

FG Fails To Deliver 90km Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba Road 15 Years After, Despite Billions In Releases

PAGE 5



RECRUITED TO SUFFER: Over 12 Months Unpaid Salary, Arrears, Frustrate NBAIS Workers

With Help of Laboratory Attendant, Desperate Gombe Man Faked Genotype Results to Marry His Lover — ‘They Birthed Sickler’

PAGE 18



Kano Cleric, Sheikh Abduljabbar to Die by Hanging

PAGE 4

‘No Road, No Election’ — Bauchi
Communities Fume, Threaten to
Boycott Polls

PAGE 7

Kano Magistrate Court Issues
Criminal Summon Against
WikkiTimes for Publishing
Investigative Story

PAGE 4

Recruited to Suffer: Over 12 months Unpaid Salary, Arrears, Frustrate NBAIS Workers

By Hafsa Muhammed Ibrahim

The National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS) in December 2019, carried out a massive staff recruitment exercise based on replacement which actualised the employment of about 1,000 employees.

However, WikkiTimes' Hafsa Muhammed Ibrahim reports that despite observing protocols that come with the job appointment-including documentation, IPPIS registration, letter of assumption of duty, and biometric capture which took place in subsequent months, many of the staff are still yet to receive their posting letters, salary payments and arrears. When WikkiTimes contacted the board over the allegations, its head of protocol, Barrister Muazu Yunusa Sambo, described the FOI request as "challenging, intimidating and accusatory."

THE NBAIS was founded by Alhaji Sir, Ahmadu Bello Sardauna of Sokoto in 1960. It started as a board meant for the Northern part of Nigeria only with few schools and colleges operating under its aegis.

Following the recognition and approval of the National Council on Education (NCE) at its 57th meeting held at Sokoto in February 2011, NBAIS as a National Examination and Regulatory Body now covers Nigeria with over 900 recognized schools and colleges.

THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE

Mass recruitment in 2019 was carried out based on replacement in NBAIS. About 1000 people were employed and the appointment and assumption of duty letter which took effect from December 2019 took them through December 2021 with neither posting letters nor salary payment.

In December 2021 however, the employees received a text message inviting them to visit the NBAIS headquarters at Kaduna, Rigachikun, Tsangaya building to carry out a documentation exercise.

WikkiTimes obtained a screenshot of the invitation text message received, which specified documents required for the exercise.

"In December 2021, we received a text message from NBAIS, inviting us to the head office in Rigachikun, Kaduna state for biometric capture and IPPIS. But between January and April, nothing changed," one of the new employees told WikkiTimes, while pleading anonymity.

The months that followed saw the new employees waiting in limbo; while rumours took turns to justify the delay, some of the new staff organised and delegated a few to pay a visit to the organisation headquarters.

According to a source, the visit, which has as one of its objectives to petition for their salary, yielded no positive result although they were assured that plans were motioned to actualise their concerns.

SALARY PAYMENT BY BATCHES

In the month of May, about 300 staff from the recently recruited were reported to have received the salary payment for one month. This has unsettled further the already discomfited staff.

WikkiTimes could not independently verify the number of those paid, but some staff members who got paid shared a screenshot showing evidence of payment.

A few days into the month of June, the staff who did not get paid received a text message said to be from the Arabic board, requesting them to send a screenshot of their Integrated Personnel Payroll Information System IPPIS slip via a WhatsApp number in a bid to process their withheld salaries.

Despite complying with the directive, nothing changed. This exacerbated their frustration.

The new employees who got paid in May were said to receive their posting letter the next month, June.

In the subsequent months that followed, a source said NBAIS increased the number of staff receiving payment from the new employees but without compensating for the previous months while many others remain unpaid.

This remains the case as of November 2022.

EMPLOYEES LAMENT UNFAIR TREATMENT

Isa (not real name) is among those that haven't received payment since the recruitment. He has been active on the social media platform where the affected workers convened to share their experiences and discuss their ordeals.

