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# Extrajudicial Killings, Torture, Robbery... Excesses of 'Ba Beli' Armed Group Turning Bauchi-Plateau Border into a Bloodbath Field

By Babaji Usman

In mid-July, three children, Maryam, Abduljabbar, and Ja'afar returned home from school in Langai, one of the border communities between Bauchi and Plateau states. Maryam, the oldest sister asked after her father Isah Musa but their mother Ikilima assured her he would be back home soon.

What the four children, their mother, and other family members did not know at that time was that they wouldn't have the opportunity to see Isah again.

Late Isah had stayed in Langai community of Mangu Local Government in Plateau state for several years. He escaped being killed during the 2001 Plateau crisis in Pankshin. As a holder of Nigerian Certificate of Education, he taught at his community primary school during the day before retiring to his barbershop in the evening – all to make a decent living.

However, last July, he was arrested by a local armed security outfit called "Ba Beli" which linked him to the kidnapping of three family members of the former Bauchi State governor, Ahmed Adamu Mu'azu.

After a week-long search for his whereabouts, his mutilated body was found at Lere Forest – known to locals as "Sambisa" – alongside two other corpses identified as those of Alhaji Goma and Babangida, also from Langai community.

Sambisa is a killing field where the 'Ba Beli' group can pronounce anyone guilty of crimes they know nothing about, "and you are executed immediately through beheading or they gun you down instantly", said Ikilima, late Isah's wife who's husband was murdered by the group.

'Ba Beli' is a Hausa word that can be loosely translated as 'no bail'. This was coined to pass a simple message that they don't grant bail to their suspects. Their members move freely in their hundreds, normally on motorcycles, and are armed with den guns, machetes, knives and cutlasses.

According to locals, the group has total disregard for any formal preliminary investigation, social justice and a fair hearing for suspects in their custody. Any reported case of cattle rustling, kidnapping, banditry, and armed robbery among others, whether true or false, is mostly met with instant judgement in the form of high-degree torture, instant elimination and amputation.

The bodies of their victims are left to decay in bushes, abandoned wells and shallow pits — leaving their families in agony and endless longing for their return.

WikkiTimes gathered that the victims were severely tortured before being killed.

**HOW DISCOVERY OF THE CORPSE TRIGGERED PROTEST FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

The discovery of the corpses triggered tension as family members and other sympathizers in protest barricaded the Bauchi-Plateau Road at Lere despite the presence of security officials at the scene.

The protest, which lasted for about five hours, later compelled Mallam Abdullahi Nura, the Plateau State Chairman of the Fulani socio-cultural group, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN), to address the snivelling crowd.

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## In 2 Years, Bauchi Recovers Over 43,000 Illegal Firearms — But Where Are They?

By Babaji Usman

Between January 2020 and September 2022, a total number of 46,366 arms and ammunition were recovered by Bauchi Police Command from various groups of non-state actors.

According to TheICIR, the statistics earned Bauchi State first position among other states with records of recovered firearms.

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According to TheICIR, the statistics earned Bauchi State first position among other states with records of recovered firearms.

Bauchi was followed by Anambra with 31,711, Delta with 14,486, Zamfara with 4,250 and Cross River with 3,136. All these states recovered the arms within the same period.

While Akwa Ibom, Osun, Ekiti and Ebony were recorded as the states with the lowest number of illegal arms recovered by the police with 347, 219, 154, and 141, respectively.

Reacting, spokesman for the Nigeria Police Force, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, said the force is doing a lot in the area of mopping up arms.

He, however, confessed that the police cannot ascertain the specific figure of illegal arms in circulation.

Major-General Abba Muhammed Dikko (retired) President of the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW), had earlier announced that the centre would destroy over 3,000 firearms seized from terrorists across different parts of the country.

Briefing the media in Kaduna State, Dikko stated that the exercise would be carried out under the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA), noting that most of the weapons comprising AK-47 and AK-49 to be destroyed were confiscated in the past 18 months across the country. proliferation of arms has become a disturbing issue across Nigeria despite attempts to curb it.

**Continue reading @** <https://wikkitimes.com/in-2-years-bauchi-recovers-over-43000-illegal-firearms-but-where-are-they/>

## NYSC DG Sacked for 'Glaring Incompetence'



Brigadier-General Muhammad Kukah Fadah, Director-General, National National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has been removed for "glaring incompetence." The ousted DG came into office six months ago. However, insiders told PRNigeria that President Muhammadu Buhari ordered his removal. But the presidency is yet to issue a statement about this.

According to PRNigeria, the NYSC boss' removal is not unconnected with the fact that he has exhibited 'glaring incompetence' in the six months he has piloted the affairs of the scheme.

Fadah had been asked to hand over the affairs of the scheme to the most senior staff in the organization who will be in an acting capacity pending the appointment of substantive DG.

## CCIJ's Africa Editor, Ajibola, Other Experts, Scholars Debate Accountability Journalism at WikkiTimes' Colloquium

By Aminu Adamu Naganye

During a three-session panel at the just concluded WikkiTimes' colloquium, issues surrounding impunity, judicial theft, mismanagement of public funds and good governance were discussed by nine panellists consisting of media experts, academics, and government officials among others.

Among the panellists who were physically present at the event include; Dahiru Garba Mohammed, General Manager, Fombina FM, Dr Hamid Adamu Muhammad, a lecturer at Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, Abdul Ahmed Bura, Spokesman for Speaker, Bauchi State House Of Assembly, and S.G Idris, a Bauchi-based lawyer cum WikkiTimes' legal luminary.

### FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND JUDICIAL THEFT

Panellists, during this session, discussed how impunity has been institutionalised in the country. This, however, is believed to be enabled by courts and judges who in most cases, delay justice.

According to Idris, the only lawyer among the panellists, people in positions of authority often serve as role models to the people at the bottom when it comes to impunity. He also bemoaned among others, cases of awaiting trial and subverting of conviction citing a case of one Baba Darazo that was kept without execution, 16 years after he was convicted.

