide feedback to make inquiries and log complaints from the comfort of their homes. He urged all residents of Kaduna especially those enrolled to download the app for their benefit.

Kaduna State hails NDA

The government and people of Kaduna State appreciate the contributions of the NDA and it's role in securing lives and property even in the most trying situations, Gov Uba Sani said.

He said at this age of the Golden Jubilee of the NDA that the government and people of Kaduna State, hail the past Commandants, Commanders-in-Chief, Commandants, faculty, directing and supporting staff, cadets, alumni and Veterans for the efforts and on milestone.

"It is my sincere hope and prayer that the NDA will continue to renew and reinvigorate its training curriculum, while its products, the officers will fly higher and higher like the Eagle in the Crest," the Governor said.

Kaduna set for new infrastructure levels *By Our Correspondent*

Kaduna State is set to ramp up the provision of infrastructure to new levels. Gov Uba Sani, believes good and quality infrastructure will help his government realise the dream of making Kaduna the preferred destination for investors.

However, building excellent and sustainable infrastructure requires skilled project managers. For this reason, Gov Uba decided to equip top government project managers with the latest knowledge and skills in project control and construction quality management.

The governor identified the best training and consulting firms in Nigeria and abroad that will help provide the highest quality resource persons with the knowledge and skills on the global best practices in this area.

He picked world-class trainers, Penhall Consulting and Zoe Talent Solution of UAE, to provide these essential capabilities enhancing training for top project managers in Kaduna State government.

The participants were taken to Kigali for one week of intensive training on project management, project control, and construction quality management.

The aim was fourfold: build the capabilities of public service project managers and bring them up to date with global best practices; empower them with skills and knowledge that guarantee top quality for all state government projects; retool them for optimal efficiency in project management and control and impart in their cost-efficiency skills so the government gets value for money.

Kaduna State is the first state government to expose its crucial project managers to this level of global best practices. Other state governments are encouraged to follow suit because of the enormous benefits this brings to the quality of projects they deliver.

Participants include high government officials, policymakers, and civil servants — a Permanent Secretary, a Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on projects and directors from the Ministry of Works.

The resource persons and facilitators were top, hands-on project managers and former government officials with knowledge and experience of project control and quality management in a dynamic, volatile, and unstable environment like Nigeria.

They understand the peculiarities and nuances of managing projects in Nigeria and underpin local best practices with global, cutting-edge, and innovative solutions in project control and quality control.

Commenting on the training, which took place from January 29 to February 4, 2024, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Projects, Dr Baba Musa, stated, "I feel delighted with the training on Project Control and Construction Quality Control that I attended. The course provided

comprehensive and practical knowledge, equipping me with the necessary skills to ensure high-quality standards in construction projects. The trainers were highly knowledgeable and engaging, making the learning experience enjoyable and insightful. I am confident that the training has significantly enhanced my abilities in overseeing and maintaining top-notch construction quality".

Permanent Secretary, Mr. Habib Lawal commented, "Kudos to the training organization for delivering an engaging project control training in such a conducive atmosphere! The diverse topics discussed were enriching and highly relevant to our professions. The training has undoubtedly empowered us with the knowledge and tools to excel in our respective roles in the office. Thank you for a truly impactful learning experience!"

Delivering high-quality projects starts with the quality of the project executors and monitors.

Kaduna State is on the right track to maximising value in all the projects through practical projects and quality control. Other states must emulate this bold step to empower their staff for high-quality project impact.

[Uba Sani, Tinubu felicitate with el-Rufai at 64](#)

Governor Uba Sani has sent fraternal greetings to former Governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai who turned 64 on the 16th of February 2024. Describing the former governor as "my dear brother, friend and predecessor", Governor Uba Sani extolled the contributions of malam el-Rufai to the growth of Kaduna State and Nigeria. "I urge you not to relent in making further and better contributions as we strive to overcome our developmental challenges", he stated.

Governor Sani prayed to Allah to continue to guide, protect and strengthen the former governor in his future undertaking. In a similar goodwill message, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu commended the exemplary leadership and remarkable contributions of malam el-Rufai to the nation through his illustrious career in service.

In a statement by his Special Adviser (Media and Publicity), President Tinubu expressed confidence that el-Rufai's commitment to national service will continue to serve as an inspiration to the younger generations.

[Uba Sani: A Biography](#)

Uba Sani is a Nigerian politician currently serving as the Governor of Kaduna State. He was until now the Senator representing Kaduna Central Senatorial district in Kaduna State at the National Assembly.

On February 23, 2019, he was elected on the All Progressives Congress (APC) platform in Nigeria's general elections. He defeated Shehu Sani, the PRP's incumbent Senator.

On December 31, 1970, Uba Sani was born in Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. He received his education at prestigious institutions such as Kaduna Polytechnic, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, the University of Abuja, and the University of Calabar.

His engineering knowledge has provided a solid foundation for his career endeavors.

Uba Sani's commitment to serving humanity was evident long before he entered politics. In Nigeria, he stood up to military dictatorship, leaving a trail of bravery and patriotism.

His organizing and networking skills were important in developing a strategic platform for Northern Nigeria's pro-democracy movement. Through his civil society organization, the Movement for Freedom and Justice, he advocated for the rights of the poor and provided them with access to justice.

After Nigeria recovered democracy in 1999, Uba Sani entered politics. He backed People's Democratic Party presidential candidate Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and after the election, briefly was appointed as the President's Special Advisor on Public Affairs.

His expertise was also sought after by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), where he worked as an advisor to then-FCTA Minister Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai and the Kaduna State Ministry of Housing and Works.

Uba Sani declared interest in and competed for the Kaduna Central senatorial seat in 2019 on behalf of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). In Nigeria's general elections in February 2019, he was elected Senator, succeeding Shehu Sani.

Throughout his term, Uba Sani vigorously defended the interests of the people in his district. His contributions were significant, as he sponsored bills on Nigeria's Senate floor.

Kaduna Central Senator:

As Senator for Kaduna Central, Uba Sani helped to create laws and advocate for his constituents' problems. He sponsored various bills that addressed major concerns and aimed to improve the lives of Nigerians.

The Banks and Other Financial Institutions (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2020 and the *Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill 2021* were two of such laws that became Acts after President Muhammadu Buhari signed them.

Uba Sani's commitment to duty and humanity has made him many friends in Kaduna State and the country. His participation in the Senate is seen as a continuation of his human rights and pro-democracy activism.

In May 2023, Uba Sani took over as Governor of Kaduna State, tasked with governing the state. With a vision for wealth and progress, he hopes to bring about constructive reforms that would benefit the people of Kaduna State.

His selection reflects his commitment to public service and community advancement.

Uba Sani's deputy as Governor, Hadiza Balarabe, is a capable and experienced individual who aids him in governing Kaduna State.

They form a strong partnership dedicated to improving the state and its people.

Awards

and

Recognition:

Uba Sani has reached significant milestones throughout his career and received accolades for his contributions to Nigerian politics and society.

Many people admire and support him because of his public service, advocacy for human rights, and dedication to assisting people experiencing poverty.

In addition to his political responsibilities, Kaduna State Governor Uba enjoys an active personal life. He has three children with his wife, Hafsat Uba Sani. His commitment to assisting people extends beyond his official duties.

In 2018, he launched the Uba Sani Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides access to healthcare and education and improves lives for Nigeria's destitute.