"While we remained idle with neither salaries nor posting letters, some of our colleagues had received payment for the second month in a row already," he told WikkiTimes during a phone interview.

"We were recruited and documented for over a year now, yet we are yet to receive posting letters nor resume duty.

The most challenging part is that no NBAIS official has come out to justify or explain our situation.

No press release or any circular" he added.

"Some of our colleagues had personally contacted the registrar severally to ask what is going on in the board, but every time, he would say not to worry, they are working towards addressing the issue.

"It is not fair on us and our families. Despite rejoicing with our loved ones about obtaining a job with NBAIS we still have nothing to show for it up until now," he added. According to him, few of the employees were at one point, willing to confront the board officially or report their ordeals in the media, but many were skeptical and dreading the outcome that might provoke the board to react negatively towards them.

"In October, our hopes were raised afresh," he said. "We were told that the ministry of finance has approved a budget for the board. But October came and went like every other month."

CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS AGAINST NBAIS

In June 2021, The NBAIS boss was accused of defrauding the agency with illegal award of contracts to family members and close allies.

The Professor Muhammad Shafiu Abdullahi-led management team of the Board was

accused of financial fraud and job racketeering running into billions of naira, according to Sahara Reporters.

A source in the board told Sahara Reporters that Abdullahi violated a directive by President Muhammadu Buhari on probity and accountable handling of funds.

The NBAIS boss was accused of defrauding the agency with illegal awarding of contracts to family members and close allies.

The source added that Abdullahi's 'mafia-styled administration' has drained the finances board without any significant project to match the billions of naira allocated to it annually and set it on an imminent path of failure.

"Even the staff of the agency are not spared when it comes to the torturing and denial of their entitlement worthy of note is the 33% of our annual salary due to us for exams supervision which has never been paid since 2018.

"We the staff have been so frustrated that we now resort to use of personal resources for logistics during trainings and other official engagements.

Kano Magistrate Court Issues Criminal Summon Against WikkiTimes for Publishing Investigative Story

By Babaji Usman

A magistrate court sitting in Kano has issued a criminal summon against WikkiTimes, a Bauchi-based investigative and data journalism platform, over an investigative story exposing some irregularities in Kano State.

WikkiTimes had published an investigation about six construction companies involved in the building of 20 units of one block- of 2-classrooms with furniture, toilets, and offices in selected locations across the three senatorial districts in Kano. The companies include: S.A.T Engineering Service LTD, M. Sulum Nigerian LTD, Emacs Engineering Consultant, Pyramid Investment, MGK Global Service LTD and Haitel Nig LTD.

However, S.A.T Engineering Service LTD, M. Sulum Nigerian LTD and their owner, Alhaji Surajo Marshal including one other company through their counsel, Habiba Abdullahi Umar Esq filed a criminal lawsuit before Magistrate Court 18, Justice AB Wali Complex, Gyadi-Gyadi, Kano State.

The presiding Chief Magistrate, Auwal Yusuf Sulaiman will read the criminal charges to WikkiTimes and its reporter, Elijah Ajoki (who authored the report) on January 9, 2023.

The applicants through their counsel, described the publication as “untrue, malicious, unfounded and wicked.” They accused the defendants of cyber defamation of character “pursuant to the provision of cyber crime (Prohibition and Prevention Etc) Act, 2015 and section 393 of the Penal Code law of Kano State (Cap 89 Laws of the Northern Nigeria.)

THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation authored by Elijah Akoji, revealed how the companies were allegedly used by the Nomadic Education Commission in Kano State to divert N290million, with two of it belonging to the same individuals.

In 2018, the National Commission for Nomadic Education, under the Ministry of Education budgeted over N500 million for the Construction of 20 Nos of one Block- of 2-Classrooms with Furniture, Toilets, and Offices in Selected Locations across the three senatorial districts in Kano.