In her words, Dataphytes's Abola argued that the media is also a victim of impunity in many instances. But the barrister responded, saying "journalists have problems with law largely due to sensationalism, speculation, personality attack, defamation among other things. But the defence here is justification, getting your facts right."

In close, Idris emphasised that the constitution gives the right to individuals to express themselves through different means including the media.

However, getting the facts straight is vital to the practice, Idris explained. "They [journalists] should have their facts and guard against going off limits," he said.

### BREACH OF TRUST FOR PERSONAL GAINS

Public trust is about good governance, Dr Hamid believes. "It is about trusting people with an obligation.

"WikkiTimes shouldn't expect result tomorrow, immediately. And democracy itself is a fallacy," the scholar said. "Leadership drives society and society chooses leadership. Without entities such as WikkiTimes, democracy can't thrive successfully. Mass media is doing well to keep the government accountable in our democracy as some research has shown."

On his part, Ajibola spoke on the expectations of journalists in accountability journalism.

**Continue reading @** <https://wikkitimes.com/ccijs-africa-editor-ajibola-other-experts-scholars-debate-accountability-journalism-at-wikkitimes-colloquium/>

## UNDERCOVER: HOW BAUCHI HEALTH WORKERS CONNIVE WITH DRUG VENDORS TO DIVERT, SELL MEDICINES DISTRIBUTED BY GOVERNMENT, NGOS

By Babaji Usman

*Bauchi State government and a host of non-governmental organisations have for years been distributing both free and subsidised drugs across its healthcare centres to support the less privileged. But the generosity is thwarted by a syndicate of corrupt and selfish healthcare workers who connive with drug vendors to shortchange the Sa'adu Zungur' talakawas.*

In this report, WikkiTimes Usman Babaji went undercover; tracked and documented how the criminal syndicate consistently connive with vendors to divert and sell the drugs; leaving those in need in excruciating pains and forcing them to dive deeply into their pockets to afford treatment. Many who cannot afford it have perished in the process.

Over eight months after the death of his wife, Ado Musa sheds tears on his cheek whenever he recalls what he described as Rahina Abdullahi's painful exit.

He said Rahina, a mother of four, passed away on December 15, 2021, during childbirth at a Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) Zwal in Tafawa Balewa Local Government of the State.

The 40-year-old man said his late wife who died of complications, was taken to the Centre when she was six months into the pregnancy.

According to Ado Musa, before that fateful day, Rahina was complaining of an abnormal headache. "We took her to the centre with the expectation of getting enough treatment", however, he said they ended up with what he described as "willful tragedy".

"Unfortunately, no medical tools to get her diagnosed and no drugs to sustain her treatment." He said she died about 12 hours later on the way to move her to another hospital.

He argued that before Rahina was taken to another hospital, drugs that were administered to her were bought outside the centre at a high price, "and no free drugs at all," he attested.

As a pregnant woman, Rahina is entitled to subsidized drugs including malaria drugs, which WikkiTimes understand would have been helpful in diagnosing her ailments. But unfortunately, the drugs constituted part of what the corrupt healthcare personnel divert and sell to vendors.

Substantiating, Ado Musa, A'isha Abubakar recalled how her daughter fell sick and was taken to PHC Burgel-Dass, in Dass Local Government. "Her situation became more adverse, and we had to take her to Dass General Hospital where they again diagnosed her with high-level malaria".

A'isha added that a similar incident happened to them when she went to Lere PHC in Tafawa Balewa where her grandson was again hospitalized. "Let me tell you that they have not diagnosed her but they kept treating typhoid until when we moved to General hospital Dass, two weeks later".

Musa, A'isha, and many other residents have one type of pathetic story or another to tell you concerning their ordeals in most of the PHCs because of the shortage of one type of drug or another.

*Continue reading [here](#)*

*Continued from page 2*

Nura condemned the murder. "This is not acceptable, it's inhuman and no responsible person can take this kind of injustice," he said with a tearful face.

"Let them take them to court, and whatever the court decides, we will not resist it. If they are found guilty, we will assist to eliminate them. But based on various testimonies I obtained, these people are innocent," he said.

According to Nura, concrete evidence showed that Ba Beli was responsible for the killings with the support of some traditional leaders.

"...we have concrete evidence that these Bauchi State-sponsored terrorists settled at Lere and were hosted by the district head," Nura said.

The Commander of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) in charge of Gindiri who was also at the scene of the protest described the killings as an act of injustice, saying, "from my reasoning, I haven't seen anything like justice here."

"It is expected that they inform the military on the ground or the police before carrying out an arrest. And if anyone is arrested, he is supposed to be charged in court. And whatever the court decides would be final," he said.

The protesters were later calmed and, in a tearful mood, all the corpses were buried in three different graves in the presence of security officials.

### **THE PAINS OF VICTIMS' RELATIVES**

"How would these people indict Isah for this crime? No, not at all. Isah was not a thief.

I can't believe what happened," Fatima Abubakar, the mother of the late Isah Musa, said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Pleading with the authorities not to let the group go unpunished, she said, "Even as a graduate, he opened a barbing saloon, and these people came and murdered him gruesomely. His body was amputated, they removed his heart, tongue and butchered him like a goat. I could not recognise him. Let them not go unpunished or my God will avenge, even if it is only for the sake of these orphaned kids."

According to the mother, the children of late Isah now roam the streets because she couldn't afford to sponsor their education.

Ikilima Isah, the wife of the late Isah recalled that her slain husband was arrested while returning from the hospital after visiting his sick younger brother, Kabiru Musa. She told WikkiTimes that Isah had shown exemplary character throughout their 12 years of marriage.

"If he finds something that does not belong to him, he will return it. In fact, he was so generous and a good husband that any responsible person would admire," she recounted.

The grieving widow said the hope of the four orphaned children getting a bright future is now dashed away and the entire family is put into monumental trauma, yet, she said as a woman, she could do nothing to avenge her husband. "If something is not done, I have nothing to do," she said.

