

## Rise Up, Defend Your Communities From Attackers, Bauchi Gov Orders Residents



By Idris Kamal Ibrahim

Disturbed by the raising activities of suspected armed kidnappers around Alkaleri forest, Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed has charged residents of the affected communities to rise up and defend themselves from attacks of the gunmen.

In what appeared to be a reprisal attack, armed bandits have so far killed 20 people and wounded several others in villages surrounding Duguri District of Alkaleri LGA in Bauchi state.

A few weeks ago, Police in Bauchi in collaboration with local vigilantes stormed Alkaleri

forest killing 12 suspected bandits including one of the kingpins that had terrorized the area.

The governor who visited the area on Thursday described the situation as an unfortunate and unacceptable trend that must be stopped at all costs.

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# UNDERCOVER: Inside Oyo Islamic Torture House Where Children Are Chained and ‘Maltreated Like Animals’

By Olapade Mariam Olanike

*For two weeks, WikkiTimes’ Olapade Mariam Olanike went undercover to expose abuse and violations of human rights in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State. She found many things wrong with Ayegbami Islamic Center...*

For four months, 17-year-old Aisha Hakeem was caged in a cell at the Ayegbami Islamic Centre in the Oremeji area of Ibadan, Oyo State. She had been enrolled in the Islamic school for rehabilitation after repeatedly disobeying her father.

Born into a broken family, her parents live separately. Aisha wanted to stay with her mother but her father would not allow her. Frustrated, she left her father’s house in Ibadan for Lagos in search of her mother. But a relative of her father saw her roaming the Lagos streets and took her back to Ibadan.

Aisha could not sustain the memory of living without a mother; she tried to abscond from home again but her father caught her this time. Her punishment for attempting to run away in search of her mother? A torture home.

“I was in JSS 1 when my dad brought me here,” she recalled, describing how the Mualim — an Arabic word for the Islamic instructor — would appear to pass her meals in the small cell she was caged in. “He will pass the plate of food through this open space of the net and after eating, he will come to pick the plates and cup by himself.”

## THE HOME OF TORTURE AND ABUSE

In the interior area of Ibadan city, a torture home is operated unhindered in the Ayegbami Islamic centre. Named after the founder of the supposed Islamic school, Saheed Ayegbami, unscrupulous parents seeking rehabilitation for their tough children enrol them for revival. But rather than infuse Islamic knowledge in the children, many of them — tagged petty thieves, addicts and scoundrels — are trapped in cages, chained, starved and largely maltreated “like animals”.

Venturing into the centre earlier this year, WikkiTimes observed that the torture home is embedded in a four-bedroom bungalow with faded paintings, broken windows and a filthy environment.

Situated about 5km away from the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, a rusted gate could be sighted beside the building leading to an unkempt kitchen and two small rooms with heavy urine odour. In the living room of the apartment, the teacher tends to his visitors.

At least 20 students are crammed in each of the rooms, according to undercover interviews with pupils and those familiar with activities in the Arabic school. Residents of this area me that students “with chains tied around their legs” in the Islamic school always beg passers-by for food. Many of the students, residents said, have become even worse after they enrolled in the torture house.

“There was a boy in this area who was doing fine before he was brought to this Arabic school, but now he has become another thing,” a resident of the area told WikkiTimes. “Most of the pupils there always beg for survival.”

## WHAT IT TAKES TO ENROL YOUR CHILD IN A TORTURE HOME

On July 30, this reporter presented herself as an elderly sister willing to enrol her stubborn younger brother at the said Islamic centre. Her mission was to gain access to the torture home and it didn’t take much time before the teacher, popularly known as Alfa Ayegbami, fell for the bait. After listening to the prepared storyline concocted to suit our reporter’s posture, Ayegbami asked me and my guide to pay three thousand naira for the admission form.

He also told us that the rules and regulations that govern the school were stated in the white paper.

A part of the guideline pages stated how much parents or guardians willing to enrol their children must pay. The admission form is N3,000 and the acceptance fee into the Islamic school is N2,000. The feeding fee for a student below 15 years old is N3,000 weekly while a student whose age is above 15 is expected to pay N5,000 weekly.

One of the rules of the Islamic school is the compulsory presence of either the father or mother of the child before admission. Parents are urged to come and check on their children once a month.

arents are also expected to buy bathing soap and toothpaste for their children and those who want their children to have Arabic knowledge must buy them a copy of the Quran.

***Cont reading [here](#).***

# One Week After Man Bought N30,000 Data, MTN Hasn't Activated It



By Umar Yunusa

Oladele John, a Twitter user, has accused Mobile Telephone Network (MTN) of denying him a N30,000 internet subscription he bought last week via his Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB) account.

The aggrieved customer in a tweet claimed that the transaction was successful but the service provider failed to activate the subscription.

“On Monday 19th Dec, 2022 at 23:43hrs, I bought a data worth N30,000 @MTNng using bank transfer option on MyMTNapp from my GTbank account no 0565\*\*\*\* to @wemabank MFY/ Coralpay-NEX 8860368223 transaction ref 000013221219234327000649038857 for my HyNetFlex 09039438177,” John tweeted.

According to John, MTN promised to rectify the issue in 24 hours, but it failed to do so.

“Everything came to success as shown on the myMTNapp and my bank transaction receipts were received as successful,” he added. “I noticed data was not immediately activated. I called @Mtn180 of which they responded it will be activated within 24hrs’.

“By next day, I called my bank @gtbank to reconfirm if truly the money left my account and they confirmed it and that I should give the transaction ref to @mtnng to follow up with @wemabank.

“I put a call across to @mtn180 saying that it will be resolved in the next 24hrs, that’s another time frame given. But with the mind that I needed the data for the family to enjoy,” he added..

Seven days after the transaction, John said MTN kept telling the same story.

He tweeted further: “I, therefore, sent msgs to the @mtnng as well as @mtn180, all I got was asking me different questions of which I responded hoping for immediate activation.

“But I was dead wrong, all they said was activated will be done within next 24hrs, from December 20 till 24, I kept sending messages about the issue and calling @mtn180 but no positive response.

“Today is December 27, I have not heard any thing from them. My N30,000 is in the designated account @wemabank @wemabankmd as in the myMTNApp and data have not yet been received by me.

“In the course of my tweeting, I have included @NgComCommission@consumerngbecause I needed help immediately. Whoever that can help me have my N30,000 or the data worth was my concern.