Continue reading [here](#)

Kano Cleric, Sheikh Abduljabbar to Die by Hanging

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

A Shariah High Court in Kano State has sentenced Sheikh Abduljabar Nasiru Kabara to death by hanging, after he was found guilty of making indecent comments against Prophet Muhammad.

The verdict was read Thursday after Justice Ibrahim Sarki Yola pronounced, Abduljabbar guilty of the crime.

Among the accusations against him, it is alleged that his controversial preaching could cause chaos in Kano state.

After he was found guilty of the crimes, Justice Yola adjourned the court session for some minutes to allow him write the court sentence. Following the recess, the court session resumed and the sentence was read.

Prior to the recess, Sheikh Abduljabar was allowed to make his last speech where he said the lawyer defending him does not know him and he is not pleading guilty, because according to him, he has not committed any crime, therefore, he should be sentenced as soon as possible.

On July 16, 2021, the Kano state government arraigned the cleric in court on charges of blasphemy against religion and inciting the public, a charge he has repeatedly denied.

FG FAILS TO DELIVER 90KM PANYAM-BOKKOS-WAMBA ROAD 15 YEARS AFTER, DESPITE BILLIONS IN RELEASES

By Haruna Mohammed Salisu & Babaji Usman



First awarded in 2007, Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road in Plateau State would have been completed around 2010, based on the contractual agreement between the Federal Government and the first construction firm.

However, 15yrs after, construction work remained abysmal, leaving communities along the 90km road in agony-causing them to lose their loved ones, farm produce worth millions, armed robbery attacks and stress occasioned by tedious prolonged journeys.

Not only is Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road suffering from neglect, the same is the fate of Babban Lamba-Lanshi-Sharam and Pankshin-Tapshin-Gindiri roads awarded at various times, but abandoned for years. WikkiTimes tracked releases of money by the Federal government to contractors handling these projects running into billions of Naira, including questionable payments.

To the families of Datet Mud Audu Gambo-the Traditional Leader of Kombun, a village in Mangu LGA along the 90km panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road, the deplorable condition of the road will indelibly remain in their minds for as long as they live.

This royal family lost 2 of their agile and promising young ones: Nandong Gambo, 38yrs and Yusuf Garba 30yrs to the bad condition of the road within a span of three weeks. Both of them died on the road before reaching the nearby medical facility in Mangu, on 26 May and 10th June 2022 respectively as the family raced to save their lives following sudden different illnesses.

Late Namdong left behind 3 children while Yusuf Garba left 6 heirs.

“Ordinarily the about 30km journey to the hospital in Mangu would have taken us around 20 minutes if the condition of the road is good and I believed if we had reached hospital 30mins after the onset of their illness both of them would have been by my side as I grant you this interview” claims Datet Audu. WikkiTimes gathered that the about 30km distance from Kombun through Panyam and to Mangu now takes 2hrs to accomplish, and their woes become even compounded whenever it rains in the area. “It takes us two hours to reach the main road which is not supposed to be more than 15 minutes”, he said.

When it rains, especially in the afternoon, residents of the village who go to Mangu for their daily bread sometimes have to sleep there, due to the muddy nature of the road that makes movement nearly impossible and some narrow streams that overflow their channels.

This according to Datet Audu was exactly what happened the day Yusuf Garba died. School teachers posted to town have also absconded, due to difficulty on the road.

People of Daffo, Per, and Bot also suffer the same agony as they ply the road daily for their livelihoods.

A local blog, Eggon News documented that the contract for the construction of the road was initially awarded on April 19, 2007, to STATECO Nigeria Ltd, at the cost of N5,338,200,930.90, with a 24-month tenure.

The contract was however revoked in 2012 for attaining less than 20% completion and this was after over 66 months, with two extensions granted over the contract period.

