

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

By Kamal Idris

Abdulsalam Ahmed, a resident of Disina community in Shira local government, wakes up at dawn every day, and treks for at least 20 minutes to fetch water from a well for his family's domestic consumption. This is the only alternative he has to get water for his two wives and nine children.

Ahmed has been going through this herculean task for the past 15 years, if he fails to go for whatever reason, his family will have no water to use for the day.



Trekking the distance is not the only nightmare for Ahmed, he still must contend with the long queue of jerricans and buckets waiting for their turn when he gets to the well. This can sometimes mean waiting for hours.

Ahmed sometimes enlists the help of his adolescent children, but this might mean going late to school for them. "You cannot have access to water nearby. You have to take the long trek or thirst, stay hungry and dirty," he said.

How Military 'Forcefully' Aborted About 10,000 Pregnancies in Conflict-Ravaged North East **p 7**

WikkiTimes Publisher Speaks at AIMCA Conference, Charges Journalists to Hold Power Accountable **p 3**

Investigation: Eleven Years After, Lanle Travel & Tour Yet To Refund Swindled Intended Pilgrims In Niger **p 8**

**HYPPADEC Writes WikkiTimes, Vows to Compensate Niger Residents Displaced by Zungeru Dam Construction **p 15****

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

Waking up at dawn for a water run is now a normalised routine for residents of Disina.

Sule Mai Shayi, a tea seller who appears to be in his late fifties, said when dry season sets in, even the water they trek the distance to get, becomes salty, hence not friendly for drinking and cooking and inimical to their wellbeing.

He said, “The water is sour and salty, especially during the dry season. You cannot drink it. We only wash clothes and plates with it.”

To provide a solution for the residents of villages in Bauchi, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, in two instalments, released N99,366,120.00 and another N75,673,924.71 to Diamond Leeds Limited for the construction of motorised and solar-powered boreholes in the region.

## Over N175 Million Released, Water Project Still Unexecuted

Through COVID-19 Emergency Procurement, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources paid Diamond Leeds Limited N99,366,120 for the construction of two motorised boreholes in Giade, Gamawa, Katagum, Shira, Zaki and Itas-Gadau.

In another separate payment on 31st December 2020, the same company was paid N75,673,924.71 for the construction of eight solar-powered boreholes in the same locations.

A careful analysis of the details of the projects reveals that Bauchi North was supposed to get 22 boreholes – motorised and solar-powered. Each of the six local governments making up the zone was supposed to get a minimum of three boreholes.

WikkiTimes’s findings revealed that these projects were not executed despite the releases.

For instance, in Katagum local government, Madangala, Bazar, Kujuru, Kakudi and Kasuwar Kaji wards were visited; In Gamawa local government, Gamawa south, Gamawa north, Kore, Kubdiya and Jadori wards were visited; in Itas-Gadau, local government, Mashema, Gwarai, Gijina, Itas A and Itas B wards were visited; similarly, in Jama’are local government, Dadako, Garin-Babani, Sabo-Kafi, Daram and Guda wards were visited; in Shira local government, Zigau, Disina, Sambuwal, Adamami and Yana wards were visited and in Giade local government, Kurba, Jugudi, Doguwa, Bombiyo and Chinkani.

In addition, Diamond Leeds Limited, the firm that was paid different amounts twice for the project, failed to give an account of where the boreholes were sited in the region.

Mr Izzuna Lawrence, Spokesperson of the company, in a telephone conversation said Water Resources Ministry is better placed to juxtapose why the borehole project was not executed despite the releases.

“The information you are looking for can best be given by the ministry because our office is too busy to give an explanation about the issue you are asking of,” he insisted.

A CAC search conducted about the company shows that while it was registered in 2008, its status is ‘inactive,’ an indication that may have defaulted in Annual Return payment to the commission.

Continue reading @ <https://wikkitimes.com/over-n175-million-water-project-mysteriously-disappeared-in-bauchi-north-as-residents-trek-kilometres-to-get-water-battle-diseases/>

# WikkiTimes Publisher Speaks at AIMCA Conference, Charges Journalists to Hold Power Accountable

By Adamu Yawale



Haruna Mohammed Salihu, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of WikkiTimes, an investigative digital platform in Bauchi State, said journalists should be determined in holding powers to account.

The publisher who spoke at the ongoing Amplify In-depth Media (AIM) Conference and 17th Wole Soyinka Awards for Investigative Reporting, decried that the media has derailed from its watchdog's role, adding most times the media turn blind eyes to corrupt practices perpetrated by those at the helm of people's affairs.

Haruna said: "Our argument is that for our democracy to be very strong, we must equally focus our attention at the subnational level because there are local actors, local politicians subverting the interest of the people in the process."