### **VICTIMS WERE TORTURED FOR ASKING WHY THEY WERE ARRESTED**

Isah was taken alongside his friend Isiaka, though he was not their suspect. But for inquiring why Isah was arrested, Isiaka didn't escape torture. After a severe beating, one of the group members munched his lips.

"I saw three people dragging him and I asked what the issue was. That was how they arrested me too and tortured us. See how one of them bites me with his teeth on my lips. See the scar. I still feel the pain all over my body.

"They chained us and flogged us severely at Lere Primary School. They took me to a place called Burgel and roped my hands with a rubber tube to kill me, but some of them objected to this, arguing that the place was too close to the road," Isiaka recalled.

## **'ROBBERY, EXTORTION, RANSOM PAYMENT' — BA BELI'S NORM**

According to Isiaka, the N7,600 in his pocket was collected by members of the Ba Beli group and another N60,000 was paid before he could eventually regain his freedom.

Salihu Abubakar, a survivor, and a brother to Alhaji Goma, one of the deceased said his slain brother and himself were also abducted by Ba Beli armed group.

He told WikkiTimes that after their arrest, they were taken to the primary school in Lere where they were tortured before being moved to another unknown place.

According to Abubakar, Ba Beli members stole two motorcycles from a shop in his house and also made away with money and phones. "In fact, they destroyed everything. They took N375,000 from late Alhaji Goma's house, a torchlight, knife, his stick and a cutlass," the survivor recounted.

"We later discovered his decomposing corpse in an abandoned well," he added, calling on authorities to help in recovering their seized property.

Sale Isa, a second brother to the late Alhaji Goma narrated how he suffered several degrees of abuse.

He confirmed that they also raided his house and took away N140,000 – the money he got from two rams he sold at the market day before the incident.

Abuses by the Ba Beli are not limited to Langai alone. Several other neighbouring communities have one terrible story or the other to tell on the extra-judicial killings by the armed group.

For instance, Awwal Adamu of Mungi community was also killed by the armed group. Initially, they were after his brother who they suspected to be a criminal. He escaped, but Awwal had to pay the price – they killed him and dumped his remains in a nearby bush.

After a 4-day search, the family recovered his decomposing body from where it was dumped.

His father, Adamu Jumba recounted, "When they came, they shot him and broke his leg. They took him on his (Awwal) own bike and also another bike we use."

Jumba said his son's killers told them that they mistakenly shot him and they would take him to the hospital for treatment, forcing the mother to go back.

"The following day, we continued searching for him but we could not see him until after four days when his body started smelling. He said the deceased was one he's always proud of," he said.

"We can't afford to sponsor their education," the 53-year-old man said of Awwal's four orphaned children.

### **POST-TORTURE**

#### **TREATMENTS, SPENDING**

For Alhaji Baban Liya Kauran Boto, 55, he was arrested because he had almost the same name as their suspect. He said they came with vehicles and motorcycles during the raid.

"We were taken to an unknown location from Lere Primary School where we were first kept. We were severely tortured. See the traces of the torture. They killed one of us at Burgel forest," he said.

He revealed that he spent over N150,000 treating his hands that remained incapacitated after the torture.

"They poured pepper into my eyes. In fact, no one in their custody can survive death unless he is lucky. Look, these scars on my ribs are traces of their beating," another victim, Dr Idi Boto recounted how he suffered at the hands of the group.

He alleged that the group was given a Hilux vehicle by the Bauchi State government.

### **THEY HAVE NO IDENTITY – TRADITIONAL HEAD**

The Yariman, the traditional head of, Lere, Aliyu Ladan Bawa denied hosting the group and their stay in Lere Primary School under his domain.

He held that the killings were not happening in his territory alone.

“We know the plan of the evildoers. They killed them and dumped their corpses in our land to kindle crises against us.

“No responsible leader would support killing people. I don’t know about the group whatsoever. We have not seen them and we don’t know their identity,” he said.

A security expert, Timothy Avele, MD/CEO Agent-X Security Ltd, Lagos, said one of the negative effects of jungle justice is that innocent lives are lost most times.

Avele added that jungle justice does not serve justice. “Those in authority should also make sure corruption or partiality does not prevent the cause of justice no matter who is involved. When citizens see and feel justice is being served, then jungle justice will end or at least be minimized to the barest minimum,” he told WikkiTimes.

## OPERATING ‘NOWHERE’

WikkiTimes’ month-long effort to reach the Ba Beli group to respond to and clarify the allegations against its members was futile as their location could not be traced.

However, a source told WikkiTimes that the group doesn’t have a specific address but calls out its members to converge only for operations and meetings.

“They hold meetings in remote areas, sometimes in the forest. They don’t have a specific point of meeting,” the source noted.

## AUTHORITIES DECLINE TO COMMENT

Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, the spokesperson of Bauchi State Police Command declined to comment on the activities of the dreaded group.

He instead referred WikkiTimes to the state government and other security agencies.

## FROM

But Yakubu Barau Ningi, the Bauchi State Commissioner for Information said he didn’t know about the group in the state.

He However advocated fair and thorough investigation for suspects to avoid killing or inflicting torture on innocent people.

The special adviser to the state governor on security, Gen. Markus Yake also did not comment on the dreaded group’s activities after he invited WikkiTimes to his office.

This report was published with support from Civic Media Lab.

## 4-year-old Girl Sodomised by Teacher in Maiduguri

By Yawale Adamu

A four-year-old girl, Fatima (not her real name), at a primary school in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State explained that her teacher covered her in hijab, asked her to suck her breast and fingered her private part.

Fatima explained that the incident happened after the school had closed, stating that the teacher extended hospitality before defiling her.

Her father, Musa, confirmed the incident to security officials and human rights advocates in Maiduguri. Musa would not notice until he saw his daughter bleeding. “I thought it was a sign of an infection,” he said. “I took her to the hospital, and they told us exactly what the problem was.”