The group uses existing resources and information to assist individuals in education, healthcare, vocational skills, and empowerment.

(Culled and edited from Privilege Magazine)

Kaduna SURWASH programme commences

By Godwin Bulus

In furtherance of the 'Sustain Agenda' of the present administration, Kaduna State has commenced implementation of the World Bank assisted SURWASH programme through the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to construct and rehabilitate WASH facilities in six (6) Local Government Areas of the State. (Soba, Sabon Gari, Igabi, Chikun, Jema'a & Jaba).

The Director General RUWASSA, Engr. Mubarak Shehu Ladan, the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Public Works and Infrastructure, Arc. Ibrahim Hamza, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Public Works, Alh. Abshir Abdu Na Abdu, the Project Coordinator Kaduna State SURWASH, Engr. Esau Ambinjan performed the official signing of contract agreements and officially declared the commencement of SURWASH projects in Kaduna State.

At the occasion, the Commissioner, Public Works and Infrastructure, Arc. Ibrahim Hamza expressed gratitude to God and the World Bank for picking the state out of the seven (7) selected pilot states: **Delta, Ekiti, Gombe, Imo, Katsina, and Plateau** to commence the programme.

He drew the attention of the contractors on the need to be diligent and honest in their dealings as the nature of the programme was result-oriented.

In his remark, Kaduna State Sustainable Water Supply and Hygiene (SURWASH) project Coordinator Engr. Esau Ambinjan expressed his delight on the commencement of the project as

'this is an occasion we have been waiting for and thank God we've signed our contract agreements today.'

These efforts are geared towards meeting the SDG 6 target of providing water and sanitation by 2030. RUWASSA's core mandate is **providing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** services to rural dwellers as well as the semi-urban areas of the state.

[Gov. Uba Sani stops students levy by KASU](#)

By Our Correspondent

Governor Sani has ordered the stoppage of levy collection by the management of the Kaduna State University (KASU). The Governor stated that collection of levies negates the State Government's downward review of the **extant fees regime** announced in 2023, which was implemented as an intervention to cushion the effects of the general rising cost of living in the people, especially in the wake of petroleum subsidy removal.

The Kaduna State Government is committed to ameliorating the suffering of the people. It will continue to initiate policies, programmes and projects to bring succour to the poor, under-served and the vulnerable, a statement released by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor Muhammad Lawal Shehu said.

It shall continue to take all necessary measures to ensure access to free and qualitative education for every citizen in Kaduna State from primary to tertiary level, it said.

[KADVS assures of adequate protection of PWD at the grassroots](#)

By Yunusa Shehu Ibrahim

The Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVS) has assured **Persons With Disability (PWD)** of adequate protection at the grassroots level, especially during elections and other civic responsibilities.

Deputy Commander, KADVS, Rtd Col Khalid Muhammad gave the reassurance when he played host to the leadership of the **All-Right Foundation** popularly known as TAF Africa at the Service headquarters in Kaduna.

According to the Deputy Commander, KADVS as a constituted security outfit was working round the clock to support conventional security agencies especially the Police to ensure security in Kaduna State.

He said: "We are happy that TAF Africa recognized our role in securing the state. We are well represented in all the 23 local government areas of the state and I want to inform you that all our offices in the state are open to all. It may interest you to know that some of your members are part of us at the community level. That collaboration has been helpful in what we are doing."

"In terms of future engagements including elections, keep us posted especially in areas we need to further collaborate."

He said that as a government agency, KADVS provides all-inclusive security services for people residing in any part of the state.

Vice Chairman, Joint National Association of Persons With Disability and TAF Africa Coordinator in the State, Abubakar Adam commended KADVS for its support for PWD over the years especially when there is any social unrest.

"We know the nooks and crannies of Kaduna and we know the role vigilantes are playing to protect our communities. We have just come to thank you because you have done a lot for the PWD."

"There was a time we witnessed a crisis along Kano Road that led to people scampering into safety. But our people who are blind, crippled could not run. We saw what vigilantes did to move these people into safety during that crisis."

"So, we joined TAF Africa to be here, and like Oliver Twist we are here to say thank you and to enjoin you continue to support our people wherever you see them", he said.

Earlier, Programme Officer, TAF Africa, Godfrey Oche Ogah noted that the visit to KADVS became necessary as a deliberate plan to cascade what TAF Africa is doing at the national level to Kaduna communities.

"PWD need your support in terms of elections and other things they are doing because you operate more at the grassroots level."

"Again, sometimes there are crises in the community where vigilantes will be the first port of call to security agents. So we are here to seek your collaboration, partnership, and support", he said.

TAF AFRICA is implementing a six-month Kaduna government programme via the Canadian Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI) project titled **"Strengthening Institutions for Governance and Rule of Law to Promote Disability Inclusion at the Grassroots Level"** in Kaduna State.

[Kaduna State Government seeks amicable resolution of disputes](#)

By Hadiza Oziya Ismail

The Hon. Attorney General Sule Shu'aibu has set up an ad-hoc committee to address pending land and contractual suits.

The committee, which has the approval of the State Governor Uba Sani, is to resolve numerous legal disputes in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Their task is to invite relevant parties involved in sensitive cases concerning the government and its agencies, seeking amicable resolutions to the cases to save time and cost.

Chaired by the Attorney General, the committee includes the Commissioner, Ministry of Finance, Kaduna, Solicitor General & Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Directors of KADGIS and Kasupda-Kdsg, Executive Secretaries of Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA) and Kaduna State Roads, Directors of Civil Litigation and Commercial Law in the Ministry of Justice and a Secretary.

[Zamfara State Internal Revenue Service solicits support of KADIRS](#)

By Zakari Jamilu Muhammad

The KADIRS Executive Chairman, Jerry Adams, received in audience recently the Chairperson of Zamfara State Internal Revenue Service, Hajiya Rakiya Ahmed Dodo, at the corporate headquarters of the Service.

It was gathered that the two Executive Chairpersons discussed in detail areas of common interest beneficial to both services.

The visit is a clearing ground for a full and powerful delegation of Zamfara State Internal Revenue Service that will be visiting Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service in the near future with a view to explore further areas of cooperation between the two agencies for their mutual benefits.

[Kaduna, Commonwealth sign MoU on Accountability Framework to pioneer strategic development](#)

(Feature)

In a landmark move, the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, has officially sealed the Kaduna Mutual Accountability Framework (KaMAF) in collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO).

The signing, which took place on February 8th, 2024, signified a strategic alliance to propel Kaduna into a model of development for Northern Nigeria.

Development Director Cynthia Rowe, representing FCDO, expressed optimism about the seamless implementation of KaMAF, citing the Kaduna State Government's unwavering commitment.

The framework extends its reach across crucial sectors such as Education, Agriculture, Health, and Human Capital Development, aligning closely with the Kaduna State Development Plan 2021–2025 and the SUSTAIN Agenda's seven pillars.

What sets this collaboration apart is the comprehensive approach, aiming not only to improve coordination between the Donor Community and Kaduna State but also to support the delivery of the state's development plan.

Governor Uba Sani emphasized his administration's dedication to concrete reforms that promote good governance, peace, security, poverty reduction, and economic recovery.

This transformative initiative underscores Kaduna's commitment to holistic development, with a strong focus on enhancing the lives of its citizens.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with FCDO is poised to fortify the partnership, fostering transparency, accountability, and impact.