For those advocating that the media must be neutral, Haruna opined that if the media must guard against those values that define an efficient democracy, the media must be very assertive and very adversarial in its practice.

"You can not claim to be neutral when the interest of the public is consistently being subverted by local actors, local politicians and local vested interests," he said.

According to him since its inception, WikkiTimes had remained a viable tool for exposing corrupt practices at the subnational level.

However, Haruna decried that those in power see the platform as an enemy of their progress, citing an example with a story published by the platform on how the former Bauchi Police Commissioner tried to manipulate a murder case into a road traffic offence which many news outlets overlooked.

Haruna said most of the time the rewards the platform gets from those in power are threats. He cited an example of a contract scandal in Adamawa which was exposed by the platform. In return, the politician called asking why the WikkiTimes is trying to destroy her career while she threatened to sue the platform.

"What is even more annoying is when the media is conspiring with the politicians, after we published this story, she issued public statement and take releases to media stations, and they published it without any effort to find out the veracity of this investigation, to even find out the methodology and some of the corruptions we unearth," the publisher decried.

In the past four years, the online media outlet has published compelling investigative reports that examined government policies and programmes, making an impact at the sub-national level.

#16DAYACTIVISM  
ON SGBV

**SAY**

**N**

**O**

**to**

Sexual & Gender-based Violence



# Bauchi Lawmaker Drags WikkiTimes Publisher to Court for Republishing Investigation Exposing Scandal In His Constituency

By Babaji Usman

Abdullahi Sa'ad The lawmaker, however, sued Abdulkadir, a member representing Haruna whose Ningi/Warji platform published constituency in the the investigation. federal House of Representatives has Haruna was sued alongside two others dragged Haruna — Aminu Adamu Salisu Mohammed to Ganye and Umar court over an Ibrahim Disina — investigation his from Xchange Hama platform, WikkiTimes, Media. republished from Xchange Hama Media.

The investigation, exposed how the lawmaker allegedly facilitated the award of a dubious road project in his constituency.

It further documented that Baba Iyali, as he is fondly called, remained a shadow of his former self even after funds were released to Ree Engineering LTD and First Brick Construction LTD, using two different nomenclature, presumably to facilitate the release and diversion of funds in April 2021 and September 2021 respectively.

According to the lawmaker, who is vying for a seat in the forthcoming 2023 elections, the investigation tarnished his image and put him into ridicule by his constituents.

In the petition with a suit number; BA/35/22, the lawmaker demanded the court to among other things order the defendants to retract the story, tender an apology, and collectively pay a sum of N5.5 million.

The case is expected to be mentioned for hearing on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

## Gombe Farm Owner Stabbed to Death After Disguising as Thief to Test Guard's Vigilance

By Babaji Usman

Kabiru Bappah Aligus, a middle age guard at Malala village in Dukku Local Government Area of Gombe State allegedly stabbed his 50-year-old employer, Alhaji Abubakar Buba Galadima, to death.

Sources revealed that Galadima had on Monday paid an unscheduled visit to his own farm to check if the hired guard was discharging his assignment diligently, but the vigilant guard stabbed him to death, Aminiya, the Hausa version of Daily Trust reports.

Buhari Ahmed, the younger brother to the deceased said late Galadima had a beans farm in the area and hired Aligus to look over the produce.

“Our brother left home around 12 am on Monday on a motorcycle and upon reaching the farm, he disguised as a thief, so the guard pounced on him and they wrestled for a while”.

He said the guard used his knife and stabbed him in the chest and he died instantly. “upon realizing his death, he then rushed to us informing us that he had unknowingly stabbed Alhaji”.

Ahmed explained that they rushed to the scene, only to see the body of his late brother Galadima in a pool of blood.

Mahid Muazu Abubakar, the Gombe State Police Command's Spokesperson confirmed the incident and said the case would be transferred to the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further investigation.

# INVESTIGATION: LEAKING ROOFS, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND DRUGS... MANY LOOPHOLES IN NIGER PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRES

By Hamzat Ibrahim Abaga



*Some primary healthcare centres in Niger State are yet to feel the impact of the Federal Government's Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), which seeks to improve Nigeria's health care coverage, especially for the vulnerable. WikkiTimes' Hamzat Ibrahim Abaga, who visited some of the state's primary health care centres, reports his findings.*

Twice, Mahamud Adamu and his wife, Aisha, had to contend with miscarriages because they could not afford to visit a nearby primary health care facility.

The couple lives in Jiko, a community on the outskirts of Maikunkele in the Bosso Local Government Area, LGA, of Niger State.

Aisha had two miscarriages and gave birth to her other children at home with the help of traditional birth attendants.