Sani Kamilu, spokesperson for Borno Police Command confirmed the incident to newsmen over the weekend, saying the teacher who teaches in a private school had been arrested and the force has started investigating the matter.

He added that the case after investigation would be forwarded to the Department of Public Prosecution (DPP) for further action



# 14-year-old Gombe-born Genius Started Winning Mathematical Awards at 9. Now She Has 14 Medals

By Hafsat Mohammed Ibrahim



A Gombe-based genius, Fatima Adamu Maikusa, was nine years old when she started winning medals in mathematics, according to Mathematics Professionals, a Facebook page helping young researchers in pursuing their careers.

Now 14, Maikusa is said to have earned seven international medals in mathematics. Mathematics Professionals would go on to describe the little girl as: A 'rising mathematical professional.

WikkiTimes learnt Maikusa is a grade two student at Nigerian Tulip International College in Kano State.

## THE MEDALS

Maikusa, according to the page, had won the American Mathematics Competition (AMC 08), the International Eduversal Mathematics competition, Jakarta Indonesia, International Math Challenge, Bangkok Thailand.

Others include: Kangourou Sans Frontieres (KSF) mathematics competitions, Future Intelligence Students Olympiad (FISO), Mathematics Without Borders, Bulgaria and Komodo math festival, Indonesia.

Mathematics Professionals had been profiling young Nigerians doing well in their studies. This, WikkiTimes understands, helps the spotlights at times.

In August, Saratu Garba, an 11-year-old out-of-school girl, was offered a scholarship by the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE), a World Bank-supported project.

Saratu's talent went viral on social media with her ability to quickly provide mathematical solutions.

According to Aliyu Yusuf, AGILE Project Communication Officer, the project's National Office directed its Kano office to identify the girl and enroll her in school.

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# INVESTIGATION: Genotype Scam: How Health Workers in Gombe Issue Fake Genotype Certificates for a Token



WikkiTimes reporter spent several weeks investigating fake genotype certificates to pass medical assessments that can be obtained in Gombe State. This report exposes how hospital laboratories issue fake genotype certificates for a token, sometimes even free.

## Hafsat Mohammed Ibrahim

A married couple gave birth to a sickle cell child, this generated confusion as it's believed that none of the parents are carriers, and they even had medical certificates to show for it.

However, after much investigation, it was discovered that the husband was AS. He had conspired with hospital staff at Pantami hospital in Gombe to falsify his genotype prior to the wedding.

“I was frustrated, I badly wanted to terminate my daughter’s marriage because we were betrayed by the husband and the hospital. We spent a lot of money on medication after the child was born,” the frustrated bride’s father told WikkiTimes.

He however said he was prevailed upon to not take the action, “We sat down with my in-laws and I succumbed to damage control since the couples were still in love.

But we still live in the fear of the unknown as we don’t know how many more sicklers she would bore”.

There were other instances of such people present with legal documents but with falsified information as such WikkiTimes went to multiple hospitals in Gombe to see how easy it is to obtain falsified medical documents.

### EASY PEASY

In July 13, at mid-day, I arrived at Nasarawo Primary Health Care, Nasarawo, Gombe.

It wasn’t hard to locate the medical laboratory situated opposite the hospital gate.

Patients waiting in line were scattered around the tree shades just outside the laboratory. I proceeded inside the cramped laboratory to get the attention of the laboratory personnel.

# Tackling Climate Challenge: How Scavengers Contribute to Global Solution in Kano

By Aminu Adamu

Musa Jibrin is a teenage almajiri boy in Mandawari area in Kano City who does not beg for food or token from neighbourhood and passers-by to survive as it is often done by others. Instead, after his morning Qur'anic studies, he moves around dump refuse sites, gutters, sewages, markets and roadsides to pick up plastic wastes such as rubber bottles, jerry cans, sachet water nylon, and polyethene among others.

After hours of shuttling from one waste site to another under the scorching sun, Musa takes his plastic waste to buyers.

"I search refuse sites and gutters for plastic bottles and nylons. I collect garbage and trash from houses and extract plastic, nylon and other materials, which I sell to earn some money. I make from N500 and above daily," he told WikkiTimes.

Like teenage Musa, multitudes of teenagers, youths and women in Kano are engaging in scavenging to earn a living while phasing out plastic incineration.

Abdullahi Hassan, a junior secondary school student who lives with his parents in Dorayi area of Gwale local government in Kano, told WikkiTimes that he alternates between scavenging for plastic waste and going to school.

"I scavenge through heaps of refuse in residential areas to gather plastic and nylon for selling in the morning. I go to school in the afternoon because school starts in the afternoon," he explained.

According to Kabiru Abubakar, he established a plastic waste collection spot at Katsina road in Kano city, where he not only survives through the business but engages young boys to earn a living in the process.



"The plastic and nylon are usually picked up from dump refuse sites and gutter or sewage. Youngsters pick and sort them out based on their categories, and we measure them on a scale.

"We buy one kilo of big plastic bottle N50 while smaller ones N30; sachet water nylon kilo costs N20; nylon that is strong like that of soft drink is N70. Daily, I buy between 200 -300 kilos of sachet water nylon; for rubber plastic bottles, I buy 50-70 kilos daily."

He said he cleanses them before taking them to industrial areas to exchange for cash, "I sell some in Sharada industrial area, I take some to Dakata industrial layout and some especially sachet water nylon I take it to Viva company. When you gather a lot, that is when you will make reasonable gains but if you take it little by little you won't make any reasonable gain. In fact, you can't even settle the transport if you aren't lucky."

The 35-year-old however noted that, scavenging for plastics gives him all the goodies life can offer: "In this business, I survive with my family, parents and even assist others. I am married to two wives and three children, but I survive in this business. I own a house and a motorcycle all through this business."

Even though this business is male-dominated, women aren't left out in job creation and tackling plastic waste challenges.