“I don’t know why I should suffer for no offence of mine. The reason for not honouring their end of contract I don’t know. The N30,000 is very big to me and may be nothing to @mtnng anyone that can help me, I need HELP pls.”

John explained he had purchased the data for his family to enjoy the holiday period. As his ordeal lingers, John remembered Twitter could be of help.

“I remembered twitter handles can help solve same problem immediately because have had issue with @myfcmb sometimes ago and through the medium, was done immediately,” he stated.

Efforts to reach MTN proved abortive as an inquiry sent to the service provider had not been responded to at the time filing this report.

## ‘Bandits Wipe Out Entire Family in Sokoto’

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

Terrorists locally known as bandits waylaid Kurawa, a suburb of Sokoto State and killed an entire family. Idris Mohammed, a conflict reporter in northwest Nigeria disclosed this in a Twitter post embedded with gory pictures of the incident.

At least four lifeless bodies could be spotted in his tweet. Other pictures attached to it depict graves of the slain persons and live ammunition used during the invasion.

“How deadly bandits wiped out an entire family in the Kurawa community of Sokoto state. This is one of the few stories coming out daily from the Sokoto east senatorial zone,” he tweeted.

Mohammed added that the attack is “one of the few stories coming out daily from Sokoto east senatorial zone.”

On December 28, 2022, about 15 people in the Kurawa, Ruwan Bore, Gatawa and Dangari communities were killed and several others wounded.

According to a resident, Nura Mamman who spoke to PREMIUM TIMES, the attackers invaded Dangari a few minutes after 2 p.m.

# After Collecting N20,000, Gombe Islamic Cleric Fails to Change Man's Genotype Status

By Hafsah Mohammed Ibrahim



Hamisu Ibrahim (not real name), a Gombe-based student has recounted how an Islamic cleric, Mallam Abubakar Sadiq, popularly known as Sadiq Pharmacy swindled him out of N20,000 with a promise of changing his genotype from AS.

The student told WikkiTimes he was convinced by the cleric's sermon during a Juma'at prayer where he claimed weak genotypes could be altered.

"In one of his pre-khutba at a Friday mosque, the Sheikh said genotype classification can be changed and he has a remedy for that, so I decided to contact him," Hamisu said.

"People encouraged me to contact him. And he was also confident about it when I met him," Hamisu added. "He even told me that he had treated people with that issue in the past while using Quranic verses to convince me that every disease has a cure."

Hamisu confirmed that he had never met or heard testimony regarding the sheikh changing people's genotypes.

## MARITAL COMPATIBILITY

Desperation had led Hamisu to patronize the sheikh when he was striving for genotype compatibility to marry his fiancée.

"I was in love with a young woman and just a few months into our marriage,

we decided to carry out a genotype compatibility test which proved us both to be AS," he told WikkiTimes. "I was surprised. Because I had a genotype test a few years back at Gidan Magani Hospital and the results showed that I was AA."

Subsequent tests carried out three times proved that he was indeed an AS. However, Hamisu sought the assistance of the sheikh in his desperate situation.

## THE SCAM

"I spent the sum of N20,000 for some concoctions that were supposed to last 12 days and renewed for 70 days for a complete dosage," he explained.

The medication he was given included camel milk, olive oil and several other concoctions. However, after 20 days of consuming them, he carried out another genotype test as required which turned out to be the same AS.

"I met him again (Sadiq Pharmacy) but he insisted that my body system was just not cooperating with the medication and that people that bought the medicine at the same time as myself have given positive feedback," he said.

Hamisu added that the sheikh persuaded him to buy more of the medication but he refused, partly because he could afford it and he felt "scammed" further.

## FACT-CHECK

In October 2022, PRNigeria conducted a fact-check after a video of the sheikh went viral claiming genotype change theory.

While proving the claim to be false, PRNigeria spoke to a specialist, Dr. Mustapha Muhammad, who works with the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

According to him, the genotype doesn't change at all but a phenotype – an individual's observable traits, such as height, eye colour and blood type – can change due to environmental factors.

"Medically, there are some certain factors that need to be critically observed when things like this happen. The previous results might either be faulty or the last one is. But the genotype is an inherent phenomenon that cannot be changed in an adult.

"I've never come across any academically compliant literature that shows that the genotype changes over time," he said.

Several times, WikkiTimes tried contacting the Sheikh on the matter but to no avail.

He did not respond to calls. Also, a text sent to had not been responded to at press time.

# Sigma Awards Will Airlifts Data Journalists to Italy Next Year

By Babaji Usman

The 2023 Sigma Awards and conference is scheduled to hold in Perugia, Italy and the organisation says data journalists would be sponsored to attend the event.

Sigma Awards celebrate the best data journalism from around the world to empower, elevate and enlighten the global community of data journalists. This year's edition would highlight excellent works done about challenges bedevilling the contemporary world.

Significantly, it targets journalistic works focusing on COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

“We want to celebrate that great work, share it with our community, and get journalists to get inspired and learn from each other's successes,” said the organisers. “The international data journalism community is facing many challenges, and we want to support them. This year's Sigma Awards will be about highlighting the very best data journalism done about the pandemic (and building an international database record of such projects), the Russia-Ukraine war, and also those covering other topics such as politics, sports, or the environment.”

“We want to bring together a community, and support those working with data, whether it's on COVID-19 or international conflicts — because that's one of the priorities for our community at the moment — or on any other subject,” it added.

Sigma Awards are initiated to unite, galvanize and expand data journalism communities where the awards team would ignite collaborations and discussions between members of the communities on topical issues.

## OTHER BENEFITS

Winners would be flown to Perugia in Italy to attend and take part in the 2023 International Journalism Festival and lead panel discussions as well as take part in different sessions. In addition, the winning applicant will be brought together to participate in and lead online data journalism panels, discussions and workshops.

They will not only learn from each other but will be reaching out to the broader community of data journalists and would-be data journalists, building relationships that will help spark better collaborations and work around the world.

A US\$5,000 cash prize will be split among winners who will also get a certificate suitable for framing at the end of the sessions.

“We want to be able to reward your great work in the best way possible. So the jury members will decide on the best work overall and come to a consensus on how to divide the US\$5,000 cash prize”, Sigma Awards noted

## DEADLINE

Entries for the 2023 Sigma Award competition are now open and you have until January 19 2023 to apply. Applicants are required to submit their works by filling out an online form that the Jury and Prize Committee of international experts will assess them.

## REQUIREMENTS

A participant would be considered for a portfolio or a Young Talent prize when he specifies it and includes no more than 10 examples of work, which are to be added via the link section of the online form.