Jiko settlement is six kilometres away and a 20-minute ride to Maikunkele Primary Healthcare Centre at the headquarters of Bosso LGA. However, the Adamu do not have access to medical care because of funds.

“I have a wife and seven children, and my wife gave birth to all the children at home with the help of traditional birth attendants,” Adamu said.

But he rues how his wife suffered miscarriage twice and could not visit a health care facility for proper medical examination and treatment.

Adamu and his wife have never heard about the Federal Government's Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), which should make healthcare accessible to vulnerable people at the grassroots like them.

Nigeria remains the second largest contributor to maternal and child mortality globally, losing an estimated 2,300 children and 145 women daily.



For years, the father of seven said his family had lived on herbs rather than visiting a health care facility whenever the need arose.

Their inability to be part of the scheme is limiting the minimal gains that the government set to attain universal health coverage.

A document obtained by WikkiTimes from the office of the Director, Health Planning Research & Statistics (DHPRS) for Executive Director, Niger State Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Maikunkele Primary Health Centre is one of the facilities captured under BHCPF. Still, Adamu and his wife, who are marginal farmers, did not know of the free services offered by the facility.

#### AN UNDERSTAFFED FACILITY, HIGH COST OF DRUGS, TREATMENT

No official was willing to volunteer information about the health centre's operations.

The BHCPF utilises two approaches to improve service delivery in at least one Primary Health Care Center (PHC) per ward in Nigeria: through direct financial investments that fund critical upgrades for PHC infrastructure, improving availability of skilled staff and assuring the stock of medicines and health commodities; and through the purchase of a Basic Minimum Package of Health Services (BMPHS) from PHC providers at no cost to Nigerians.

Only three workers were on duty and some interns during this reporter's visit to the Maikunlele PHC. Under the BHCPF, a benefiting PHC is supposed to have at least five health workers, including two midwives.

WikkiTimes can report that despite being understaffed, many residents still access healthcare services at the Maikunlele health centre. Health workers struggle to service a large number of patients daily.

Manta Maimuna, a resident at the health centre, said it takes hours for her and others to see health workers.

"That is not encouraging at all. There is a need to strengthen the staff strength of the facility to make their service easier and stress-free," said Maimuna, who came to treat malaria at the centre.

Following the BHCPF intervention at the facility, which changed its face, residents complained about the cost of drugs and treatments at the centre.

"This Maikunlele health care centre was not as standard as it is now as before," said another resident, Dauda Abu.

"We have seen a lot of renovations and repairs around the facility, and many were hoping that the cost of treatment and drugs would be affordable for us after the renovation and re-equipping of the facility, but nothing has changed so far."

Nigeria's weak health financing system has been a significant driver of poor health outcomes. The reality gave rise to a scheme that provides the Basic Minimum Package of Health Services (BMPHS) freely to the members of the public.

#### A DIVE INTO BASIC HEALTH CARE PROVISION FUND

In December 2014, Nigeria's former President, Goodluck Jonathan, signed the National Health Care Bill to achieve the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) goals. The scheme was established under section 11 of the National Health Act as an avenue for funding, improving access to healthcare, and heading Nigeria toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The Nigerian Government under President Muhammadu Buhari in 2018 made a budgetary provision of N55.1 billion for the scheme, about one per cent of the government's consolidated revenue assigned to BHCPF.

*Cont. reading @ <https://wikkitimes.com/investigation-leaking-roofs-inadequate-equipment-and-drugs-many-loopholes-in-niger-primary-healthcare-centres/>*

# How Military 'Forcefully' Aborted About 10,000 Pregnancies in Conflict-Ravaged North East

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

Since 2013, an estimated number of 10,000 women and girls were subjected to forceful abortions by the Nigerian military curtailing insurgency in the northeastern part of the country, an investigation by Reuters has revealed.

The females were said to be victims of rape and abduction in the decade-long Boko Haram insurgency in Maiduguri, Borno State.

According to witnesses, the abortions mostly were conducted without the victim's consent and often without their prior knowledge. The women and girls ranged from a few weeks to eight months pregnant, and some were as young as 12 years old, Reuters reports.

Since at least 2013, the Nigerian military has conducted a secret, systematic and illegal abortion programme in the country's northeast, ending at least 10,000 pregnancies among women and girls, a Reuters investigation has found. Many had been kidnapped and raped by Islamist militants. Resisters were beaten, held at gunpoint or drugged into compliance, witnesses say.

The report further revealed that the existence of the army-run abortion programme hasn't been formerly reported. The campaign relied on deception and physical force against women who were kept in military custody for days or weeks.

"Three soldiers and a guard said they commonly assured women, who often were debilitated from captivity in the bush, that the pills and injections given to them were to restore their health and fight diseases such as malaria. In some instances, women who resisted were beaten, caned, held at gunpoint or drugged into compliance. Others were tied or pinned down, as abortion drugs were inserted inside them," said a guard and a health worker.