Continue @  
<https://wikkitimes.com/tackling-climate-challenge-how-scavengers-contribute-to-global-solution-in-kano/>

# How Jigawa Govt Abandoned Multi-Million Naira Electrification Projects, Deny Youth, Women Opportunities, Cripples NTA Hadeja

By Idris Kamal

*Years after Jigawa State Government via Rural Electrification Board released funds to contractors to execute multi-million naira Askandu and NTA Hadeja electrification projects, the projects were abandoned and a mirage accordingly. WikkiTimes' Idris Kamal reports that Askandu youths and women toil in poverty and misery as they cannot operate profitable businesses requiring electricity just as NTA Hadeja folded up.*

Jigawa State Government through Jigawa Rural Electrification Board released N20,298,933 for electrification of Askandu, a community in Kaugama local government of area of the state, to Na-Bakwai Enterprise Limited in 2019. Similarly, in a separate contract, Jigawa Rural Electrification Board released N19,427,719.87 to Xtrax 99 Integrated Service Nigeria Limited for the electrification of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Hadeja station.

Details of the Askandu arm of the project, according to a report of the Jigawa State Ministry of Works and Transport, include a town distribution network, a transformer and connecting the community to the national grid. In addition, details of NTA Hadeja include cabling and installation of a transformer. Findings by WikkiTimes revealed that the Askandu electrification project was abandoned halfway – poles, a transformer and cables within the community were installed but not connected to the national grid as contained in the details of the project- to enable residents of the community to have access to a power supply. The NTA Hadeja project failed.

## **Uncompleted Power Project Renders Youths, Women Jobless**

The hopes and aspirations of most youths and women in Askandu to operate pro-electricity small and medium businesses were

dashed as the multi-million naira project to electrify their community was abandoned.

A number of youth and women from the community are jobless even after acquiring welding, metal fabrication and tailoring skills because they cannot practice the trades at home due to lack of electricity supply.

The community depends on outside communities for fabricated metals, doors, windows and gates. All these items could be produced with local expertise but lack of power supply to the area squandered the prospect.

During dry season and fasting periods, the community and its neighbourhoods travel 8km to Elleman or 31km to Hadeja for iceberg and cold drinks to dehydrate their systems.

“I want to buy a freezer to start selling cold drinks and icebergs to my kit and keens but I could not because my native Askandu is not connected to the national grid.

“Through this business, I will ease the difficulty people in this community face while looking for cold drinks and icebergs, especially during dry season. We either get these items from Elleman or Hadeja,” Nafisat Abdullahi, a resident of Askandu told WikkiTimes.

Muhammed Lawan Usman, a native of Askandu but Lagos-based shoemaker, added that, “Provided we have electricity supply to this community, I will not hesitate to relocate my business here.”

*Continue the story @<https://wikkitimes.com/how-jigawa-govt-abandoned-multi-million-naira-electrification-projects-deny-youth-women-opportunities-cripples-nta-hadeja/>*

# Abandoned Water Project Continues to Hunt Gombe Community as Residents Decry Water Scarcity, Water-borne Diseases

By Muhammad Auwal Ibrahim

The early morning search for water nearly made Abdul Adamu, a senior secondary school student, miss his terminal exams. Adamu woke up early on the day of the exams to prepare for school only to be instructed by his parents to go fetch water for their household use. He was reluctant because it was getting late to go to school but he couldn't complain. He will have to travel 40 minutes on foot to fetch water from the nearest pond.

He obliged his parents and fetched some water, wolved down his breakfast and rushed out to school. On arrival at the examination hall, his fears were confirmed. Exams had already started and Adamu was about 25 minutes late. Luckily, he was allowed to write the exams.

At another time, Adamu had just returned from school and had barely rested when his parents asked him to go fetch water.

Adamu lives in Shongo Sarkin Yaki, a community in Kwami local government area (LGA) of Gombe state that has been struggling with decade-long water scarcity and often has to rely on contaminated water sources for drinking, and other domestic purposes. This has caused residents of the community untold hardships and made them vulnerable to water-related and waterborne diseases including hepatitis, cholera, and typhoid.



## ABANDONED PROJECT DASHES RESIDENTS' HOPES

While residents of the community drink from contaminated water sources, a water project meant for the area was abandoned months after commencement.

In 2021, the federal government through the Upper Benue River Basin Development Agency (UBRBDA) awarded the contract for the "extension of water pipeline and reticulation at Shongo Sarkin Yaki, Gombe North Senatorial District" to Hapco Multihydro Systems.

The project which is under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) was awarded at the cost of N50 million. Findings showed that soon after the contractor was mobilized and heavy equipment moved to the site, the project was abandoned after one of the machines developed a fault. According to sources in the community, the contractor gave no cogent reason for abandoning the project site.

Details of the project captioned as "extension of water pipeline and reticulation at Shongo Sarkin Yaki, Gombe North Senatorial District" in the budget is basically to "drill and install motorized borehole with 50 cubic metre overhead tank as a constituency project meant for the area.

The community was hopeful when the project commenced with residents happy that it would put a stop to drinking contaminated water and contracting deadly diseases.

This situation has left many residents to fetch water from contaminated sources, especially during the dry season when water bodies in the area dry up, a practice that has been going on for decades of the community's existence.

Read the rest @ <https://wikkitimes.com/abandoned-water-project-continues-to-hunt-gombe-community-as-residents-decry-water-scarcity-water-borne-diseases/>

## Bauchi-based Tinubu Loyalist, Borrowed N10,000 from Friend. He Disappeared and Blocked Her Number

By Hamzat Ibrahim Abaga

James Lucca Jonathan, a Bauchi-based Ahmed Bola Tinubu loyalist, borrowed N10,000 from a friend, Racheal Danjuma, in August with a promise to refund her in a few days, but he refused.

According to Danjuma, the debtor said he needed the money to fuel his guests' cars who visited him for a political event.