As the state sets forth on this ambitious journey, it beckons a new era of progress and prosperity, placing Kaduna on the map as a beacon of sustainable development.

[Home Opinion Kaduna: Uba Sani breaks new ground](#)

By Ibraheem Musa

Largely, politics thrives on double speak, outright denials, and policy walkbacks, as politicians seldom walk their campaign talks.

Yet, Senator Uba Sani, the Kaduna State Governor, is an exception to the rule in terms of infrastructural development. The Governor, from the get-go, has been committed to rural transformation.

Clearly, he stated this priority at the hustings, solicited for votes on that premise and, in part, got elected on the promise of rural revival.

Indeed, on assuming office, he activated his master plan, mobilized to site, and rolled up his sleeves, unleashing a raft of projects as he did.

Previously, the El Rufai administration, according to him, had focused on urban renewal and the programme, he pointed out, has received wide acclaim.

However, he promised to break new ground and in no time, the Governor has performed several ground-breaking ceremonies, especially in the hinterland.

Indeed, bulldozers, loaders, and excavators are now working at a frenetic pace, executing projects in several locations in Kaduna State.

Specifically, the rural transformation journey started last September with the flagging off of the 21.7-kilometre road linking Anchau, Gadas-Palla Road in Kubau and Ikara local governments.

The road, when completed, will address the transportation challenges of 32 communities.

Similarly, two months later, the Governor performed a more colourful, elaborate, and expanded ground-breaking event at Kudan local government in November.

At that time, the people had welcomed the Governor in their thousands, with endearing slogans, songs of praise, and sundry epithets at the ground-breaking:

- “Balaraben gwanma,”
- “Uban Alheri,” and
- “Mai Nasara,”

rent the air as the Chief Executive of Kaduna State and his entourage — including Commissioners, political associates, and senior government officials — arrived Hunkuyi town, headquarters of Kudan local government.

Specifically, he flagged off the construction of a 10.2-kilometre feeder road, stretching from Dan Makwarwa to Hunkuyi.

Last year, the rural transformation train, on December 23, also arrived at the Zone 3 terminus, where the Governor flagged off roads, drainages, and culverts construction across eight local governments in Southern Kaduna.

In fact, the projects are spread across Jaba, Zangon Kataf, Kagarko, Sanga, Kaura, Kauru, Kachia, and Jema’a local governments.

Uba Sani: Captain of Kaduna’s First 11

Similarly, on December 31, Senator Uba Sani performed another ground-breaking event for an 18-kilometre road construction, linking Sanga local government to Jemaa Area Council.

The road, from Gwanju through Kiban, will provide forward and backward linkages to farmers and markets, reduce post-harvest losses, cost of transportation and travel time.

Besides, it will provide employment for the skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled during the construction period.

Likewise, Zone 2 witnessed its own share of ground-breaking last Monday, with the flagging off of two rural roads.

Specifically, a 35-kilometre road will be constructed from Gadan Gayan, through Gwaraji to Kujama Junction, linking Igabi and Chikun local governments in Kaduna Central senatorial districts.

Similarly, the 6-kilometre College Road will be built in Sabon Tasha, from Signboard through Juji, connecting the Eastern Bypass.

Significantly, in the last eight months, the Uba Sani administration has started fulfilling a key component of his rural transformation agenda.

In fact, road projects, construction of culverts, and installation of streetlights are ongoing in all the three zones or senatorial districts.

Indeed, bridging the infrastructural gap between urban and rural areas is a strong pillar of the SUSTAIN manifesto, a covenant between Kaduna State Government and its citizens.

So far, the Governor has kept his promise of rural transformation.

Kaduna elders commend Gov Sani, urge more achievements

By Our Correspondent

The Kaduna State Elders Forum has urged Gov Uba Sani to seize the moment of the Supreme Court decision affirming him as Governor of Kaduna State to inject more zeal into the process of governance in order to consolidate on the current good works of the present administration.

The Forum, which comprised elders from across different strata and community in Kaduna, stated this when members called on the Governor at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna, to felicitate with him on the Supreme Court verdict upholding his victory in the March 2023 Governorship polls.

Co-chair of the Elders Forum, Alhaji Abubakar Mustapha, told the Governor that from information available to members, the administration was on course to deliver on its promises.

"Our people are happy with the projects initiated in the rural communities,"

the co-chair said and assured the Governor of support by the forum as he forges ahead with the **people-oriented** development projects.

The forum co-chair also urged people in the state to rally round the Governor to enable him sustain the peace and steady course of development.

Also speaking, another co-chair of the forum, **General Zamani Lekwot (rtd)**, expressed happiness at the aggressive manner that the **administration** was tackling poverty and the out-of-school children problem as well as prioritizing rural development.

General Lekwot also observed that Government's inclusive approach to governance, which carried all people along irrespective of their affiliations, had endeared the administration to the people.

Governor Uba Sani thanked the forum and reiterated his commitment to sustain the group because of its strategic role in the mobilization of the citizens towards appreciating critical issues of peace, security, and development.

The Governor used the occasion to intimate the forum of progress made by the administration in:

- security,
- education,
- health,
- infrastructure,

- agriculture, and
- social investment.

KADIRS to enhance revenue generation through collective collaboration

- *By Zakari Muhammad*
- Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service Executive Chairman Comrade Jerry Adams recently received in audience a delegation of the Management team of Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital, Kaduna.
- The meeting was summoned by the Executive Chairman in order to discuss and receive briefing on ways of **enhancing revenue generation** from the teaching hospital, through the engagement and contract agreement between Alpha Mead Healthcare Limited and Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital on some services that have revenue elements.
- The Chief Medical Director of Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital, Professor A. Musa Tabari, led the delegation to KADIRS, and the Service had a fruitful discussion with the Hospital.

Kaduna State PHC Board, UNICEF collaborate on Essential Newborn Care Training

By: Mariam Bukola Oyewo

In a significant stride toward improving newborn care, the Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board, in collaboration with UNICEF, has conducted a comprehensive training session on Modified Essential Newborn Care Course.

The training, spearheaded by the Director Family and Community Health Services, **Nafisa Isa Musa**, with the State's Safe Motherhood Coordinator, **Habiba Ahmad Aliyu**, was aimed at enhancing the skills of 60 Community Health Extension Workers.

What made the training particularly impactful was the involvement of two distinguished consultants from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria:

- Professor **Abdulkadir Isa** and
- Dr. **Fatima Abdullahi**,

both from the Neonatal Unit within the Department of Pediatrics, bringing their expertise to enrich the program.

The collaborative effort between the public healthcare sector and academia underscores a commitment to providing the highest standards of care for newborns in Kaduna State.

Supported by UNICEF, this training initiative aligns with global efforts to:

- reduce neonatal mortality,
- ensure the well-being of infants in their crucial early days.

The partnership emphasizes the importance of:

- knowledge transfer, and
- skill enhancement to community health workers,

who play a pivotal role in delivering essential healthcare services.

The course covered a spectrum of topics related to essential newborn care, drawing on the latest advancements in neonatal healthcare. Participants engaged in:

- practical sessions,
- interactive discussions, and
- skill-building exercises

designed to empower them with the latest techniques and approaches.

The Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board and UNICEF expressed gratitude to Prof. Abdulkadir Isa and Dr. Fatima Abdullahi for their invaluable contributions.

The collaboration reaffirmed the commitment to advancing healthcare outcomes for mothers and newborns in Kaduna State.