Furthermore, the abortion was carried out in the northeastern states of Yobe, Borno and Adamawa, where the Nigerian military has been fighting Boko Haram.

However, the army has vehemently denied the claims, saying the report was part of a foreign effort to thwart the country's battle against the insurgents.

"Not in Nigeria, not in Nigeria," said Major General Christopher Musa, who heads the military's counterinsurgency campaign in the northeast, in a November 24 interview with Reuter. "Everybody respects life. We respect families. We respect women and children. We respect every living soul."

General Lucky Irabor, Nigeria's chief of defence staff, did not acknowledge requests for comment from Reuters. On December 2, a week after Reuters sought an interview with Irabor and shared detailed findings and questions with his office, the military's director of defence information released a five-page statement to reporters and later posted it on Facebook and Twitter.

Cont. reading [here](#)

# Investigation: Eleven Years After, Lanle Travel & Tour Yet To Refund Swindled Intended Pilgrims In Niger

By Yunusa Umar



*In 2011, Lanle Travel & Tour, a private company, milked millions of naira from some intended pilgrims in Niger State, with the promise of airlifting them to the Holy Land, Saudi Arabia. For unclear reasons, they were not airlifted after spending weeks in Shiroro Hotel and Hajj Camp in Minna, the capital of Niger State. In this report, WikkiTimes' Yunusa Umar documented their plights and how they were doubly victimised.*

Hajara Hassan was among the victims who were swindled eleven years ago. She recalled how she paid an agent, Nda Usman, but only got a customised wrapper to deepen her hope that she would be airlifted to the holy land. Surprisingly to her, the agent told her there was no slot again.

“There were many of us that paid,” she told WikkiTimes. “But none of us was taken to Makkah.”

When the agent came to Mokwa to take Hajara to the Hajj camp in Minna, she was excited, but this did not last long because she only wasted her days in the camp.

“He suddenly came one day that I should prepare for a trip to Minna and took my passport photograph,” Hajara said. “After that, he told me he would be going to Abuja to submit my documents. Upon his return, he gave me a wrapper and nothing apart from that.”

Hajara explained that she and other intended pilgrims waited for days, sleeping in the camp, before they were told to return home. “But they told us to document our payment evidence before we left that day.”

“I arrived Mokwa with nothing,” Hajara said as tears streamed down her cheeks. “Thanks to my neighbours that helped me in surviving the hurdles.”

Stunningly, Hajara’s slot was given to another person, she claimed.

“I never knew he had sold my slot until one of my sisters, who was an intending pilgrim heard my name at the airport in Abuja, but saw another person answering,” Hajara claimed. “Then, I was still stranded at Minna airport.”

“After a while, Usman told me he had refunded my money to Lanle Travel & Tour company. He said I will be going with the company in the coming year,” Hajara added. “But that did not happen. Instead, I was scammed again.”

Continue reading [here](#)



## Terrorists Kill 3, Raze Houses in Gombe

*By Yunusa Umar*

In the early hours of Thursday, Terrorists, locally known as bandits, killed three persons and razed 22 houses in Billiri local council of Gombe State.

Adamu Kubto Dishu, the commissioner of Internal Security in the state, confirmed the incident on Friday while addressing journalists at the Government House in the state capital, Gombe.

According to him, the gunmen shot dead two people in Pobawure village and one person in Amtawalam village and also set fire on houses.

The commissioner noted that he received a call on Friday at about 2 am that the gunmen invaded the villages. However, he claimed that security men were deployed to the scene to repel the attack.

“If not for the quick response by the security men, the magnitude of the attack would be too much. The security agents had succeeded in repelling them. The gunmen had fled and an investigation is currently going on,” he said.

The Commissioner added that the matter was discussed on Friday at the State Executive Council (SEC) meeting where Governor Inuwa Yahaya approved the distribution of relief materials to the victims.

He said a state government delegation led by the governor had visited the local government Friday morning, to commiserate with them and give out the relief materials, which consist of food and non-food items.

## Internal Rift Turns ISWAP Commanders Against Others

*By Babaji Usman*

Terror bigwigs piloting affairs of Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP), yesterday engaged in a brawl in their enclave at Shettima Affor axis between Damboa and Gujba, border towns linking Borno and Yobe State.

Zagazola Makama, a security analyst and a counter-insurgency expert who is familiar with security trends along Lake Chad, revealed this via a Twitter post.

He noted that one of the Commanders moved out of the camp with his fighters on Motorcycles and headed towards the axis of Kaffa, a nearby settlement in the area.