The applicant is similarly required to share more than a description of his work, but also about the technologies used, the impact reached, the challenges encountered, and more.

Last year Sigma Award received 603 entries from 379 organizations all over the world, representing the work of hundreds of data journalists done throughout the year 2021.

READ: APPLY: BBC Wants Pidgin Journalists, Deadline Is December 14

From the top 100 projects submitted to the competition in the Sigma 2022 shortlist, 12 applicants were named winners.

The Sigma Awards competition was created in 2019 by Aron Pilhofer (Temple University) and Gina Chua (formerly Reginald Chua, Reuters), with support from Simon Rogers (Google), Marianne Bouchart (HEI-DA), and Kuek Ser Kuang Keng (HEI-DA). It is supported by the Google News Initiative among other sponsors.

Interested applicants can click [here](#).



# OUR IMPACTS

## After WikiTimes' Story, Kwara Govt Recruits 40 Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists for Kwara Hospital

By Umar Yunusa

Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulraak has approved the immediate employment of 40 doctors, 60 nurses and 25 pharmacists for Offa General Hospital.

This comes after WikiTimes reported how a pregnant woman had a stillbirth due to recklessness and a shortage of medical doctors in the hospital.

Ibrahim Abdulateef, special assistant on communication to Kwara State governor in a Twitter post, disclosed that the governor had addressed the issue of manpower in the hospital.

“To address the deficit in manpower and deepen access to healthcare in Offa General Hospital and others in the state, Governor @realarahman has approved the immediate employment of 40 doctors, 60 nurses and 25 pharmacists as a matter of urgency,” Abdulateef tweeted Tuesday.

According to him, the government is dedicated to investigating media reports about the facility.

### THE STORY

Babatunde Olamilaken Ismaila, the victim's husband told Wikkitimes he took his wife to the hospital on December 3 when she started discharging “water.” He explained that she would be due for childbirth on November 24, according to a test she did “last time.”

He explained that a doctor on duty instructed him to purchase an inducement drug for his wife. According to Ismaila, the drug would aid his wife's childbirth, but it made things worse.

They would be advised to go to a private hospital for adequate treatment. Unfortunately, the victim had a stillbirth and had to be operated on to get rid of it.

Ismaila, however, blamed the government for not providing the facility with enough instruments and adequate staff. He revealed that only one medical doctor was attending to women in labour.

WikiTimes contacted Mohammed Olabisi Abdulsalam, Chief Medical Doctor of the hospital, but he refused to comment.

“I am a civil servant and I can not speak to anybody,” Abdulsalam had said. “We have responded to the appropriate authority...”

## Collaboration Between WikiTimes and Tracka Forces FG to Commence Rehabilitation of Bauchi-Jos Road



By Yawale Adamu

Following a collaborative work between WikiTimes and Tracka over dilapidated Bauchi-Jos border road, Federal Road Maintenance Agency(FERMA) has started rehabilitating some failed portion of the highway.

Tracka, a project monitoring and public accountability organization, had tweeted that over N200 billion were wasted on rehabilitation of the road between 2020 and 2022.

“We're aware that between 2020 and 2022 in the FG budget the following amounts were BUDGETED, N144m in 2020,N57m in 2021 and N76m in 2022 for the maintenance of Bauchi-Jos Plateau state boarder Rd in Bauchi-State now a death trap for road users,” Tracka had tweeted.

As a pro-accountability platform, WikiTimes amplified the tweet.

A few days after the concerted efforts, federal government's FERMA mobilised workers to the site to patch some sections.

“After our intervention on the deplorable state of Jos-Plateau Road in Bauchi State, we are happy to report that the failed portion has been fixed,” Tracka tweeted.

Cont. reading from page one

He charged the residents of the area to enhance forth “rise up, take up arms and defend yourselves. You are known to be men, you should not allow these bad elements subdue you, defend your land and liberate yourselves.”

The governor also charged the people to search themselves and bring out the bad eggs amongst them who are serving as informants to the bandits stressing that without inside information, the bandits cannot operate.

Bala assured that his administration will continue to work assiduously in collaboration with the security agencies operating in the state to protect the lives and properties of innocent citizens.

At Kafin Duguri, the Governor commended the people for standing to defend themselves from the attacks of the bandits by wading them when they attempted to invade the village.

The Governor told them to take up arms against the bandits and kill them if they try to attack saying, “I know you, people, to be warriors including your women, rise up, defend your people and the neighbourhood from the activities of the bandits.

“That is the way it should be, we should defend ourselves from any form of banditry and criminal activities. What you did was the right thing and you should continue to do that even to your neighbours,” he said.

He however expressed optimism that very shortly banditry will come to an end in the area as “my administration will support you with logistics, equip you and arm you to be able to fight and repel the attackers.”

“From now on, anyone who comes to attack you to kill you, defend yourselves, attack and kill him, they can’t stop us from living in peace. All these communities have been existing over 500 years, we will not allow these Zamfarawa (bandits) to chase us away from our ancestral land,” the governor added.

He then assured that very soon a security outpost will be stationed in the area to collaborate with the locals to beef up security in the area just as he promised adequately compensate the families that lost their loved ones to the attack of the bandits.

Governor Bala also announced support for the families of those who lost their loved ones to the attacks. He said each male resident killed will be given N1,000,000 and N50,000,000 to women and children victims.

The Governor commended the District Head for trying his best to keep the people together in spite of the activities of the bandits urging him not to relent as a government will always support his efforts.

The District Head of Yelwa Duguri, Alh Adamu Mohammed Duguri lamented that the bandits had in recent times attacked communities in the area killing people, destroying their houses and rustling their cattle. The District Head specifically mentioned Rimi village as the worst hit as 20 people were killed during the attacks while their attempt to attack Kafin Duguri failed as the villagers rose to defend their village.

## Black Christmas: 6 Perish, 16 Injured In Bauchi Auto-Crash

By Idris Kamal Ibrahim

At least six persons reportedly died while 16 others were variously injured in a Christmas fatal crash in Bauchi.

The fatal crash occurred on Sunday, 25/12/2022 at about 1150hrs on Sunday.

Bauchi State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Yusuf Abdullahi said the crash occurred at Sabuwar Miya on the Kafin Madaki -Ningi highway involving a white Toyota Hiace bus with registration number BA124 AO6 on the fleet of the Bauchi State Government.

“The number of people involved in the accident was 22 comprising 2 Male Adults, 4 Male Children, 10 Female Adults and 6 Female Children.