As the training concluded, the newly equipped Community Health Extension Workers are poised to make a positive impact in their communities, ensuring that every newborn received the essential care needed for a healthy start in life.

Kaduna State Investment Summit showcases business opportunities

A summit organized by the American Business Council, in collaboration with the Kaduna State Government, held recently in Abuja.

The summit:

- attracted investors and development agencies from Nigeria and abroad,
- showcased the huge investment opportunities in Kaduna State, and
- forged partnerships with business concerns and development agencies.

In her remarks, the Counselor for Economic Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Abuja, **Christine Harbaugh** described Kaduna State as a place of innovation and dynamism. She highlighted that:

- the attendance of US firms and investors at the event showed belief and interest in Kaduna State's future.
- The U.S. Mission in Nigeria strongly supported companies looking to invest in the state.

Contributions at the summit were:

- frank,
- insightful, and

- incisive,

with presentations made on the huge investment opportunities and the legal and institutional frameworks supporting investments in Kaduna State.

Gov Uba Sani orders thorough investigation into alleged misconduct by KASTLEA official

Kaduna State Governor, **Senator Uba Sani**, has ordered a thorough investigation into alleged misconduct by an official of the Kaduna State Traffic Law Enforcement Authority (**KASTLEA**).

- The official was captured in a viral video, allegedly diverting money meant for government coffers using a Point of Sale (POS) machine.
- The Kaduna State Government reiterated its zero-tolerance stance for corrupt practices across its Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and other state-owned institutions.

The administration emphasized:

- the commitment to protecting citizens from fraudulent actions by a few bad eggs.
- Residents are encouraged to report any infractions to appropriate authorities.

Any official found guilty after a thorough investigation will face the full weight of the law, the statement warned.

CORRIGENDUM

In our last edition, under the headline "Kaduna education gets a boost," published on page 11, we inadvertently attributed the report to Helen Kafoi who immediately drew our attention to the error.

The report was filed by **Halima Sadiya Abubakar**.
The error is highly regretted.
 — Editor

EDUCATION: Like Mandela, Like Uba Sani
 By Nasir Dambatta

The African legend and one-time President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, said it. In Kaduna State, Governor Uba Sani is building a legendary legacy by actualising it.

Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation.”

Governor Sani: “Educational infrastructure and learning aids are the most-essential tools for the weaponization of education to achieve the desired change in the world.” This explains the exceptionally passionate stance and commitment of Governor Uba Sani to the growth and

development of education, and his readiness to spend whatever amount of funds required to develop the infrastructure that could facilitate its acquisition by the citizens of the state.

The required educational infrastructure is not all about erecting just any structure to bear the name of school. It is much more about modernizing the infrastructure to accord with the current times, the environment and the population of the pupils requiring education, and who, the government, therefore feels obligated to educate.

A typical exciting example of this is Basic Education School, Malali in Kaduna North Local Government Area, initiated by Governor Uba Sani's administration.

The two-storey building, consisting of 12 classrooms, has been successfully completed. The project has undergone all necessary construction processes and is now ready for use. The building was designed to provide a conducive learning environment for students, offering ample space and modern facilities.

The completion of this project is obviously a testament to the commitment of the government towards improving the educational infrastructure in Kaduna State.

With the construction completed, the Basic Education School Malali can now accommodate more students and provide them with quality education. The new classrooms will help alleviate overcrowding and ensure that every student has access to a comfortable and conducive learning space.

Obviously, the administration of Governor Uba Sani remains dedicated to the development of education in Kaduna State. This project is just one of many initiatives so aimed.

With an unprecedented gusto, the administration of Governor Sani, in its first phase of upscaling educational infrastructure according to current needs, has, in less than a year, built 2,336 new classrooms; renovated 707 classrooms; equipped numerous schools with 3,704 teachers furniture and 30,742 pupils furniture; dug 51 hand pump boreholes; and provided 918 cubicle toilets for easy convenience.

Among ongoing projects are the provision of 247,136 school bags; 290,802 school uniforms; 247,136 shoes; 3,358 tablets; and 447,689 exercise books.

Nelson Mandela postulated it. Governor Uba Sani is actualizing it.

[FG's Pulaku initiative to focus on Kaduna, six other states](#)

The federal government is set to commence the implementation of the Pulaku Initiative, a large-scale resettlement programme aimed at addressing the root causes of farmers-herders conflicts and fostering national unity.

Accordingly, the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, on Tuesday inaugurated a steering committee to coordinate the implementation of the initiative in fulfillment of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's promise to improve the lives of all Nigerians.

The committee chaired by Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Arc Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, also has representatives of governors of the benefiting states as members.

Other members of the committee include the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari; representatives of the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Director General of the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), BUA Group, Dangote Group and the Director General of NEMA, among others.

Speaking during the inauguration of the implementation committee at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, the Vice President said the project must be seen as an emergency to tackle a challenge that has threatened the fabric of Nigeria.

"It serves as a testament to the fulfilment of the promises made by His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The aim is to create an environment where the prosperity of our people is not just a distant dream but a tangible and achievable reality. This comprehensive approach reflects our dedication to fostering sustainable development and improving the lives of all citizens," Shettima assured.

"This comprehensive approach reflects our dedication to fostering sustainable development and improving the lives of all citizens," the VP stated, assuring that the initiative will address "a challenge that has persisted across various generations and demands our collective resolve, our optimum sense of justice, and our unconditional compassion.

"This is not merely a response; it is a call to action. We are here because each of our programmes or policies will falter unless we get to the root of the dysfunctions we have inherited," he added.

The Pulaku initiative will initially focus on seven states that have been disproportionately affected by farmers-herders conflicts. They are Sokoto, Kebbi, Benue, Katsina, Zamfara, Niger, and Kaduna State.

The initiative aims to revitalize these communities through the construction of residences, roads, schools, and essential facilities.

Explaining the idea of focusing on the seven states, the Vice President said, "The selection of these states is a deliberate and strategic approach. The aim is to generate ripple effects that will not only revitalize communities but also lay the groundwork for a more inclusive and cohesive Nigeria."

Vice President Shettima further explained that the Pulaku resettlement is "a national commitment to confront a threat that has fuelled distrust and conflicts within communities and across the boundaries of our federation.

"This non-kinetic solution is not designed to compensate any particular group or region. Therefore, we must cast aside any notion of divisive regionalism and see the Pulaku initiative for what it truly is—a practical response to a shared challenge," he added.

Urging all stakeholders to embrace the initiative with open hearts and minds, he said, "Let our legacy be measured not in the structures we build but in the lives we uplift, the unity we restore, and the collective strength of a nation rising above its challenges."

Also present at the meeting were representatives from several Nigerian states and institutions, including Governors Hyacinth Alia of Benue State, Sen. Uba Sani of Kaduna State, Alhaji Mohammed Bago of Niger State, Alhaji Nasir Idris of Kebbi State, Alhaji Dikko Radda of Katsina State and Alhaji Dauda Lawal of Zamfara State.

Others are Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen Abubakar Kyari; Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Arc Ahmed Musa Dangiwa; Chairman of EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede; Director-General of NEMA, Alhaji Ahmed Mustapha Habib; Director-General of Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), Mr. Mammam Ahmadun, and representatives from Dangote Group, BUA Group, and Shelter Afrique.