“The aggrieved Commander moved out of the camp with his fighters on GT/Motorcycles and headed towards the axis of Kaffa,” Zagazola tweeted. “Another team, probably from Shettima Afor, arrived at Kaffa at about 8:30 a.m. and engaged the ISWAP in a gun battle.”

This comes a few days after fighters of Boko Haram on a vengeance mission, killed 33 women believed to be wives of ISWAP members.

WikkiTimes had earlier reported that the manslaughter of the wives followed a clash between the groups in Sambisa forest, where ISWAP terrorists eliminated Boko Haram Commander, Malam Aboubakar (Munzir) and 15-foot soldiers after a failed negotiation between them.

# Bauchi-Gombe Road: In Questionable, Shoddy Execution, FG Wasted Over N1bn In Emergency Repairs, Road Still Death Trap



*In this report, WikkiTimes' YAKUBU MOHAMMED revealed that in its desperate move to siphon money, the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing not only failed to execute the work but paid contractors that have nothing to do with road constructions; some of them are oil companies.*

**By Yakubu Mohammed**

The federal government has spent about N1bn in repair works to salvage the already decayed Bauchi-Gombe Highway, but the road remained a nightmare for motorists, occasioned by killer potholes and numerous failed sections due to questionable contracts and shoddy execution.

Awarded at varying times between 2018 and 2021, contracts for the repair of many failed sections of the road were awarded to about 10 different companies, some of which were even unqualified for the jobs — thus prompting suspicion of misappropriation and embezzlement of public funds.

The road which claimed lives and property that could hardly be quantified forced motorists to even begged for the reversal of the road to its old state before the ongoing, and 'not-seems-to-end, agonizing' rehabilitation.

Funds were disbursed to revamp failed sections of the highway, including collapsed culverts and perhaps needless, but not traceable streetlights. Instead of making the road motorable, the interventions, according to WikkiTimes' findings, exacerbated the situation, as the purportedly rehabilitated sections kept on failing, coupled with an increasing number, depth and width of killer potholes.

**NEARLY A N1 BILLION AND NOTHING TO SHOW?**

With the recent being in 2017, the disbursement of funds for the decaying Bauchi-Gombe road lasted for four years and still counting. WikkiTimes traced an aggregate of N928,461,482 million paid by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to different companies.

# Minna-born Poet, Dzukogi Sings Encomiums for Deceased Daughter in Poetry Collection

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

Poet and finalist of the 2022 Nigeria Prize for Literature, Saddiq Dzukogi has narrated his bitter-sweet experience over the shortlisting of his book, 'Your Crib, My Qibla.'

The Minna-born poet and Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University's Department of English, United States was announced by the Advisory Board for The Nigeria Prize for Literature as one of three finalists on, August 26, 2022.

The 33-year-old poet said the selected book is a collection of poetry and a tribute to his late daughter who died five years ago.

Upon learning about its nomination, Dzukogi couldn't help but experience a bitter-sweet emotion as he reminisced over the memories he shared with the deceased.

"I cried when I got the news," he said in an interview with BBC Hausa. "But I was happy at the same time because I wrote the book to bring her to the limelight. I missed her so much."

Dzukogi added that he hopes Nigerians, especially Northerners are proud of him as he is the only northerner that made it to the finalists' stage.

Recalling that he started writing poetry at the age of 13, Dzukogi called on young poets to devote sincerity to their arts and be conscious of their immediate environment when writing.

However, Romeo Oriogun was announced as the winner of the prize for his poetry collection, 'Nomad.'

His collection was rated above Dzukogi's 'Your Crib, My Qibla' and Su'eddie Vershima Agema's 'Memory and the Call of Water.'

The biennial prize is sponsored by Nigeria Liquefied and Natural Gas (NLNG). Since 2004, it has rotated among the genres of fiction, poetry, drama, and children's literature.

## After WikkiTimes' Story, Niger College's Management Visits Degenerated Road, Vows to Commence Work 'Soon'

The management team of the Niger State College of Education, Minna led by its Dean of Students' Affairs, Dr Muhammad Adamu Jebba was at the site of the dilapidated road leading to the male hostel to assess the situation in view to fix it.

This comes a few hours after WikkiTimes reported the poor state of the road. During the visit, the management assured the students that the road would be fixed. The Dean of Students' Affairs, according to a discrete source, while addressing the students at the male hostel, admitted that the road is bad.

Jebba said the work is going to be jointly done by the management and alumni association of the college.

However, a week after, neither the engineers nor materials needed for the reconstruction of the road could be sited, according to insiders.

When contacted, the dean, Jebba, declined to comment about the management's visit to the site. After listening to our reporter, the dean went incommunicado. However, he refused to respond to calls afterwards. Also, an SMS sent to him had not been responded to at press time.