Read: 6 Killed, 5 Injured In Bauchi Multiple Accidents

“The casualties were 2 Male Adults, 2MC 8 Female Adults and 4 female children while the 6 people killed were 2 Female Adults, 2 Male Children and 2 Female children. The nature of the injury were bruises and fracture. The probable cause of the crash was TBT.

“After the obstruction was cleared, the victims were taken to Kafin Madaki General Hospital for confirmation of death and treatment of the injured while the seriously injured were referred to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) for further treatment,” he said.

He advised commercial vehicle drivers have been advised to avoid over-speeding, overloading, night journeys and dangerous overtaking in order to minimise casualties in the event of a crash.

# Borno Man Left Home to Fend for Family. He's Still Missing 7 Years After

By Babaji Usman

In 2014, Furaira and her family fled their home in Gwoza, Borno State to Girei, Adamawa State in search of greener pastures but it didn't favour them.

She recalled a day they left home — on a Friday when they were hinted that Boko Haram insurgents would strike. They would seek safety in a nearby bush and return home later when the terror elements did not show up.

But that marks the beginning of her ordeals. “We heard that they will come again. We kept moving until we found ourselves in Madagali in Adamawa State,” she said in an HumAngle podcast. “We heard that they reached Adamawa and we ran again. We spent three days before we got to Girei”. While in Girei, her husband borrowed a motorcycle from residents for commercial purposes and used the money in feeding the family. But he later decided to leave for another job after he realised he was not bringing enough to the table. To do this, he left Furaira and her children behind.

Furaira explained that it has been seven years since her husband left and never sent any support to his family. He is still missing and there is no hint about his whereabouts.

“He left us and we never saw him again,” she mumbled. “I am the one to look for what to feed the children. I sometimes even go to the farm to work and make N400 to N500 a day. I also make and sell caps. The money I get from it is never enough.”

Furaira said the materials she used to make caps are now too expensive, and she most times run at loss.

## Boko Haram Insurgents Plant Bomb in Niger Community, Displace Locals

By Yunusa Umar

Residents of Lakpma and other communities in Shiroro local council, Niger State were evicted yesterday by Boko Haram insurgents who planted explosives in Chukba ward and injured two locals.

Jibrin Abdullahi Allawa, President Lakpma Youths Assembly, disclosed this in a statement made available to newsmen yesterday.

“In kurebe ward, the terrorists have gone to the extent of buying food items from the locals for storage because of the effects of changing currency in Nigeria,” he said.

“Erena and adjoining villages have similar stories where the demons go out chasing for abduction and shooting fellow humans like wild animals,” he added.

The president stated that Allawa-Pandogari-Bassa road has been unmotorable for days as a result of terrorists who lurk around to inflict harm on locals.

Allawa told WikkiTimes, in a telephone conversation that there was a bomb blast yesterday around 3 pm and two persons — Israel Bawa and Nura Dogo — sustained various degrees of injuries.

According to him, Bawa was taken to Erana hospital while Dogo is still receiving treatment at IBB, Specialist, Minna.

Allawa told WikkiTimes there have been incessant attacks on different communities along the axis.

“Locals have been seeing an exodus of terrorists coming from the Kaduna axis, and it has been happening,” he said, urging state actors to brace up counter-terrorism strategy.

READ: ‘He’s Not Boko Haram, He’s My Husband’

“There must be a good formidable plan in place considering the fact that dry season gives these deadly criminals free movement in and out of these ungoverned spaces to go and perpetuate their heinous crimes,” Allawa told WikkiTimes.

He further urged the Federal and Niger State Government to immediately deploy forces to fight the terror, holding citizens hostage and killing them at will.

Wasiun Abiodun, spokesman for Niger Police Command, was not available for comment. At press time, he had not responded to a message sent to him.



## Eight Years After Killing Step Mother, Kano Man to Die by Hanging

By Babaji Usman

Sagiru Wada, a 29-year-old Kano-based man who “killed” his stepmother has been booked to die by hanging.

Justice A’isha Mahmud, the presiding judge at the Kano State High Court found Wada guilty of stabbing his stepmother Zainab Dan-Azumi with a machete eight years ago.

The judge said he was convinced with the charges against him after receiving full evidence. It, however, ruled that he (Wada) should die by hanging under Section 221 of the Criminal Code of Kano State.

The defendant’s counsel, Rabi’u Abubakar, told the court that Wada has a mental disorder, a claim Justice A’isha dismissed based on the evidence presented to her.

Aminya, a weekly Hausa version of Daily Trust reported that Abubakar said they will study the ruling and see the next step to take.

Barista Tijjani Ibrahim, the prosecution counsel maintained that the court has analyzed and found that there is no reason to say that the convict has a mental illness, hence she ruled that Wada would die by hanging.

The deceased’s family members said they were happy with the decision and that the truth had taken its course.

**READ: Man Suspects Chinese National Trafficking Nigerian Minors at Kano Airport**

WikkiTimes had in August reported that a 25-year-old Najib Shehu allegedly killed his sexagenarian stepmother and broken his father’s leg in Katsina State.

The suspect, a resident of Ambassadors Quarters in Katsina killed the stepmother identified as Asiya Mohammed, before attacking his father.

## Niger Highway Accident Claims 6

By Yunusa Umar

No fewer than six passengers who boarded a commercial car lost their lives in an accident at Gidan Yanbiyu, along Minna-Gwada road, Niger State.

The incident, WikkiTimes learnt, occurred yesterday evening.

Lawal Mu’azu, an eyewitness told WikkiTimes, in a telephone conversation that two cars were involved in the accident, adding that one was a private car while the other one bore an inscription of Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGEA), conveying passengers from Minna to Kuta, the headquarters of Shiroro local council.

“Six people lost their lives in the accident”, said Mu’azu. ” It was only the driver and one other person that was recognized. The other victims were burnt beyond recognition.

According to him, two cars collided on the highway, and one of them was burned to ashes while the other was deformed.

Muazu disclosed that some bodies could not be recognized after the accident.

When WikkiTimes contacted, Kumar Tsukwam, Sector Commander for Niger State Federal Road Safety Corps, promised to revert to WikkiTimes, but he did not. Also, a text sent to him had not been responded to as of press time.

## Days After Swearing-In, Bauchi Commissioner Tasks LG Chairmen On Bala’s 2023 Victory

By Idris Kamal Ibrahim

Abdulrazak Nuhu Zaki, Bauchi State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs has directed the newly sworn-in caretaker committee chairmen in the state to ensure that Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir returned elected as governor of the state for the second time in 2023. Governor Bala had last Saturday administered the oath of office on the appointed chairmen and their deputies following the purported end of the tenure of the formerly elected council chairmen in the state.