WikkiTimes could not establish the total amount paid to the first contractor before the project was revoked. Similarly, this medium could not lay hands on any verifiable information on what happened on the project between 2012 when it was first revoked by the Federal Government up to 2019 when it was rewarded to a new firm, Uniglobe Construction Engineering Nigeria Ltd.

It was a Zonal Intervention Project renominated by the duos of Hon. Solomon Maren, Member Representing Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency of Plateau State in the House of Representatives and Senator Hezekiah Dimka, a Senator representing Plateau Central Zone.

From 2019 to date, series of monies have been released to the construction firm to the tune of over NGN643,503,408.74 in 5 instalments, with little work on the ground.

Data obtained from govspend.ng showed that the firm was paid NGN180,952,381.00 on 19 Sept, 2018, N163,567,303.80 on 16, Jan 2019, and N28,864,818.33 on 14 May 2019. Other installments were N130,892,026.56 on 16 April 2020 and N139,226,879.05 on 29 May 2021 respectively.

The 2 lawmakers Hon. Solomon Maren and Senator Hezekiah Dimka had, at various fora promised timely completion of the project to their constituents, but 4 years after work resumed no appreciable progress has been achieved.

Citizens plying the road continue to perish with attendant socioeconomic bruises.

Solomon Kefas, a driver from Bokkos, described the road as a mirage. He bemoaned that they resorted to taking a longer Mararaban Jama'a road in all their journeys instead of the dreadful Panyam – Wamba road.

“It’s too stressful to follow that road, (Panyam – Bokkos – Wamba), in fact, it is not motorable”. He told WikkiTimes that he followed the route about three months ago and he had to pay about N10,000 to fix his vehicle.

Kefas however prayed that the government should construct the road to make it easier for transportation within the communities describing them as agrarian.

Ibrahim Buwa, a resident of Bokkos, faulted politicians, and accused them of telling lies during campaigns to solicit voters’ votes, “You see we don’t have a road. They (politicians) feed us with juicy promises only to find out that they were telling lies”.

WikkiTimes’ visit to the site revealed that the road is in tatters, with ditches, off-road lanes, and a heavy accumulation of mud in areas where construction work has begun. This situation even becomes worst whenever it rains. Despite this condition, no construction firm was seen on-site at the time of the visit.

Continue [here](#)

'No Road, No Election' — Bauchi Communities Fume, Threaten to Boycott Polls

By Usman Babaji

About 30 communities in the capital city of Bauchi State, have vowed to boycott the 2023 general elections as a result of poor road networks bedevilling their survival.

The aggrieved communities — Kangere, Munsal Gwaskwaram and Yuguda — held a peaceful protest chanting 'No Road, No Election.'

Some stakeholders in the communities when speaking with VOA Hausa, explained that the peaceful protest followed the unfulfilled promises by government officials and their representatives.

"Pregnant women are suffering, they sometimes die in the process after their nine-month pregnancy", one of the protesters fumed.

Danlami Ahmed Kawule, the Deputy Speaker of the Bauchi State House of Assembly and member representing the constituency assured that the demand of the communities will be met.

The communities are among the agrarian settlements that engage in farming activities, providing considerable agricultural produce to especially southern parts of Bauchi, annually.

Again, Suspected Ritualists Remove Eyeball of Bauchi 12-Year-Old Almajiri

Unknown persons suspected to be ritualists have removed the eye of one Najib Hussaini, a 12-year-old Almajiri boy in Kafin-Madaki community in Ganjuwa local government area of Bauchi State.

Bauchi State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Ahmed Muhammed Wakil who confirmed the incident to reporters in Bauchi said the suspects who ride a Bajaj-model motorcycle, lured their victim, Najib to a bushy deserted area and forcefully removed his right eyeball.

"Najib Hussaini 'm' 12yrs old, an indigene of Kano state, who was attending quranic education (Almajiranci) in Kafin-Madaki was barely a year in the state when the incident occurred on 9th December 2022 at about 0200hrs at Unguwar Yamma, not far from the victim's school (Tsangaya).