## CAMPUSES

### EXPLAINED: Withheld N150m, Blackout, Trespass... Why IBBU Staff Want VC, One Other Removed



The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU) earlier today, staged a protest within the school premises, demanding the removal of the institution's Vice-chancellor, Professor Adamu Abu-Kasim and Professor Nuhu Tachi, acting chairman of the school's governing council.

In a viral video, the joint unions marched from a venue where they had a meeting to the administrative block where they held their placards afloat and registered their grievances.

Supposedly, academic activities were to take off at the institution today after an eight-month of nationwide industrial action embarked upon by Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) which began on February 14, 2022. But students' hopes were dashed as JAC headed its head up.

WikkiTimes understands the institution is being faced by myriads of problems. Two weeks earlier, JAC passed a vote of no-confidence on Abu-Kasim over some administrative issues, hoping the latter would take time to address its concerns.

The scuffles started, significantly, when the management defied the nationwide strike, calling students to resume back on campus. However, only a few lecturers held classes.

An insider told this paper that those lecturers who held classes in the previous weeks are on contract with the university and they risked contract termination should they refuse to teach.

#### VC SERVING AS BURSAR, REGISTRAR — HE CONTROLS GOVERNING COUNCIL'

In a phone interview with WikkiTimes, Adamu Kagara, chairman of JAC, IBB University said everyone is "fed up" with the vice-chancellor, Abu-Kasim.

According to the chairman, the vice-chancellor did not only serve in his mandate, "he had taken over everyone's function including the bursar and the registrar.

That is not all, Abu-Kasim since Major Idris Garba, the chairman of IBB University's Governing Council fell sick, had been controlling the council through its acting chairman, Professor Tachi.

"Governing council is supposed to be independent," Kagara said. "But they have aligned with the vice-chancellor." He noted that the council is not fair in its dealing, hence the unions also lost confidence in it.

#### WITHELD ALLOWANCE, DELAYED SALARIES AND MORE

Kagara during the interview explained that the vice chancellor is in the habit of shortchanging the unions. According to him, he had unconditionally delayed August and September salaries despite pleas and grumblings.

The JAC boss told WikkiTimes that the Niger State government owes the joint unions an estimated sum of one billion naira. "Recently, it paid N150 million into the institution's account but the vice-chancellor refused to release the fund, saying we must sign some agreements," Kagara said.

"The money released by the government was about 25 percent of the withheld allowances. We appreciate that the government paid part of it," he added, saying the vice-chancellor further withheld the money saying the union must sign an agreement to forfeit the remaining fund "which is about N500 million."

Continue reading @

<https://wikkitimes.com/explained-withheld-n150m-blackout-trespass-why-ibbu-staff-want-vc-one-other-removed/>

## How Electric Spark Ignited Fire, Razed Over 30 Rooms in Usmanu Danfodiyo University

*By Yunusa Umar*

Last Friday was gloomy for many students of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS) who live in Benjee dormitory where an inferno did not spare their properties.

The incident, WikkiTimes gathered, occurred around 2:00 pm and lasted for 40 minutes.

Nazeef Muhammad, a 400-level student of Applied Chemistry told WikkiTimes, in a telephone conversation that the fire was ignited by an electric spark which extended to gas cylinders.

At the time of the incident, many students have gone for Juma'at prayer, except their Christian colleagues, according to Muhammad.

He explained that the school's electricity had been epileptic since students resumed school.

"The Nepa tried their best to fix the light but it was when most of us were away for mosque," he said. "The light voltage was too high and it led to a spark that exploded gas cylinders."

According to PEN PRESS, a campus journalism outlet in UDUS, Abolarin Ibrahim, a sophomore student of English and Literary studies returned to meet the ashes of an apartment he left intact before going to Juma'at.

"I was on my way from Jum'at prayer when I received a call from one of my hostel mates asking me to come back home immediately because our hostel was on fire," Ibrahim told the platform. "I lost everything. I lost my original certificates. I lost my clothes. Even the properties my friend kept in my room got burnt. I have nowhere to stay now."

Shamusudeen Nasir, a final-year student of Chemistry who lost his properties to the inferno said he was not around at the time of the incident.

"I went to Jumma prayer when the incident happened," Nasir said. "I lost everything to the fire that gutted about 45 rooms in Benjee Hostel which has over 500 rooms."

Shamsudeen Umar, the chairman SU Caretaker Committee in a telephone conversation told campus journalists he instantly informed the owner of the house, Alhaji Abubakar Aliero Benjee, who called on the state fire service to contain the fire.

"Immediately I called him, he instructed that the generator should first be put on for water pumping and should be continually used to prevent the spread of the fire before the arrival of the fire service," he said.