In a period spanning over a decade, Bauchi State Independent Electoral Commission, BASIEC conducted local government polls in October 2020 where PDP won all the chairmen and councilour seats in the state.

Mr Zaki on Tuesday at the end of a closed-door meeting with the chairmen, their deputies and heads of a

administration of the 20 local governments areas said the success of Governor Bala Mohammed at the March 2023 governorship polls remains a critical role that must be accomplished against all odds.

He said while the chairmen are expected to run an open-door policy, on one hand, they are, on the other hand, to work with all relevant partners to ensure PDP emerged victorious at the grassroots in 2023.

“Our meeting with the Caretaker Committee Chairmen is to advise them on how to manage their Local Government Councils, we need sanity in the local government administration and therefore we want them to be with their people.

“The administration of Governor Bala Mohammed is a people’s Government and as such we are expecting the Caretaker Committee Chairmen to be our good ambassadors in their respective local government areas,” he said.

**Cont. reading [here](#)**

# Tafawa Balewa Community, Sara Decries Deplorable Road, Demands Bauchi Govt's Intervention

*By Idris Kamal Ibrahim*

Residents of Sara, a community in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi state have decried the poor condition of the road linking the area with the outside world. LEADERSHIP reports that the community becomes inaccessible every rainy season with thousands of farmers struggling to convey farm produce to markets.

National President of Sara Community Development Association, Mr Emmanuel Zakariah in an interview with our correspondent said the community is rich with fertile soil that supports onion cultivation both in dry and rainy seasons.

He said Sara, despite being one of the oldest communities in Tafawa-Balewa LGA, has never benefitted from government infrastructure projects in the area of road construction since the creation of Bauchi State.

Mr Zakariah said it became imperative for the current administration of Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed to consider their plight as part of its massive road construction projects spreading across the length and breadth of the state.

“Construction of Sara road is inevitable as it remains the only panacea for the economic development of the people of the area.

“The journey towards the 2023 general election is fast approaching when the electorates are expected to judiciously use their voters’ cards to exercise their rights

“I am appealing to Governor Bala Mohammed to look at Sara community with pity and construct a road that will link us with Tafawa Balewa local government area,” he said.

He said that history has shown that the community has not recorded any dividend of democracy from past successive administrations that piloted the affairs of the state.

Efforts to get the reaction of the Bauchi State government to the plea of the residents of Sara community over the deplorable condition of their road proved abortive.

Neither Calls placed through the line of the Commissioner for Information, Yakubu Barau Ningi were not responded to nor short message service sent to him got a reply at press time.

## Zamfara Councilor Sold to Terror Leader, Dogo Gide for N10m — He Tripled the Ransom

*By Yawale Adamu*

Tanimun Yanware, a former councillor of Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State, and his friend, Malam Ashiru were kidnapped by bandits along Katsina road and sold to a terror kingpin, Dogo Gide for N10 million.

Gide who later moved the captives to his camp in Birnin Gwari, Kaduna State, placed N30 million ransom on them, triple the amount of what he bought them from his fellow terrorists.

READ: For 3 Hours, Bandits Operate Unhindered in Niger Village, Kill Monarch, Abduct 4 Others

According to a Zamfara-based journalist, Abdul Balarabe, the family of the captives had paid over N9 million and a brand new Boxer motorcycle as ransom to the terror kingpin, but they lost their lives.

The ex-councillor and his friend were killed after spending nine months in captivity, according to a Twitter post by Balarabe.

He explained that the councillor died while trying to get his way out of bandits’ enclave in Birnin Gwari.

### RANSOM PAID IN INSTALMENTS

A family source told Balarabe that ransom was being paid in instalments to the terror leader. According to the source, the family initially paid N5 million and N2 million in two phases.

He revealed that the former councilor’s friend, Ashiru died in captivity as a result of gunshot wounds at the point of their abduction.

A few days later, the ex-councilor joined his friend when military aircraft bombarded terror camps in Birnin Gwari forest. He then espaced alongside other abductees and they journeyed for three days but he could not survive it.

“But the source said he (the ex-councilor) was unable to survive the three days long trip in the forest as he asked other escapees to inform his relations that he will die,” Balarabe disclosed in his tweet. “He added that, his dead body was evacuated on Thursday while relations conducted his funeral prayers at Tsafe.”

Mohammed Shehu, spokesman for Zamfara Police Command could not be reached for comments and a text message sent to him had not been responded to at press time.

# 2023

## CALENDER

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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31

# Over 31,000 Tweeted About Lagos Lawyer Murdered by Policeman on Christmas Day

Yesterday, a police officer attached to Ajiwe Police Station in Ajah, Lagos State, opened fire on a female lawyer, Bolanle Raheem.

The deceased, according to reports, was returning from Domino Pizza with her four children and husband in a car.

The incident was reported at Ikorodu station around 11:PM yesterday. According to a police report, the victim and her family were coming from Domino Pizza Ajah in an unregistered T VENZA SUV while trying to make a U-turn at Ajah under the bridge, policemen tried to stop them and in the process fired at her.

The victim was rescued and rushed to Granville Medical centre, Ajah for treatment, where she was later confirmed dead.

## TWEEPS REACT

Over 26,000 tweets were trending in condemnation of her gruesome murder.

“A Nigerian Police Officer from Ajiwe division shot and killed Bolanle Raheem on Xmas day,” tweeted Adebowale Adebayo, a content creator also known as MrMacaroni. He further stated that a similar incident happened about two weeks ago when a police officer from the station killed one Gafaru Buraimoh. “This barbarism by the Nigerian Police must come to an end,” he added. “These Murderers must pay for their crimes!!!”

One of the frontliners of the #EndSARS protest, Rinu Oduala tweeted: “A lawyer and member of the NBA, Mrs Omobolanle Raheem has been killed by Nigerian Police officers on Christmas, on her way back from Church in Ajah, Lagos.

READ: FOCUS: Kolo Yusuf's Horrible Footprints In Kano As SARS Boss

“She was shot in the car while her husband was beside her. #EndSARS. The same officers from Ajiwe police station who killed a young man few days back killed her. Well done to everyone involved.”

“Bolanle Raheem, a lawyer in Lagos, was reportedly shot & killed today by @PoliceNG personnel on her way from #ChristmasDay2022 worship in Ajah, Lagos,” Chidi Odinkalu, a human rights activist tweeted.