"He told me Tinubu had sent him some money but was having some issues with his bank and couldn't withdraw the money," Danjuma said.

"I was having N17,000 with me and decided to lend him N10,000 since he had promised to refund as soon as he rectified his bank's issue."

"Out of the N17,000, N15,000 was for my friend who was saving up to register for her Senior School Certificate Examination. But I decided to help him and now he is nowhere to be found," Danjuma added.

Five months later, Jonathan has not been responding to Danjuma's calls. He would later block her from contacting him. Danjuma told WikkiTimes she had to source alternative means to settle her friend (who was saving for examination).

"In November, I contacted his friend and he told me that Jonathan had travelled. And after narrating everything to him, he couldn't help," she said.

When contacted, Jonathan admitted to having lent money from Danjuma but declined to make further comment on the case. He denied ghosting her and later requested that the reporter meet him for further comment.

"Yes I know Racheal Danjuma," he affirmed. "But I did not disappear and I didn't block her line from reaching me. I'm in Bauchi State."

## OPINION Letter to Mr Prankster

By Uthman Qasim

I write with utmost understanding of your desire to make a living through an acceptable means and your zeal to pursue a passion inspired by social media. The last time I wanted to pen you this piece was last month when the US government alerted her citizens of an impending terrorist attack in Abuja (which has not come to past). I contemplated between writing to you or writing to Mr Joe Biden to stop making Nigerians panic in their own country over an alert no one could issue in America except the American government. Today, I have chosen to let the old man be and communicate to you, Mr Prankster.

Nigerians are naturally happy people as you could see them crying today after bandits' attack and dancing the next day over a football match played in another country. They could even be drinking champagne at nightclubs when flood victims are certain that after hell, their community is next.

I am sure you know that people also happily dance in the sun during political rallies organized by those who ensure clean water, quality education and food are things of rarity.

I will be surprised if you claim oblivion of memes created when one naira was begging dollars for an exchange rate of N800. One of the memes said, "the way naira is falling, we will all agree by the end of the year that trade-by-batter should be reintroduced in 2023". We always find something to be happy about except your pranks that are only funny to those who break bottles on one another's heads because of what a Nigerian politician said about another politician a few days after they changed camps.

I watched many prank videos you made that have put on hold, beautiful relationships, especially when you put one lover on a call and the other received breaking news...

# Untold Story of Borno Widow Whose Husband Was Killed on Nigeria's Independence Day

By Babaji Usman

Hadiza Jubrin, a 34-year-old mother of three lost her husband on Nigeria's Independence Day in 2015 when a female Boko Haram suicide bomber blew him off.

She is one of the many wives of the members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), a volunteer vigilante group in Borno State, who were killed while helping the Nigerian military fight insurgency. They left behind wives and children.

Hadiza told HumAngle that she no longer looks forward to Independence Day the way she used to, because "it constantly brings back sad memories."

"My husband was killed by a female suicide bomber who hugged him on Oct. 1, 2015, when he tried to stop her from invading a crowded place in front of our home," she said.

The October's multiple bombings followed after dozens of Boko Haram suicide bombers invaded Maiduguri and attacked several locations in the city's suburbs, killing over 100 people and injuring as many as 97 others.

HumAngle reported that on that day, explosions thundered and echoed around the city at about 7.30 p.m. and did not cease till about 10 p.m. Soldiers of the Nigerian military continued to fire their rifles all through the night.

"I never knew that my husband, who was a member of the CJTF, was killed by the closest explosion that happened near our house until much later at night when I waited for him to return, but he never showed up," she recalled.

At the time, Hadiza was four months into the pregnancy that produced her third child. "I nearly lost the pregnancy after they broke the sad news to me, but God intervened, and I was able to carry on till I delivered Ali, who is now seven years old," she said.

Hadiza had to cope with the trauma of losing her husband in such a cruel manner and the difficulties of parenting her three children — Abubakar, Halima, and Ali.

Her experience is just one of the many unreported stories of young women who became widows during the not-ending insurgency in the northeast.

Now, Hadiza had to shoulder the responsibility of caring for the children on her own. But all she can offer doesn't go beyond feeding and clothing them.

She had to join her parents in Biu, a town 185 km south of Maiduguri because none of her late husband's relatives was willing to support her. The woman said her greatest concern has been the future of her children. She faces challenges paying for their education.

"Sometimes, I cry and even question why my husband would go and offer himself for such a thankless job that ended up taking his life and leaving his family in a state of penury," Aisha lamented.

Recently, the Borno State government rolled out a support scheme for the orphans of slain CJTF members and hunters who lost their lives in the course of helping soldiers fight Boko Haram.

A total of 300 boys and girls were selected from bereaved families of slain auxiliary soldiers to benefit from a N300 million grant from Borno State. This will support the children in enrolling on primary school and through the next five years.

Governor Babagana Zulum, while flagging off the scholarship scheme, said the 300 selected children form part of the first phase of the scheme and his administration would ensure that the children, who are willing to be educated, would get government support up to the tertiary level of education.

## 5 perish, Others Injured in Bauchi Auto-Crash

By Idris Kamal

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Bauchi State Command has said that five persons died and another five sustained various degrees of injuries in a fatal auto crash at Zebra 30 along Toro-Magama Unit.

Sector Commandant FRSC Bauchi, Yusuf Abdullahi who disclosed this to reporters in Bauchi said the accident occurred on Friday evening.

“The accident occurred in Zaranda Village on the ever busy Jos -Bauchi Federal Highway involving 2 vehicles, a commercial Ford Galaxy mini bus with registration number USL 144YA and a DAF trailer with registration number BKR 274 XA.

“12 people, all Male Adults were involved in the accident out of which 5 were dead and 5 injured with bruises, lacerations and fractures.

“The probable cause of the road traffic crash was speed limit violation (SPV), loss of control (LOC) and overloading (OVL).

“The victims were taken to the General Hospital, Toro for proper treatment and confirmation of death after which the corpses were deposited at the mortuary,” he said.