But WikkiTimes learnt the building has only one entrance and this frustrated the firefighters who responded to the distress call. "The school firefighters tried their best before the state fire service's operators took up the operation, and with the help of good 'Samaritan' among the students who had to forcefully break many walls to enter the building from different areas while others fetch water with buckets, the fire was totally contained," Umar said. "The management bitterly complained about the entrance and had called the house owner to order."

"For now, We have discussed with the Dean, Students' Affairs and we have provided a place for the fire victims to live in the meantime," he added. "They should just go to the Bakassi Hostels and ask for 'Portal', the common rooms in the hostels have been provided for them."

# IBBU Union of Campus Journalists Gets Acting President

By Mohammwed Shuaib Ndace

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."

The union's Publicity Secretary, Muhammed Najeem, described the former president as "a good journalist but self-centred unlike his predecessors, who once in a while organised webinars for the members to catch up with the practice of campus journalism".

The acting president, in her words, said some of the executives who were relegated breached the ethics that guide the union. Dinah who was appointed on November 3, said there were changes following the reformation.

"Since I assumed office as the acting president, the union has begun to record significant positive change," Dinah said. "Soon the union shall be holding UCJ weekly meetings where a date for election and induction of new members will be addressed."


 The logo features the letters 'UCJ' in a large, blue, sans-serif font, followed by 'IBBUL' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, all contained within a blue rectangular border.

UNION OF CAMPUS JOURNALISTS  
IBBUL CHAPTER


 The word 'PRESS' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters inside a red rounded rectangular box.

UNVEILING THE FACTS



# HYPPADEC Writes WikkiTimes, Vows to Compensate Niger Residents Displaced by Zungeru Dam Construction

By Yunusa Umar

In response to WikkiTimes' story on Niger State residents who have been displaced by infrastructure work on Zungeru Dam, Hydroelectric Power Producing Area Development Commission (HYPPADEC) says it will compensate them soon. WikkiTimes had reported how the residents who were once landlords were displaced and taking refuge in an informal Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp.

“The Commission is aware of the plight of the displaced people in Shiroro Local Government Area and is assiduously working towards a resettlement plan among other projects that have been previously carried out,” HYPPADEC emailed WikkiTimes. “However, this project is a huge one and will require time for strategizing and putting resources together as it includes every other community in the Six (6) States under the purview of the Commission which had been displaced by the activities of the dam,” it added.

HYPPADEC claimed that preparations have reached an advanced stage for the resettlement of some communities in Niger, Kebbi and Kogi States. It is going to be in phases due to huge capital requirements for such turnkey projects, it noted.

The commission stated that the commission is committed to bringing succour to all benefiting communities. Prior to this, WikkiTimes had contacted HYPPADEC but there was no response. However, its response came two weeks after our report.

## THE REPORT

In 2013, HYPPADEC commenced the Zungeru Hydro Electric Power Project — an infrastructure that later displaced scores of residents who were living on the shore of Zungeru Dam. However, the project is scheduled for inauguration next year, but its host communities are being left to suffer in informal displaced person camps.

Many of the residents displaced from these communities are taking refuge in Gijiwa/ Kato ward of Shiroro local government. In 2013, former President Goodluck Jonathan kickstarted the N162.9 billion Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Project in Niger State. The hydro dam project, when constructed, will generate 700 megawatts of electricity for the country, according to TheNigerian News.

They include: Gurmana Gari, Gwaja, Jabiki Kasa, Maganda, Jabiki Sama, Siyiko Wusisi, Unguwan Fulani Kami, Romance, Unato, Paleli Alfani, Aporlogado, Jataye, Kwangu, Kako, Mashigin, Gurmana, Akika, Fulani Shakadna.

Others are Gogwaita, Guto, (Gurmana), Kutawi, Karibo, Kokki, Kuyami, Shakadina, Sarkin Zama, Sudan, Tsohon Gurmana, Anguwan Kampani, Jankasa, Birik, Kasumi, Yekwa, Gini, Shambuyi, Baha, Kwatayi, Magami, Sabon Gidan Magami, Layi, Gavia, Darin Hula, Shana.

# Islamic Cleric Who Accuses Bala Lau, Kabiru Gombe, Others of 'Dining with Political Bigwigs', Lands in Bauchi Police Net

By Hafsah Mohammed Ibrahim

A Bauchi-based Muslim cleric, Abubakar Baba Karami, is being held by men of the Bauchi State Police Command for criticizing some Islamic clerics associating themselves with politicians and living extravagantly.

The cleric fondly addressed as Afakallah made the comment in a video clip, during a sermon at a Bauchi mosque on Friday, November 18, 2022.