"It was revealed that two unknown people who came on a motorcycle (Bajaj) lured the victim to a nearby house to assist them to call a lady, They took the victim on their bike straight to an isolated area near Hanyar Gonar Wakili of the same village, where they stopped the motorcycle near a bushy area and forcefully plucked the right eye of the victim and consequently abandoned him in his pool of blood.

"The victim managed to reach a point where he was sighted by some of his colleagues who rushed him to their teacher," he said.

Najib hails from Kano and was in Bauchi to acquire a non-formal Qur'anic education, Tsangaya in common parlance spent a just year in the community.

CSO Asks Construction Companies To Come Clean, Kicks Legal Suit Against WikkiTimes

By Yawale Adamu

Alheri Community Development and Support Initiative (Alheri-CDSI), a civil society organization based in Bauchi has demanded a group of three construction companies – S.A.T Engineering Service, Insulum Nigeria Ltd and Haitel Nigeria Ltd – to clearly explain their roles in the reported failed Nomadic Education Commission's school construction projects in three senatorial zones of Kano State.

Alheri-CDSI said the approach of the firms to resort to the use of a legal weapon to intimidate and frustrate WikkiTimes and its reporter after exposing the alleged mishandling of the projects by the companies is absurd and barbaric.

Sani Mu'azu Tama, Alheri-CDSI Programme Officer said this in a press conference on Wednesday in Bauchi.

He said going to court will not exonerate the firms from the alleged scandal, rather, it only exposes them to suspicions and cover-ups to divert public attention from the real issues at stake.

“Alheri-CDSI wants to, in strongest terms ask S.A.T Engineering Service, Insulum Nigeria Ltd, and Haitel Nigeria Ltd, a group consortium that allegedly mishandled Nomadic Education Projects in State to explain their roles and exonerate themselves from the said projects with convincing pieces of evidence and facts,” he said.

Mr Tama said any organisation that is jittery about the works of investigative journalists must have some skeletons in the cupboard that it is trying to keep away from public scrutiny.

While calling on press freedom groups within and outside Nigeria to come to the rescue of WikkiTimes, he said the excesses of powerful individuals and groups against the Nigerian press must be checkmated to safeguard public interest and guarantee citizens' freedom of expression.

Mr Tama called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) to further investigate the findings WikkiTimes reported about the alleged failed projects to bring those culpable to book.

“These bodies must expedite their actions to earn the trust and confidence of Nigerians. We will maintain a cursory look until the right thing is done,” he said. WikkiTimes had published an investigation about six construction companies involved in the building of 20 units of one block- of 2-classrooms with furniture, toilets, and offices in selected locations across the three senatorial districts in Kano. The companies include S.A.T Engineering Service LTD, M. Sulum Nigerian LTD, Emacs Engineering Consultant, Pyramid Investment, MGK Global Service LTD and Haitel Nig LTD.

However, S.A.T Engineering Service LTD, M. Sulum Nigerian LTD and their owner, Alhaji Surajo Marshal including one other company through their counsel, Habiba Abdullahi Umar Esq filed a criminal lawsuit before Magistrate Court 18, Justice AB Wali Complex, Gyadi-Gyadi, Kano State.

The presiding Chief Magistrate, Auwal Yusuf Sulaiman will read the criminal charges to WikkiTimes and its reporter, Elijah Ajoki (who authored the report) on January 9, 2023.

In These Bauchi Schools, Students Learn Under Rotten Roofs, on Bare Floors

By Yawale Adamu

At least two government-owned schools have been found in dilapidating conditions in Bauchi metropolis and Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Inside the schools — Government Day Secondary School, Narabi, in Toro and Gwallameji Primary School, in Bauchi city — students do not only receive lessons under rotten roofs but also on bare floors.