A host of other users who tweeted about the incident can be found here.

The trend also resurfaced #EndSARS hashtag on the microblogging platform with over 16,000 tweets as of press time.

## NBA WANTS JUSTICE

Reproaching its member's murder, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) condemned the incident and demanded for justice.

“We are aware of this unfortunate incident. This is yet another crime against a lawyer. Regrettably, our member is gone. The NBA President @YCMaikyauSAN is right on this and we shall ensure that justice is duly served,” National Publicity Secretary of NBA, Akorede Lawal, tweeted.

But Ikechukwu Uwanna, chairman of NBA, Lagos branch said the herring officer is in custody.

His words: “The police authorities have confirmed that the police officer who shot and killed our colleague has been arrested and is currently being detained.

READ: In Abuja, Extortionate Police Officers ‘Steal’ Over N300,000 from Corp Member

“I have been in touch with Lagos state police command public relations officer (Benjamin Hundeyin) and the commissioner of police, Lagos state (Mr. Abiodun Alabi), who have been very sympathetic and have assured us that the investigation and prosecution of the killer of Mrs. Raheem will be swift.

“The NBA President, Mr. Y.C. Maikyau, SAN, and his Exco have also been monitoring the situation to ensure that the matter is given all the serious attention it deserves.

“Members of our NBA Lagos Branch

Human Rights Committee, led by Mrs. Tam-George, have met with the DPO of Ajiwe Police Station, and will meet with the Commissioner of Police later today to emphasize our mandate of ensuring that justice is neither delayed nor denied.

“The committee members have also proceeded to visit the family of our slain member as at the time of releasing this statement.

“I urge us all to take a moment today to pray for the repose of the soul of our slain colleague, and that God will console her husband and family members. We will provide updates as the matter develops.”

***Cont. reading [here](#)***

# Masa Remains Favourite Dish For Bauchi Residents, But Its Price Keeps Surging

By Racheal Danjuma



In the ancient city of Bauchi, masa, known as dough in English, remains a favourite traditional dish for many locals, but its soaring price raises concerns.

Despite the continuous hike, its delicacy keeps attracting not only residents of Bauchi State, but other neighbouring states, including Gombe, Plateau, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Often made from rice, maize and other recipes like sugar and yeast, masa is usually fried in a pan with multiple holes. Some sources who spoke to WikkiTimes explained that they usually take masa in the morning before eating solid food.

## **Not only increasing prices but the rich.**

While bakers could blame the hiked price of masa on the cost of commodities, they could not explain the reason for its diminishing quality.

READ: Dirt In Houses, Muds On Roads... Read WikkiTimes' Impact Analysis Of Downpour On Bauchi Metropolis

Ahamad Yusuf, a regular at a masa joint in the Yelwa area of Bauchi State, recalled when three pieces of masa were sold at N50.

Yusuf told WikkiTimes he had to limit his patronage not only because of the price but “it has become so light compared to then,” he said.

Christiana Olamide, another resident, shared a similar view with Yusuf. “Masa used to be rich and cheaper, but now it is costly and fluffy,” said Olamide.

Laraba Patrick, a famous baker in Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi, told WikkiTimes she has been in the business since 1998.

In those days, Patrick explained that masa was being sold at N20 and with that, she would finish about 30 mudus of rice in processing it.

“Rice is now expensive because the cultivation of rice requires fertiliser,” Patrick explained. “Then fertiliser was N7,500, but now it costs N26,000 or 30, 000.”

READ: REPORTER'S DIARY: Luck Worked For Us — Police On Taraba-Adamawa Highway Say Their 'Hoodlums' Are Not Around

“I used to buy rice at the rate of 150 – 200 par mudu, but now I buy it N700,” she added. “A gallon of oil then costs N8,000, but it now sells for N35,000.”

Godiya Matthew, another baker opposite Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), believes the worsening economy contributes to low patronage from her customers.

“I have been selling masa for over three years,” Mathew told WikkiTimes adding she operates five days a week.

“The increase in foodstuffs has affected my business because my customers have reduced,” she said. “It is not like before.”

She feared her business could fold up someday should the economic trend continue unaddressed.

# Why Twitter Suspended My Account — Gombe PPRO

By Babaji Usman



Mahid Muazu Abubakar, spokesman for Gombe Police Command said his Twitter account was suspended for five days for exceeding a trial limit.

However, WikkiTimes learned that the officer's account, @MaheedMuazu has been restored. Abubakar told WikkiTimes that Twitter denied him access to his account for what they term 'technical error'.

After he kept trying, his account get suspended and he remained not accessible on the social platform for five days. The police officer who is familiar with Twitter and other platforms is being used in relating to media organisations. WikkiTimes had reported that Abubakar takes the lead in the northern part of the country in his duty as Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in better service delivery and effective communication.

In an exclusive interview with WikkiTimes, he explained how he is sailing the command's boat for the "public good." Following Twitter's decision, the officer filed a petition and the account was later restored. Twitter may suspend accounts, temporarily or permanently, from their social networking service. Suspensions of high-profile individuals often attract media attention when they occur.

Last week, Twitter suspended the accounts of roughly half a dozen prominent journalists in its latest change under its new owner, Elon Musk.

## UN Food Organisation Predicts Fertiliser Shortage In 2023

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has predicted that the current scarcity and hike in prices of fertiliser globally will spill into 2023.

FAO in a report released on Friday in partnership with World Trade Organisation (WTO) said the fertiliser outlook for the next remains doom as indicators remain the same.

"Overall, international fertiliser supplies are likely to remain restricted in 2022/23 since stocks are low and geopolitical tensions have led to additional supply restrictions, giving rise to concerns about both reduced fertilizer availability and access, as well as adverse effects on food production and food security.

The organisations said that fertiliser prices, like all commodity markets, are governed by the interaction between supply and demand. On the supply side, there are high and volatile energy prices, trade interruptions and high transportation costs, and export limitations while on the demand side, there are subsidies and high agricultural prices, resulting in high affordability.

Read: Inside Bauchi's Leased Galambi Grazing Reserve

The report painted a bleak future for Africa where only 3-4% of the world's fertiliser is used on the continent, and roughly 50% of that amount is used to nitrify the continent's crucial cash crops. Since some agrarian-based communities have very severe food insecurity issues as indicated by their high prevalence of undernourishment and high food insecurity experience, reductions in fertilizer use would have serious consequences, including compromising their ability to feed themselves.