Appointment

Governor Uba Sani has approved the appointment of Dr. Mustapha Musa as Deputy Chief of Staff Legislative Matters. Until his appointment, Dr. Mustapha Musa was a Special Adviser, Legal Matters, to the Governor.

Towards an enduring climate policy for Kaduna State

A recent workshop on climate change held in Zaria provided senior government officials in the state led by the Commissioner of Environment Hon Abubakar Buba an opportunity to fashion out a policy on climate change for the state that would endure. Aiba Hassan who followed proceedings at the event reports on the outcome.

It all started as earth day, an annual event that is celebrated on the 22nd of April of every year to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It first held on the 22nd of April 1970 which now marks its 55th year of existence. The purpose of why it is being celebrated is not far-fetched as it is meant to celebrate the planet's clean natural resources. While doing so, the need to raise awareness about global climate change becomes necessary; it rests on three pillars; to act (boldly), Innovate (broadly) and Implement (equally). As far back as 1979 when there was no clean Water Act and no any legal or regulatory Mechanism to protect our Environment, Senator Gaylord Nelson created the Earth Day as a way to bring problems of Environmental challenges on to the national agenda. It is the right of every human being to participate in the World Earth Day depending on their ability and their portion of the distribution of the Ecosystem. While some contribute to development of the earth in a form of research, some contribute in protest against degradation and others help in planting trees to achieve a forestation, a direct opposite to land degradation. In the last five decades, the world has witnessed various forms of Environmental degradation which comes as a result of individuals, group and organization's activities.

Consequently these activities carried out by different people led to depletion of the Ozone Layer. The depletion of Ozone layer led to Greenhouse emission which resulted in Global warming, a dangerous signal to inhabitants of earth. The concept of global warming gave rise to a protocol in Japan called the Kyoto Convention. The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty adopted in 1997 that was aimed at reducing the emissions of gases which contributes to global warming. The protocol called for reducing emissions of six greenhouse gases and it targeted an overall emissions reduction of at least 5 percent below 1990 levels. It was widely hailed as the most significant environmental treaty ever negotiated, though some critics questioned its effectiveness.

The last administration of Kaduna state has done quite well to domesticate the global resort vis-a-vis climate change; it has gone through the process of establishing the climate change directorate under the leadership of Jafaru Ibrahim Sani as the Commissioner of Environment. Thanks to continuity of governance and by implication, policy, the arrival of Hon Abubakar Buba as the new Commissioner, full of positive energy did not deter the development of this vague practice of climate change policy as he continued with all the needed support the program requires to ensure that it sees the light of the day. On the 28th of December, 2023 to be precise the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources organized and hosted, in collaboration with UKAID and ACRESAL, a 2-day Climate Change Policy validation workshop at FABS Hotel, Zaria. The essence of the workshop is to have a clean-up document policy for Climate Change for the State Executive Council to deliberate upon. During the opening ceremony of the event, the Commissioner of Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Abubakar Buba in his remarks said that there is no better time to have a state policy than now and also stated that the policy should serve as a reference document so that self input could be carried along in decision making. Buba commended the Government of Kaduna State for the un-alloyed support it has been giving to the Ministry.

Earlier in his remark, the Commissioner Ministry of Agriculture, Mal Murtala Dabo applauded the organizers of the workshop for their timely implementation considering the post Cop 28 Dubai Conference. Similarly, the Executive Secretary Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board, Professor Yahaya Saleh Ibrahim who was also the lead Consultant at the workshop, charged the people of Kaduna State to take advantage of the policy as their document. "They should capitalize on this document and make use of it effectively and efficiently and also make use of it to employ the youths and improve their livelihood. They should cash on the opportunity to develop proposals to cash on the Carbon Credit, the new green accounting that evolved after the cop 28. They should also utilize it as an instrument and platform to make sure that we look better." he concluded.

While the Chairman House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Usman Danlami Sango assured that the State House of Assembly will support Government in providing law and policy on Climate change. According to him "Rivers are Shrinking, our wells are drying up, it is as it used to be because of this climate change and the like". The workshop has in attendance stakeholders from various MDAs, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Layafi Programme for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Civil Society Organization, Traditional Institutions and NGOs. This is one area posterity will never forget Hon Abubakar Buba as an agent of change and as well a good driver to the destination of clean energy in kaduna state. The state has been in the forefront of ease of doing business in the country, paving ways for various investors

for industrialization purposes, thus climate change mitigation is inevitably one area it should not compromise.

Nigeria in dire straits - Sultan

The Sultan of Sokoto and Chairman of the Northern Traditional Rulers Council, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, has lamented that Nigeria is sitting on gun power as millions of youths are jobless and food is beyond their reach.

He made this known during the 6th executive committee meeting of the Northern Traditional Rulers Council held at Arewa House, Kaduna, on Wednesday.

The Sultan noted that this is not the time to hide anything because Nigeria has reached a level where people are very agitated, hungry, and angry.

The Sultan, who was flanked at the meeting by the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero, and the Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Abdulumuminin Kabir, said that things are not okay in Nigeria and northern Nigeria in particular, as the two monsters that have been harassing Northerners are insecurity and poverty.

"We have had such meetings before with the Northern Governors, so many times at Kashim Ibrahim House. We have now entered into a new cycle of leadership; some new governors have come on board, while others are in their second term, and we are still faced with these insecurity issues," he said.

To make matters worse, he contended that we are faced with the rising level of poverty of most of our people; a lack of normal sources of livelihood for the common man to have even a good meal a day.

"But, I believe talking about insecurity and the rising level of poverty are two issues on which we cannot fold our arms and think everything is okay. I have said so many times and at so many forums that things are not okay in Nigeria, and of course, things are not okay in the North," the Sultan continued.

Sultan Abubakar III:

"What are the real issues bringing about poverty and rising cases of insecurity?"

"I don't think it is the issue of a new government. To me, this government is a continuation of the former government; it is the same party. So, what really is the problem? I think that is one of the reasons we are here to talk to ourselves."

"We owe it a duty to the teeming millions of people that believe in the traditional institution to bring solutions to the various problems facing them. We will not fail in doing that. We will do our best."

"I have said so many times that we never lack solutions to our problems; what we lack is implementation. Because we met today, we brainstormed so many beautiful ideas on how to solve our problems that we went back to our various places and went to bed, leaving such solutions here in this conference hall. So, how do we implement them?"

"This is why we invited the Leadership Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) to come and interact with us on the outcome of a similar meeting they organised in Abuja."

"We also invited the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) to be part of us and talk to us too, because as elders, some of whom have been in politics, they have done a lot for the North and the country. At the end of our meeting, we believe we will come up with various suggestions on how to resolve our numerous problems in the North.

"Education is important, so whatever issue you want to bring us here, you must talk about education, you must talk about health issues, and of the two monsters that have been harassing all of us here, those are insecurity and poverty," he added.

"And let's not take it for granted; people are quiet; they are quiet for a reason because people have been talking to them.; we have been talking to them; we have been trying to tell them things will be okay, and they keep on believing. I pray to Almighty Allah that they will not one day wake up and say that they no longer believe in you. Because that would be the biggest problem because we can't silence these people as traditional spiritual leaders and diplomats forever, he warned.

"So, I think it is good we talk about these things and let us be very honest with ourselves; let us be very frank about what we are going to tell ourselves here; it is no time to hide things. We have reached that level. People are very agitated, hungry, and angry, but they still believe there are people who can talk to them. They believe in some of their governors, some other traditional rulers, and some of their religious leaders.