He named Kabir Muhammad Haruna, alias Kabiru Gombe, Abdullahi Bala Lau (Sheikh Balalau) and Ahmad Sulaiman Ibrahim also known as Alaramma Ahmad Sulaiman, as some of the cleric dining with politicians including Atiku Abubakar, presidential candidate for Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Afakallah condemned the clerics, saying they have abandoned their virtues as Islamic scholars to embrace worldly pursuits.

## KABIRU GOMBE COUNTERS ACCUSATIONS

Responding in a separate video, Kabiru Gombe denied the allegations and emphasised that "they are well-to-do and financially influential."

Kabiru accused Afakallah of ignorance and threatened to drag him to court to prove his claims.

"We are self-employed," he claimed. "We are not jobless people. Go and ask around. I have more than 200 people working under me. We demand that you present your evidence to these claims."

## AFAKALLAH SLAMMED WITH PETITION, DETAINED, TO BE CHARGED TO COURT

Subsequently, a petition was written by the lawyer of the defendants to the Bauchi state Commissioner of Police, alleging cyberstalking, injurious falsehood, intentional insult, defamation and an attempt to cause public unrest through his (Afakallah) sermon.

"In his sermon, he called them all manner of names saying they are potbellies, they are deceitful," Barrister Usman Darazo, counsel to the defendants, told WikkiTimes.

According to him, the incident had disturbed the peace of Bauchi, as ardent loyalists of his clients wanted to take the law into their hands but they were pacified.

"The CP directed the Crime Investigation Division CID to launch an investigation into the case and my client came to Bauchi to write a statement today," he added.

WikkiTimes learnt that Afakallah was on December 7, 2022, invited to the CID office for questioning with regards to the incident. He would be detained and scheduled to appear before a court tomorrow.

However, attempts to speak to the Lawyer of the accused, Barrister Jibril Clinton, proved futile as he refused to grant an interview.

"It is true I am his (Afakallah) lawyer. But we have not covered as much ground as we would have wished. Therefore, it is not proper to speak now. Maybe we can speak in the morning," he said.

Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, spokesman for Bauchi Police Command did not respond to an enquiry sent to him over the matter, as of press time.

# Will Bauchi State MoE Miss Dr Tilde?



*Adamu Muhammad Hamid, PhD*

Monday this week, Dr Aliyu Usman Tilde, the Bauchi state commissioner of education announced his resignation from the cabinet of the Bauchi state government on his verified Facebook account, ‘ to allow me to attend to a call of an associate who direly needs my services’, according to him. His resignation came as a shock to many but the reason he adduced for it looked unreal to careful observers. Unreal because in most of his public discussions, he characteristically expounds his lifetime commitment to salvaging the woes of the education sector in Bauchi state. He talked about the huge personal sacrifice that he was always ready to make for this onerous calling. Now that he’s got the opportunity to deal with the monster bedevilling the state’s education sector frontally, it’s unimaginable that he would excuse himself to attend an associate’s private calling. Those who know Dr Tilde personally would attest that he could ignore his family affairs for any patriotic public calling relating to prosecuting change to grassroots education.

Again, why wouldn’t he wait till the end of the Administration’s 4-year tenure lapsing in 5 months and 23 days to make his exit smoother? His exit at the material time looked ill-timed due to political activities rolled out in the contest for the Government House via the 2023 election. Further, the state government struggled hard to retain him despite a major squabble between him and members of the State Assembly, which ensued during a budget defence last few months.

Because of the general public attitude to drastic policies for change, workers of the ministry of education and members of the public who perceived his policies were not favorable to them resisted him staunchly, some openly, some from hiding. Being a respected public commentator, Dr Tilde was not unaware that drastic change is resisted in a system as rotten as ours, where funds allocated for public schools are channelled to personal use by officials. That may probably be the reason he ignored all accusations and confronted his tasks frontally every day. His lips were observably dry all the time during office hours partly because he used any available opportunity to explain himself and his policies to people, and sometimes because he walks round schools to see situations for himself, avoiding delegation as much as possible as to him, most officials in the system aren’t trustworthy.

For those who do not know him, Dr Aliyu Usman hails from Tilde, Toro Local Government Area, Bauchi state, born in 1961 to a family famed for Islamic scholarship and jurisprudence. This context of his background may explain the first things he did in his assumption of office as commissioner of education and on his resignation. Upon assuming office, he boldly inscribed on the whiteboard behind his table inside his office the verse of Surah al Nisa’ “ ...and He taught you what you knew not, verily His favours on you are tremendous!” And announcing to the public his exit from the office on his Facebook page, he began by inscribing the verse of Surah al Isra ‘And say: O my Lord! Let my entry be by the Gate of Truth and Honor, and my exit by the Gate of Truth an Honor, and grant me from Thy Presence aiding Authority.” This disposition speaks volumes of his background and worldview.

Continue reading [here](#)