"With prohibitive international prices, fast depreciation of currencies against the US Dollar (the currency of trade), appreciation of the Russian ruble (which makes Russian exports more costly), high levels of indebtedness as well as inefficient transportation and marketing infrastructure, there are rising concerns that many African countries will not be able to access international fertilizer markets without external support," it said.

WikkiTimes recalls that farmers in Nigeria this year bought a bag of Urea fertiliser at prices ranging from N28,000 to N29,000 while a bag of NPK goes for over N30,000 respectively.

# In Fidelity Bank, Abuja Man Withdraws N200,000, but Parts of It Are Fake

By Yawale Adamu

A Twitter user simply identified as Mike said N5,000 out of N200,000 he withdrew inside Fidelity Bank in Utako, Abuja, were fake.

In a Twitter post, Mike ranked the bank as “worst of the year”, adding he discovered the fake notes in N1,000 denominations.

**READ: After WikkiTimes’ Story, First Bank Refunds Customer’s N100,000 Deducted Last Year**

“The worst bank of the year is fidelity bank #NDIC #CBN #fidelity bank I withdrew 200k over the counter at Utako branch, Abuja. Just to discover fake five 1000 notes,” he tweeted.

Responding to a comment, Mike said he discovered them while paying for some items.

“When paying for items I bought, not one, however, five notes, it means it was intentional,” he added.

The user was not available to respond to some questions. Also, WikkiTimes emailed Fidelity Bank about the allegations but it has not responded as of press time.

This comes as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) dispatched the redesigned naira notes in the denominations of N200, N500 and N1,000.

**READ: Polaris Bank Deducts N1 Million from Nigerian-Uk Student’s Account**

The Vanguard reports that fake copies of the new N1000 naira notes have been released in circulation. Although, the notes posted by Mike were old ones.

According to a mobile money and bank agent in a video, a customer performed a bank transaction through his wife’s Point of Sale (PoS) using a fake copy of the redesigned N1,000.

In the video, he showed the difference between the fake and original redesigned N1,000 note, saying the original note has a gold seal at the bottom of the right-hand side of the note and the seal cannot be erased when scratched.

# Church Constructs Borehole For Bauchi Community

The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) has constructed a borehole for Rugan Jira Doka, an agrarian Community of Bauchi local government.

Rugan Jira Doka which brings people belonging to different faiths and ethnic nationalities has been without a source of clean water for domestic use.

The Overseer in charge of RCCG Northeast, Pastor Julius Olalekan, said disclosed this in an interview with journalists in Bauchi.

He said the borehole which is part of the Christian Social Responsibilities of the church, is dedicated to the entire people of the area to alleviate their sufferings in search of portable water.

**Read: Over N175 Million Water Project Mysteriously Disappeared In Bauchi North As Residents Trek Kilometres To Get Water, Battle Diseases**

Pastor Olalekan said the RCCG in the country, is passionate about the plights of the people, especially in rural areas, by providing them with basic social amenities to improve their livelihood. He enjoined the community leaders to protect the borehole from vandalization, for the benefit of the people in the area.

The clergyman assured that the RCCG will continue to extend its community services across all the twenty local government areas of the state, and stressed the need for Christians to be law-abiding citizens, and live in peace with host communities, for the development of the nation.

Mr Lawi Simon, a resident of the area said RCCG provided the community with the borehole at the right time when the people are in dear need of potable water.

Mr Lawi however promised to ensure effective utilization of the borehole, for the benefit of the entire community.

# Weeks After Bagging Master's Degree from UK Varsity, Abuja 'Phone Snatchers' Kill Plateau Man

*By Yakubu Mohammed*

A few weeks after Usman Ahmad Hassan, a Plateau-born resident of Abuja bagged a master's degree in Energy Oil and Gas Economics from University of Dundee, United Kingdom, his lifeless body was found in a pool of blood last Sunday.

The deceased, according to Daily Trust, had gone for a morning jog when he was stabbed to death by yet-to-identified phone snatchers a few meters away from his residence at Ochacho Estate in Idu-Karmo district of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

The father of four who hailed from Barkin Ladi town, Barkin Ladi local council area of Plateau State worked with the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC).

He was buried yesterday amid tears and encomiums by loved ones.

## TRIBUTES

"The wife of the deceased called me on Sunday, telling me that Usman was nowhere to be found since he left for a morning walk. I was later told that his corpse had been found. His friends and other good Samaritans recovered the body and brought it to Barkin Ladi for burial," said his father, Hussaini Ahmad.

The deceased's friend, Ishak Muhammad Adam, said they had lost a friend they would never forget for the rest of their lives.

"The death of my friend is very shocking. The entire people of Barkin Ladi and its environs have lost a son. You hardly see him quarrelling with or having trouble with someone. But all of a sudden, some people attacked him and killed him.

"He was not selfish and would always help whoever was in need and was good to his parents. We will continue to remember him for the rest of our lives," he said.

Also, Danjuma Ibrahim, a youth leader in Barkin Ladi, said the community was shocked when the news of his death was broken. He added that the deceased would forever remain in their memory.

"We are disturbed by the death of Usman. The nature of the killing was pathetic," he mourned. "He was good not only to his family but to everyone in the community and that was why the funeral witnessed thousands of sympathizers."

"On Sunday morning at around 6:38am, Usman sent me a WhatsApp message asking what time we were going for the walk. Unfortunately, I had to drop my family at Jabi Motor Park as I was unable to make it the day before," a neighbour with whom the deceased had been jogging together said.

He added:

"Around 11am, Usman's wife came to my house to ask my wife if we went out together as he had not returned. I quickly got up from bed, came downstairs, and met Usman's wife together with another friend's wife who I happen to know.

"I then went to our estate gate to inquire if anyone had seen Usman passing in the morning to which they said they could not recall. I went back home, got into my car and followed the route we used for our morning walk with Usman.

"I also put a call to Usman's childhood friend. He quickly came to our estate where we met.

"We then decide to report Usman as missing to the nearby police station. At the station, we gave a description of Usman, his phone numbers and what he was wearing that fateful day as well as the last time he was seen.

READ: In Abuja, Extortionate Police Officers 'Steal' Over N300,000 from Corp Member

"We were then informed that it would take 24 hours before a signal could be raised but that we should continue the search and rescue effort.

"We went back that route one more time, stopping at every interval to inquire if anyone had seen Usman. We also searched the surrounding bush along the road to see if we would find any clue but all to no avail. At this juncture, we decided to go back home and continue praying that God will return Usman to his family.