Fortunately, some of us double as traditional and religious leaders," he advised.

"So, we have this onerous task of reaching out to everybody, calming them down, and reassuring them things will be okay, and they should continue to pray and pray and still do something good because prayer without work will not bring anything good," Sultan Abubakar III said.

[Uba Sani's budget for the people](#)

By Ibraheem Musa

Entirely, it drives the SUSTAIN manifesto, serves as its fulcrum and dictates the policy direction, as well as the programmes of Kaduna State Government. However, in chronology, it is listed down below but in the real sense, Nurturing Community Engagement tops the bucket list. Largely, the people's views, observations and critique, were collated before the manifesto was hammered out. Similarly, the 2024 Appropriation Act, aptly dubbed "Budget of Rural Transformation and Inclusive Development," followed the same trajectory.

Indeed, the Kaduna State APC Campaign Council, over a year ago, held series of rendezvous, focal group engagements and Town Hall meetings in the three senatorial zones. In zone 1, a Town Hall meeting held at Congo Conference Hotel on December 18, 2022, where party-men, religious groups and sundry others, jaw-jawed on the way forward. Likewise, on December 19, a similar event was held in Kaduna, where zone 2 stakeholders made input to the draft document. Similarly, the next day, the same event was slated for zone 3 but unfortunately, it was postponed owing to bandits attack in Kaura local government.

However, on January 9, 2023, the people of Southern Kaduna converged at Kafanchan, rubbed minds with Senator Uba Sani, put their views across and listed out their preferences, in the run up to the election. Afterwards, the SUSTAIN Manifesto was cobbled together, distilling diverse views, with a common purpose of moving Kaduna State forward. SUSTAIN, the seven-letter acronym, stands for **Safety and Security, Upgrading Infrastructure, Strengthening Institutions, Trade and Investment**, as well as **Agriculture, Investment in Human Capital and Nurturing Citizens Engagement**.

In summary, this document is the compass, metering device and the covenant between the government and the people of Kaduna State. Projects, from concept to execution, are guided by the document and likewise, policy enactments flow from the SUSTAIN Manifesto. Indeed, the 2024 Budget also reflected the tenets of this policy magnum opus.

Specifically, on December 12, 2023, Governor Uba Sani presented a draft budget, 19 days before end of year, to the good people of Kaduna State, at the Umar Musa Yar'adua Conference Centre. Expectedly, Civil Society Organisations, representatives of professional bodies, delegates from the 23 local governments and religious organisations, as well as tribal associations, made inputs to the document. Agriculture, regional, rural and economic development, including security, infrastructure and human capital development, topped the draft Appropriation Bill. Broadly, the themes reflected the spirit and letter of the SUSTAIN Manifesto and it was presented to Kaduna State House of Assembly six days later.

Actually, the total Appropriation Bill was **₦458,271,299,477.66**, out of which **₦318,836,576,588.28** was earmarked for capital expenditure and **₦139,434,722,889.38** was for recurrent expenditure, representing a capital to recurrent ratio of 69.57% : 30.43%. The Bill, according to the Governor, priorities capital spending, delivering inclusive development, through the provision of critical infrastructure, social protection and human capital development. The Bill, he pointed out, will reinvigorate the people's productivity, create jobs and boost the economy of Kaduna State.

Significantly, in record time, Governor Uba Sani signed the 2024 Budget on December 22, 2023, four days after it was presented to the legislature, a first in the history of Kaduna State. When projects and policies are planned from bottom up, carrying people along, through continuous community engagement, a lot of mileage will be achieved in governance because both the government and the governed will be in lockstep, walking in tandem towards development.

Ibraheem Musa is a former Director, Media of the APC campaign organisation

"Gov. Uba Sani has met with the leadership and members of the Old Panteka Market Development Association following the unfortunate fire incident that razed down the timber section of the popular market. He assured them of Kaduna State Government's commitment towards the construction of a remodeled Panteka Market through a Public-Private Partnership."

Fani-Kayode: Uba Sani uniting Christians, Muslims in Kaduna

Former Aviation Minister, Femi Fani-Kayode, says Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State has made efforts to reconcile Christians and Muslims in the state.

Fani-Kayode, a Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), said the governor has provided hope and support for Southern Kaduna Christians who once suffered persecution.

In late 2023, Sani vowed that his administration was committed to putting right all the wrongs in the state and championing genuine reconciliation with the people of Southern Kaduna.

He made this known during a message at the **Southern Kaduna Christian Leaders Association Pastor's Congress**, at the **Throneroom Trust Ministry Kafanchan**.

The governor explained that his administration had realised some of the mistakes of past administrations and was willing to address them for the progress and development of the state.

Speaking through the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Religious Affairs, Christian Matters, who is also the Chairman, **Kaduna Baptist Convention, Rev. Dr. Ishaya Adamu Jangado**, Sani said, "I appeal to the Christian community to support and rally round the current administration at all levels in order to achieve the needed development."

He also attended a Christmas programme in Southern Kaduna.

Commending Uba's effort via his X account on Monday, Fani-Kayode called on other political leaders to emulate him.

He wrote, "The rapprochement that is taking place in Kaduna state between the Christian and Muslim communities is refreshing and inspiring.

After years of neglect, deprivation and persecution the Christians of Southern Kaduna finally have a state Governor who treats them as equals and who offers them hope and strong support.

This really touches my heart and I commend my brother Governor Uba Sani for having the courage to do the right thing and build all the necessary bridges of peace and unity.

Let this be a shining example to all from both sides of the religious divide in our great nation.

Before we are Christians or Muslims we are Nigerians and our first duty as leaders is to enhance peace, unity and harmony between the adherents of these two great faiths."

Hajj 2024: Kaduna registers over 4,000 intending Pilgrims

By Yunusa Mohammed

The Kaduna State Pilgrims Welfare Agency has registered over 4,000 intending pilgrims for this year's hajj, meeting the February 12 deadline of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

Nearly all the 4,000 of the registered intending pilgrims have completed the payment of **₦4.699 million**, the official hajj fare stipulated by NAHCON this year.

A statement by the Agency stated that more pilgrims are expected to complete payment before the total hajj fare is remitted to NAHCON.

Earlier, NAHCON had allocated 6,004 seats to Kaduna State this year, out of the over 95,000 Nigerian pilgrims that are expected to perform the hajj.

The Agency has also engaged Islamic Scholars across the 23 local government areas to sensitise and educate intending pilgrims on how to perform hajj in accordance with Islamic rites.

The program is aimed at teaching them basic tenets of Islam, holy pilgrimage and other principles of hajj operations as well as rules and regulations governing pilgrims' stay in Saudi Arabia.

The Executive Chairman of the Agency, Malam Salihu S. Abubakar said that the enlightenment program will be conducted every Saturday and Sunday and attendance is compulsory for all intending pilgrims.

“We believe this comprehensive education will empower them to perform the pilgrimage with confidence, understanding, and peace of mind,” Malam Salihu said.

He explained that staff of the Agency and other stakeholders will provide crucial operational information, such as travel procedures, luggage restrictions and list of items that are permitted into the Holy Land, and other support services.

[Kaduna, six other states, FCT benefit from \\$540m AfDB Agric loan](#)

By Our Correspondent

The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** has announced a whopping **\$540 million** disbursement to the first batch of states that submitted applications for the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones.