The Team Leader of the rescue operation was DRC CS Kangtun, OC Zebra 30 who reported to the Unit Commander.

The Sector Commander, Yusuf Abdullahi cautioned drivers against dangerous driving as well as night journeys, particularly at the peak period of the season when there is heavy traffic on the roads.

He however assured that officers and men of the FRSC will continue to do their best to keep the road safe and minimise road traffic crashes across the roads in the Command.

## After WikkiTimes' Story, Minor Kano Boy Suffering Eye Disease Gets Help

By Hafsat Ibrahim Mohammed

A seven-year-old kano boy who needed N100,000 for his eye surgery has been scheduled for treatment following a fundraising campaign amplified by WikkiTimes.

A source close to the family, Zubayr as simply identified, had on Friday initiated a fundraising campaign via Twitter. According to him, the minor who hails from Karaye in Kano State is suffering from “A 7-year-old boy Zakari currently at AKTH is suffering from retinoblastoma and urgently needs funds for his treatment. His parents are without a phone. Came all the way from karaye. This video was taken by a friend of mine who works there.” Zubayr had tweeted.

Following WikkiTimes' report, Zubayr announced that the fundraising was successful as the required amount was raised. He also thanked WikkiTimes for its report.

Retinoblastoma, a visual ailment common among underage children. WikkiTimes also spoke to Treat The Vulnerable Families In Nigeria Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that initiated the fundraising.

The spokesperson of the foundation, Khadija Ammani Abubakar, confirmed that the amount for the surgery has been raised and a date has been scheduled for the operation to be carried out.

“The patient and his parents are coming back on Wednesday and the surgery will be carried out on Thursday. The doctors also confirmed that the boy will undergo chemotherapy after the surgery,” she told our reporter.



## After WikkiTimes' Story, Zenith Bank Frees Freelancer's Withheld Dollars

By Yunusa Umar

Following WikkiTimes' story detailing how Zenith Bank, for three months, withheld \$53:19 belonging to Joselph Eka, an Akwa-Ibom-based freelancer with ClickWorker, the bank has allowed him access to his money.

Eka told WikkiTimes yesterday that the bank released the dollars last Friday.

"I am grateful to WikkiTimes for showing its concern," he said, adding he was called to the bank to claim his money. "I didn't receive the alert. My current dollar account is not connected to my phone and I do not normally get alerts," he said.

He further added that he had withdrawn the money through the bank's counter.

Prior to WikkiTimes' report, Eka had been denied access to his three-month salary paid in dollars by his company. However, the bank declined him access to the money, saying the transaction had to be scrutinised even after he presented a letter from his company.

## After WikkiTimes' Investigation, FERMA Takes Over Some Abandoned Portions of Bauchi Gombe Road, Commences Rehabilitation

By Yunusa Umar

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), a subsidiary of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing has taken over failed sections of the Bauchi-Gombe road which were hitherto abandoned as exposed in WikkiTimes' recent investigation.

This paper in a detailed investigation unearthed how millions of naira were wasted on emergency repairs and rehabilitation of the highway. The funds were released by the ministry of works to 10 different companies, including FERMA between 2017 and 2021. However, the road, despite the funds released remains a nightmare to commuters and the hosting communities.

Some of the companies involved in the rehabilitation and emergency repairs of the road were not able to justify the work done on the highway while some were not traceable. Also, the ministry declined to comment on the shoddy execution of the project. Twelve days after the story was published, FERMA took over the work and started filling the failed section of the road, WikkiTimes can report.

Beyond, filling the failed section, locals who ply the road on a daily basis and the residents told WikkiTimes that only standard bridges not culverts could save the road from continuous damage. Of recent, two major culverts linking Bauchi and Gombe States collapsed more than two times. They still remain in shambles.

## After WikkiTimes' Undercover, Bauchi Sets Up Committee, Vows to Punish Health Workers Diverting Govt's Drugs

By Babaji Usman

Barely three months after WikkiTime published an undercover investigation exposing how some health workers in Bauchi State diverted drugs from government healthcare centres for personal gains, the state government said it has set up an investigative committee to look into the matter.

Dr Rilwan Mohammed, the Chairman, Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development Agency, disclosed this when Alheri Community Development and Support Initiative, a Bauchi/Gombe-based civil society organization paid an advocacy visit to the agency.

The agency's boss maintained that the state government will implement the recommendations outlined in the committee's report to ensure a transparent service delivery across the healthcare centres in the state. He assured that the agency will inform the civil society groups of whatever decision the government takes after the submission of the committee's report.

Dr Hamid Adamu Mohammad, the Executive Director of Alheri Community Development and Support Initiative, said Governor Bala Mohammed has reportedly called the attention of Rilwanu's agency to WikkiTimes' investigation.

### THE UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION

In the investigation, WikkiTimes, also chronicled how the selfish staff connived with their collaborating syndicate who were mostly drug vendors to cheat the system. Their corrupt conduct left those in need in excruciating pain and forced them to dive deeply into their pockets to afford treatment while many who could not afford it perished in the process.

About a month later, WikkiTimes Publisher Haruna Mohammed Salisu, lamented the government's laxity in prosecuting individuals and entities exposed by the medium. In a similar investigation, WikkiTimes also uncovered how hospital laboratories in the neighbouring state of Gombe issue fake genotype certificates

for a token, sometimes even free.

The Publisher in an interactive programme with Albarka Radio in Bauchi lamented that despite the time and resources invested to uncover the wrongdoings, the governments seemed not to make a drastic effort to bring the perpetrators into books to account for their wrongdoings.