"While performing ablution for Zuhr prayer, someone called to say he had seen a dead body less than a half kilometre from our estate gate. I abandoned the ablution and drove to the place described.

"I was Usman's lifeless body, with his joggers soaked in blood as a result of a stab on his right lap. His phone was nowhere to be found, which suggested that phone snatchers could be behind his untimely death.



## NGO Hands Over Peace, Conflict Resolution Centers To Yobe Communities

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

The Communal Support Foundation of Nigeria (COSFON) – a national non-governmental organization operating in Northeast Nigeria and based in Damaturu the Yobe State – has handed the Nguru Community Peace and Safety Partnership (CPSP) as well as the Nguru Community Accountability Forum (CAF) over to the community after years of mentoring.

WikkiTimes learnt that the CPSP and CAF are Early Warning Early Response (EWER) platforms comprising of community stakeholders that receive and respond to community safety and security issues so that they are not allowed to escalate into violence.

The Platforms meet monthly as part of activities designed to provide an inclusive, non-confrontational forum for discussing issues, identifying solutions and promoting actions.

Read: Yobe Civil Servant Faked ICPC Investigation Against Academician to Pocket N3.5m

Both platforms are initiatives of the Managing Conflict in Nigeria (MCN) Programme implemented by the British Council with funding from the European Union.

It approaches and acts as a conduit between various agencies involved in conflict management, security and reconciliation at the community level.

Alhaji Mamman Shettima, COSFON Steering Committee Chairman who doubles as the Head of Administration of Nguru Local Government Area charged the community stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of both programs.

Similarly, COSFON also handed the same centre to Bade community with a view to averting conflicts from degenerating.

Dr. Shuaibu A. Agana, the Steering Committee Chairman, pledged to sustain the platform to ensure that Bade community continues to benefit from a rancor-free forum of conflict mitigation.

In addition, Bade Community Accountability Forum (CAF) platform was handed to a Steering Committee after years of mentoring. CAF was a replica of town hall meetings conducted in the southern parts of Nigeria.

It has no restrictions on attendance, while meetings are conducted in open public places every three (3) months, where emerging issues within communities are received in form of complaints or commendations in a manner of feedback from community members. Accepting the platform, Steering Committee Chairman Alh. Yerima Abba who is also the District Head of Gwio Kura thanked COSFON for mentoring a rancor-free alternative to dispute resolution in the community with a pledge to sustain it. Other stakeholders including the Local Government Council pledged to support the platform.

### In These Videos, Gudaji Clamoured for Castration of Rapists

By Babaji Usman

Hon Mohammed Gudaji Kazaure, a member representing Kazaure/Gwiwa/Roni/Yankwashi in the Federal House of Representatives, in 2021 suggested that anyone found guilty of rape should be castrated to serve as a deterrent to intending offenders.

In these video clips, Gudaje argued that a rapist should not be killed, but he must lose his penis to unable him repeat the same crime.

“Any man arrested for the case of rape should not be killed, but they should cut his prick so that he will not repeat the same to anyone,” he said. Gudaji said one of the reasons rape cases are increasing is the lack of stiffer punishment for the culprits, believing that, the policy would positively work.

The comic member is one the most vibrant members of the house representative and currently chairs the House Standing Committee on political party matters.

READ: 4-year-old Girl Sustains Viginal Injury After Being Raped by Septuagenarian Uncle

Florence Ita-Giwa, former Nigerian Senator seconded Gudaje’s submission. She demanded a similar penalty seven years ago when her daughter was raped. She said the best way to end the scourge of sexual assault of minors is for the rapists to have their sexual organs cut off.

In 2021, a rapist had his penis and testicles cut off and fed to wild pigs in a revenge attack after he allegedly attempted to rape his 20-year-old niece in Brazil. In 2020, the Kaduna State government approved that where the victim is over the age of 14, the rapist will have his penis surgically castrated and be handed a life sentence. But where the victim is under 14, rapists will be executed.

Moreover, the law had it that women would have their fallopian tubes removed if they rape a child, and serve a life sentence for raping someone over 14.

## Bauchi: A City Without Traffic Rules

A place where traffic rules are flagrantly blatantly violated could be metaphorically described as a place without those rules. If you are a stranger in a city, usually the first metric for understanding the extent of discipline among its inhabitants is to observe how they obey simple traffic rules. Though, on this metric the whole country is guilty, some places are worse than others. If you want to see traffic offense personified, come to Bauchi, a city at the entrance of Northeast Nigeria-it's rated as one of the state capitals in Nigeria with the highest road traffic offense..

Because the city is moderately populated as compared to Kano, Jos and Kaduna, road traffic is almost always manageable; gridlocks are rarely seen. This situation however negatively predicts the frequency of traffic rule violations. Ordinarily, it would be predicted if there is low traffic, there wouldn't be any need or urge to violate traffic rules because motorists don't have to wait long at any point anywhere. At junctions, traffic wardens do not stop the flow for long; so traffic is always on the move. Ideally, every road user would be expected to be calm. This however is not the case with Bauchi. In those past years when traffic lights were functioning, they were frequently violated by motorcyclists. When traffic wardens stop the flow on one lane to give way to other lanes, you see motorcyclists in front poised to use any available opportunity to slink even when their turn is not due.



Go to Wunti traffic junction, you'd say I told you! At the same traffic junction almost every night, you'd see motorists from all directions locked for hours, everyone hoping to be allowed a chance to pass, yet no one was ready to be patient to give way to the other.

At all the major markets, Wunti, Muda Lawal and Central markets, hawkers stand or push wheelbarrows on the road, blocking parking spaces for customers wanting to park their vehicles and get into the markets. Again, major roundabouts like that of the Emir's Palace, Wunti, Central Market, etc. are turned into mini markets for selling cereals and used dresses. Kobi and Ran streets are political campaign centres where you see poster stands for different party candidates, especially any incumbent governor, blocking parking spaces.

ou also see traffic wardens allocated to places where traffic is sparse, at the expense of junctions or crossroads that are prone to accidents if such officers are not allocated. For example, at the narrow crossroads of the State Library at which all directions are blocked by storey buildings and road users are always at high speed, there are no traffic wardens allocated. But at Zone 12 Police Headquarters junction along Ahmadu Bello Way (a very wide dual carriage with sparse traffic), you see them in doubles and triples taking instant shifts. You keep wondering about this paradox. Is it due to the presence of a police formation or something else?

As is the case in other urban centres in Nigeria, police and other security agents mostly see it as a right to violate traffic rules

***Cont. reading [here](#)***