The benefiting states of the loan are **Cross River, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Ogun, Oyo**, and the **Federal Capital Territory (FCT)**.

The project is expected to revolutionize agriculture in these states by:

- Developing infrastructure
- Establishing 15 Agricultural Industrial Processing Hubs

- Creating 15 Agricultural Transformation Centers
- Supplying agricultural inputs and extension workers

The beneficiaries of the loan will include:

- **Smallholder farmers**
- **Private sector** agricultural actors (agro-dealers, agro-processors, and agric-preneurs)

An estimated **1.5 million households** are expected to benefit from this initiative.

According to *Kaduna Outlook* sources, the first states to receive the credit are **Oyo, Kaduna, and Cross River**, with others following after completing necessary documentation.

The loan was approved during the **Buhari** administration on **December 13, 2021**, and signed on **June 30, 2022**.

Benefitting states are advised to visit their state Ministries of Agriculture for further details.

[Evangelist Pastor Enoch Adeboye prays for nation's deliverance](#)

By our correspondent

The **Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG)**, Pastor **Enoch Adeboye**, was in Kaduna recently on a religious crusade themed “**Light up Kaduna.**”

He seized the opportunity of a courtesy call on **Governor Uba Sani** to pray for:

- The success of the administration
- Peace and stability for the people

The revered Pastor took a critical look at **Nigeria's challenges**, submitting that they were not only political but spiritual, adding that when the problems seem overwhelming, “**we must call on Almighty God for help.**”

He said this was why the RCCG embarked on a **nationwide crusade** to seek God's intervention.

Pastor Adeboye stressed that:

- With God's intervention, our problems would soon be over.
- When he visited Governor Uba Sani at the **Sir Kashim Ibrahim House Kaduna**, he reiterated this message.

Governor Uba Sani:

- Thanked Pastor Adeboye and his team for the visit and prayers
- Urged him not to relent in intervening in national affairs

- Assured the clergy that President **Bola Ahmed Tinubu** was taking decisive steps to tackle economic and developmental challenges
- Acknowledged that current reforms were painful but temporary, and that their benefits would soon be seen.

The Governor appealed for **support and cooperation** from all to enable the President to succeed.

Over 4000 SMEs, others in Kaduna State to benefit from N4.2 billion disbursements soon – Uba Sani

By Farida Adamu

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has announced that in the coming days, over **4,000 SMEs** identified by the Kaduna State Government will benefit from a **₦4.2 billion** disbursement.

He added that also to benefit from the intervention are vulnerable persons included in the ongoing **financial inclusion programme**, aimed at easing the burden caused by:

- The **removal of petroleum fuel subsidy**
- The **rising cost of inflation**

Governor Sani shared this during an interview with **Television Continental News (TVC)** on Monday, where he addressed:

- Current economic challenges in Nigeria
- Skyrocketing food prices
- Rising cost of living
- His administration's efforts to ease hardship in Kaduna State

On recent protests by citizens against the economic situation, Governor Sani stated:

- There have not been uprisings in Kaduna due to proactive collaboration with **organized labour, market women, and NGOs**.
- He predicted possible unrest and preemptively signed an **Executive Order on Financial Inclusion**.
- Over **1.5 million people** have been reintegrated into the financial sector since this signing.

He noted:

"We have also been able to organize about **4,200 SMEs** in Kaduna State and in the next week we have decided to support them with palliatives worth about ₦4.2 billion, which will go directly to vulnerable households and small businesses."

Governor Sani explained that the initiative was a joint effort by stakeholders such as organized labour, market women, persons with disabilities, smallholder farmers, religious, and community leaders.

He emphasized:

- Kaduna runs an **open government**.
- Labour Unions have supported the state's efforts.
- During the **budget presentation** to the Kaduna State House of Assembly, town halls were held to collect citizen input.
- Based on this, **₦22 billion** was budgeted for agriculture — a first in Kaduna State's history.

"We are on the same page with our people," Governor Sani concluded.

[A Leadership Journey Beyond Authority](#)

By Hadiza Oyiza Ismail

In the realm of leadership, **Robin S. Sharma** once aptly remarked:

"Leadership is not about a title or designation. It's about impact, influence, and inspiration."

This sentiment reflects profoundly in the **transformative leadership** of **Sule Shu'aibu SAN**, the **Kaduna State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice**.

Beyond the Executive role bestowed on him, **Sule Shu'aibu** exudes a passion for success and a commitment to impactful leadership.

He:

- Opens his doors widely, eager to listen
- Believes firmly that when staff are provided with their essentials, **productivity is boosted**
- States his mantra:

"My primary focus at the Ministry is the welfare of our staff and counsel."

Upon assuming the mantle of Commissioner for Justice:

- He engaged with Department heads and members
- Probed into their concerns
- Recognized discontent due to **inadequate welfare measures and budget constraints**

He promptly addressed issues like:

- Timely salary payments

- Allowances (particularly for casual staff)
- Witness funds (previously hindered)

The Ministry:

- Endorsed overdue payments for lawyers after years of non-payment
- Supported the practicing needs of lawyers relying solely on legal practice for income

He worked to address the backlog of legal cases:

- Submitted a proposal to **Senator Uba Sani**, the Executive Governor
- Advocated for a **dedicated committee**
- The committee's goal: **reduce overwhelming case loads**

The committee's members included:

- Solicitor General
- Heads of KASUPDA, KADIPA, KADGIS
- Ministries of Finance and Budget/Planning

According to the **2023 Justice Needs Satisfaction Survey** by the **Hague Institute for Innovation of Law**:

- 81% of Nigerians encountered at least one legal issue in the preceding year
- Problems included disputes with neighbors, domestic violence, and land disputes
- Nearly **9 in 10 Nigerians** take action regarding their legal concerns
- However, many issues never proceed to formal justice systems, remaining unresolved

By addressing:

- Administrative processes
- Work environments
- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

The Ministry aims to:

- Make justice delivery more **efficient and accessible**
- Enhance citizens' confidence in the system

Sule Shu'aibu's leadership:

- Is about impact and inspiration
- Promotes open dialogues with critical institutions (High Court, Sharia Court of Appeal, Nigerian Correctional Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Federal Road Safety Corps, Department of State Services, Police)