Similarly, the publisher, during a live radio program organised by Progressive Impact Organization for Community Development (PRIMORG), a civil society organization working to promote good governance in Nigeria on Kiss FM Abuja, bemoaned the nonchalant attitude of governments towards prosecuting the entities and individuals whose corrupt practices were exposed by the platform. Established in 2018, WikkiTimes had unearthed a number of scandalous and inhumane conducts by

# After WikkiTimes' Investigation, Bauchi Police Boss 'Transferred to Lagos' as Court Remands Ex-Commissioner

*By Yakubu Mohammed*

Umar Sanda, the Bauchi State Commissioner of Police has been transferred to Lagos following his alleged involvement in manipulating a murder case into a road traffic offence.

According to an insider, the commissioner had been transferred and there is another police boss for Bauchi Command. The name of the new police commissioner was simply given as 'Alhassan' as information about him remains sketchy as of press time.

"His transfer is with immediate effect," the insider told WikkiTimes. "The development was communicated to him this morning and if he has not; he should leave any moment soon."

However, the command has not announced it officially.

This comes after WikkiTimes reported how the police boss facilitated the release of Mohammed Damina, former Bauchi State Commissioner for Information, who "killed" his friend, Adamu Babanta, after trying to woo the latter's daughter, Kadija.

The ex-commissioner who holds the traditional title of Galadiman Dass, while stunting with his car smashed Babanta against a pavement — a development that later led to his death. The deceased, at the time, had been trapped in the suspect's car.

"He had already opened the door and Galadima kept stunting until he smashed him against a pavement near a plank-made political signpost at the front of ATBU," Kadija told WikkiTimes.

Stunningly, the police boss alongside his officers Ahmad Buba and Livinus Emmanuel filed a road offence case against the commissioner, but the deceased's family lawyer, Alkassim Muhammad disagreed. He believes the police were trying to lessen the suspect's crime to cheat justice. He would later petition the Police Service Commission (PSC) for proper handling of the matter.

Sanda further instructed that the ex-commissioner be charged to the Bauchi State Magistrate Court III with Traffic Road Act (RTA). But the case is a culpable homicide punishable with death under section 221 of the penal code, the deceased family's lawyer argued.

## JUSTICE IN PROGRESS

The magistrate court presided over by Safiya Musa Salihu, ruled that the case be transferred to the state Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) for discreet investigation.

In addition, the magistrate ordered that the ex-commissioner be remanded at the Bauchi correctional service centre pending the outcomes of the investigation. Also, the investigation would be handled by operatives of the Department of State Service (DSS).

The judgement was made after the court went through the coroner's postmortem report, a police First Information Report, and a medical report availed before the magistrate.

An autopsy report signed by Dr Dauda Sulaiman, a pathologist at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) and exclusively obtained by WikkiTimes revealed that Babanta died from "Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury secondary to multiple skeletal and soft tissue trauma."

The case was, however, adjourned to November 23, 2022, according to a writ obtained by WikkiTimes.

When contacted to confirm Sanda's transfer and imprisonment of the suspect, Ahmed Wakil, spokesman for Bauchi Police Command refused to talk to our reporter, saying he does not know him. Similarly, the police boss, Sanda was not available for comment. A text sent to both had not been responded to as of press time.

## COLUMN

# Kolmani Oil Field Launching: Should the Common Man of the North Celebrate?

Aside from the polemical provocations between them and northerners, do the common people of Niger Delta have anything to show for hosting oil fields for the country? NTA Network News reporter rounded up his report on Tuesday about President Buhari's launching of Kolmani Integrated Development Project that oil discovery and drilling at Kolmani mean "better days ahead" for the local people there. But was he right?

At the flagging off of the project by HE Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday at the oil exploration fields of Kolmani, many political statements were made by governors, members of parliament, etc. That oil is now removed as a factor of political tussle and competition between North and South; that the discovery would change the fortunes and destiny of the people in the north, that it means more infrastructure and health facilities, that it would generally positively affect the educational, entrepreneurial and commercial wellbeing of the local communities, etc. To understand how all these would work it'll be good to derive lessons from the Niger Delta experience.

The Niger Delta region had suffered and is still suffering worse environmental degradation with severe health outcomes and the erosion of culture, values and livelihood. These predicaments engendered agitations and political instability marked by the emergence of armed groups since 2004.



**Adamu Muhammad Hamid, PhD**

The major problem of monetary allocations in Nigeria is misapplication by state governments. The statutory advantage of hosting oil fields in Nigeria is the accruable 13% derivation revenue. As for the Niger Delta for example, through that process, close to N10tr was allocated and released to the region between 2000 and 2018 but the deplorable conditions in the communities persist. Last year, the saga involving the minister of the Ministry for Niger Delta, one of their senators and the executive director of the Niger Delta Development Commission revealed that the Commission does not own a structure called headquarters.

They've been renting since the establishment of the NDDC, despite huge sums released to it by the government. The N10tr received by Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta, Bayelsa, and Edo states since December 2000 was enough to transform West African Countries like Niger into world-class states during the same period.

What's more startling about Nigeria's experience with oil was, while oil money continues to accrue to the producing states, absurdly, most oil-producing communities remain in abject poverty, plagued by unemployment, and are devoid of basic social amenities like potable water, hospitals, electricity, motorable roads and conducive learning environment in their schools.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that on the 13% derivation principle, Rivers got from 2000 to 2017 over N2, 512, 958, 965, 608t; Delta got between 2000 and 2018 over N2, 220, 952, 447, 827t. Between 2000 and 2018, Akwa Ibom received over N2, 637, 953, 892, 850t. From 2000 to 2016 the rest got as follows: Bayelsa N1, 707, 765, 122, 689tr, Edo state, N528, 131, 627, 879. You get over N9, 607, 762, 056, 853tr when you do the Maths. In spite of these colossal sums, governors kept racing in building heaven-on-earth mansions, living ostentations affordable to only world-class billionaires to the neglect of the oil communities, which has led to amplified levels of dissatisfaction in the region.

While infrastructure like good roads, schools and standard hospitals are concentrated in State capitals such as Asaba, Port Harcourt, Uyo, Benin and Yenagoa, basic social amenities have continued to elude the communities where the majority of the people live in appalling utter poverty...