A leadership Journey Beyond Authority

By Hadiza Oyiza Ismail

In the realm of leadership, Robin S. Sharma once aptly remarked, "Leadership is not about a title or designation. It's about impact, influence, and inspiration." This sentiment resonates profoundly in the transformative leadership of Sule Shu'aibu SAN, the Kaduna State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice. Beyond the Executive role bestowed on him, Sule Shu'aibu exudes a passion for success and a commitment to impactful leadership. He opens his doors wide, eager to listen, firmly believing that when staff are provided with their essentials, productivity is boosted. His mantra encapsulates this dedication, stating, "My primary focus at the Ministry is the welfare of our staff and counsel." Upon assuming the mantle of Commissioner for Justice, he engaged with Department heads and members, probing into their concerns, with a commitment to the recognition of considerable discontent due to inadequate welfare measures and budget constraints. He promptly addressed issues such as timely salary payments and allowances, particularly for casual staff. Staff affirmed that this people-centered approach was both surprising and invigorating, instilling a renewed desire to serve with satisfaction. In addition, the Ministry is actively addressing concerns related to witness funds, which were seldom approved, causing hindrances to the legal process and causing frustration among lawyers. Moreover, the Ministry has undertaken the payment of practicing fees for lawyers, marking an unprecedented move after several years of non-payment. A considerable number of lawyers, relying solely on their legal practice for income, are grappling with the harsh realities of time, this struggle has taken a toll on their productivity and commitment. However, the proactive efforts of the Attorney General in addressing the needs of lawyers serve as a catalyst, boosting performance and instilling hope and trust in the legal system. This has created an atmosphere of gratitude at the Ministry of Justice, with a visible willingness among the legal practitioners to exert the necessary efforts. The prevailing sentiment among lawyers is encapsulated in the phrase, "to whom much is given, much is expected," underscoring their commitment to performing their duties to the best of their ability. Understanding the pivotal role of the work environment, the Commissioner is overseeing renovations of Ministry offices. Dilapidated spaces are receiving a facelift, ensuring functional doors and basic facilities, creating an environment conducive to optimal performance. Extending his conscientious leadership to branch offices in Saminaka, Zaria, and Kafanchan, Sule Shu'aibu recently toured these locations. Assessing conditions and hearing directly from staff about challenges affecting service delivery, he evaluated aspects such as water supply, security, and sanitation. The Commissioner emphasized swift resolution of raised issues, demonstrating his commitment to inclusive leadership. To tackle the backlog of cases against the government, the Commissioner submitted a proposal to Senator Uba Sani, the Executive Governor, urging the creation of a dedicated committee. Senator Uba Sani endorsed the proposal, resulting in the establishment of the committee which is currently developing strategies to engage litigants and formulate effective solutions for the amicable resolution of pending issues. The primary objective is to substantially reduce the overwhelming number of cases to a more manageable level. The committee's members include, the Solicitor General, the heads of KASUPDA, KADIPA, KADGIS, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Budget and Planning. According to the 2023 Justice

Needs Satisfaction survey by The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law, 81% of Nigerians encountered at least one legal issue in the preceding year. Common problems included disputes with neighbours, domestic violence, and land disputes. The report reveals that while nearly 9 in 10 Nigerians take action to address their legal concerns, a significant majority of these issues never progress to the formal justice system, likely due to the challenges associated with court proceedings. In response to these findings, the report advocates for targeted improvements in various facets of the justice system, including administrative processes, work environments, staffing, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. By prioritizing these areas, a more efficient and accessible legal framework that better serves the needs of the Nigerian populace can be achieved. Recognizing the importance of collaboration and collective action in tackling the myriad legal issues confronting Kaduna State, the Attorney General and key management staff have embarked on a series of strategic engagements. These include courtesy visits to crucial judicial and security institutions such as the High Court, Customary Court of Appeal, Sharia Court of Appeal, Nigerian Correctional Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Federal Road Safety Corps, Department of State Services, among others. These visits serve a dual purpose: strengthening relationships between the Ministry of Justice and other key sectors, and facilitating an open dialogue to identify and address the challenges hindering the efficiency of legal processes. Through these collaborative efforts, stakeholders have been able to share insights, exchange perspectives, and collectively strategize on ways to improve the justice sector in the state. By fostering stronger inter-sectoral relationships and addressing systemic challenges, the ultimate goal is to enhance the delivery of justice services and bring justice closer to the people. Central to this endeavor is the aim to instill trust in the legal system among the populace, thereby fostering a sense of confidence and reliability in the administration of justice. Sule Shu'aibu's transformative leadership is not just a title; it's a journey, an inspiration, and a symbol of a justice system that truly serves the people. Through his conscientious and consistent efforts, the Ministry is on a path to achieving its objectives and creating a lasting impact on the lives of legal practitioners and the citizens of Kaduna State.

This article was inadvertently mixed up with a news item in our last edition and was therefore not used in its current or correct form. The error is regretted.

Sports surges ahead in Kaduna

By Hassan Tanko

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Kaduna State has continued to affirm its status as a burgeoning force in the sporting arena. The Ministry of Sports Development's recent achievements in hockey, basketball, cricket, beach soccer, and cycling underscore the comprehensive approach taken to ensure excellence in a diverse range of sports.

Highlights below of the strides in sports Hockey attests to this:

The 2023 National Hockey Super League, held from July 28th to August 6th at Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja, Kaduna State left an indelible mark. The Kada Stars and Kada Queens claimed gold medals, showcasing the state's dominance in the realm of hockey. Additionally, the Olympic qualifiers in South Africa took place from October 28th to November 6th, 2023. This event saw 11 male and 10 female players from Kaduna, with the female team achieving a commendable 2nd position.

Volleyball:

The Open Beach Volleyball Tour Phase 1 in Abuja saw six players (male and female) invited to the national camp in April 2023. Notably, in the Nigeria Volleyball Federation National Volleyball Premier League, Kaduna's performance resulted in four players being invited to the national camp in June 2023. The achievements span invitations to international events, including the CAVB Zone 3 African Nations Cup in Niger in July 2023, the U-19 Championship in Argentina in August 2023, and the African Women Nation's Cup in Cameroon in August 2023.

Basketball:

The Zenith Bank Women Elite Basketball League Championship Qualifiers in Zaria showcased Kaduna's commitment to basketball excellence. The subsequent qualification for the second phase in Nasarawa State emphasizes the state's rising stature in the sport.

Cricket:

Kaduna's cricketer achievements have been monumental, with victories in the 2023 NCF/PWC National U-17 Championship Zonal Elimination held in Kebbi State. Notably, Kaduna claimed 1st Position (Boys) and 2nd Position (Girls) in the Zonal Elimination. Furthermore, 10 Kaduna players were selected to represent the zone for the National Final in Abuja. Adding to the cricketer triumphs, Kaduna exhibited dominance in the National League Men Series in June 2023, securing a commendable 2nd Position. These achievements solidify Kaduna's standing in the cricketer landscape, showcasing the state's prowess in both regional and national fronts. Kaduna emerged champions at the 2nd Edition of the Abuja Female Invitational Cricket Championship held in October.

Beach Soccer:

In beach soccer, Kaduna State displayed talent in the National League Phase 1 in Birnin-Kebbi, Phase II in Kaduna, and the Final Phase in Birnin Kebbi, culminating in an impressive overall 3rd position.

Cycling Success:

The National Cycling Road Championship in Port Harcourt witnessed Kaduna State cyclists excelling among the best 10 cyclists, with three players subsequently invited to the National Camp. The Capital City Cycling Championship in Abuja not only showcased the talents of Kaduna's cyclists but also identified the best sprint and endurance cyclists from the race.

Badminton:

Team Kaduna presented exceptional badminton skills at the recent Badminton Federation event hosted by the Association of Badminton Clubs in Nigeria (ABCN) at the City Gate Badminton Club Package B, Moshood Abiola National Stadium in Abuja. Securing a total of 7 medals — 2

gold, 2 silver, and 3 bronze — Kaduna excelled in various categories. The female players shone in Doubles, claiming 1 gold and 1 silver, while the Senior Men's Doubles earned a bronze. The 56+ age category witnessed outstanding success with gold, silver, and bronze medals. Even in the Veterans (46-55 years) Men's category, Kaduna players secured a commendable bronze.

Softball:

The Kaduna softball team demonstrated exceptional skill at a recent tournament held at the Sharks of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Their journey culminated in securing a silver medal in the championship match against Bayelsa State, showcasing dedication and teamwork that earned them admiration from fans and enthusiasts across the state.