During rainy season, many of these students are sent back home to avoid unforeseen eventualities, according to Tracka, a public project monitoring platform.

Tracka, further called on Bauchi State Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed to look at the deplorable conditions of the schools to salvage them from imminent collapse.

According to TrackaNG, there over 600 pupils in Gwallameji Primary School.

“This is the terrible state of Gwallameji primary school, Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State where over 600 pupils learn in an unconducive environment,” the platform tweeted, adding the school lack basic teaching materials.

“We call on the @GovBauchi and other relevant stakeholders to construct, equip and provide teachers for the pupils to learn in a conducive environment,” Tracka tweeted further.

Also at the Government Day Secondary School, Sabon Gari, Narabi, Toro LGA, Bauchi State, there are over 200 students sitting on mats and bare floor to learn on a daily basis.

“Whenever it rains, the students are asked to stay at home because of their safety. The classrooms are not accommodating anymore”, Tracka said.

Efforts to reach Bauchi State Ministry of Education failed as the phone number provided on its website was not reachable. As of press time, a text and email sent to the ministry had not been responded to.



#PressFreedom

Jailed and killed journalists in 2022: Quick Facts on Africa

2022 African jailers

Egypt (21)
 Eritrea (16)
 Cameroon (5)
 Rwanda (4)
 Morocco (3)
 DRC (2)
 Algeria (1)
 Burundi (1)
 Ethiopia (1)
 Nigeria (1)
 Senegal (1)

4 journalists killed in Africa in 2022

Chad (2)
 Somalia (2)

CPJ is also investigating the motive of the killing of a journalist in Kenya, to determine if he was targeted for his work.

At least **56 journalists were imprisoned across Africa** in connection with their work as of December 1, 2022.

Egypt remains the top jailer of journalists across Africa, despite some releases under international pressure.

Eritrea is one of the most censored countries in the world. The majority of the journalists imprisoned there have been detained without trial for 21 years, since the crackdown on the independent press in 2001.

Cameroon has appeared on the census every year since 2014, with some currently jailed journalists held since 2016.

Senegal has one journalist imprisoned for their work, Pape Alé Niang, marking the first time the country has been on the census since 2008.

Three of the 4 jailed journalists in **Rwanda** are YouTubers. Two of them – Aimable Karasira and Dieudonné Niyonsenga – allege that they have been tortured and ill-treated while imprisoned.

French journalist Olivier Dubois, who was abducted in **Mali** in April 2021, and five Tigray TV journalists, detained in the rebel-held city of Mekelle in the northern Ethiopian state of Tigray, are not included in the census because they are in the custody of non-state actors. CPJ continues to call for their release.

Most of the journalists imprisoned in Africa are held on anti-state charges, and many are also held on false news and cybercrime allegations.

Floriane Irangabiye, in Burundi, is the only woman journalist documented by CPJ as being imprisoned in Africa for her work as of December 1.



Read more at cpj.org/prisoncensus2022

Source: CPJ's global census of journalists imprisoned for their work as of December 1, 2022.

56 African Journalists Imprisoned in 2022 — CPJ

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim



No fewer than 56 journalists were imprisoned across Africa in 2022 with Egypt being the top jailer, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists as seen in its annual prison census report.

Globally, CPJ reported that 363 journalists were imprisoned as of December 1, 2022 – a new global high that overtakes last year's record by 20%.

The number of journalists jailed around the world set yet another record in 2022. In a year marked by conflict and repression, authoritarian leaders doubled down on their criminalization of independent reporting, deploying increasing cruelty to stifle dissenting voices and undermine press freedom, CPJ noted.

Countries like Iran, China, Myanmar, Belarus and Turkey were categorised as the worst offenders.

THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

“Egypt remains the top jailer of journalists across Africa, despite some releases under international pressure. Eritrea is one of the most censored countries in the world. The majority of the journalists imprisoned there have been detained without trial for 21 years, since the crackdown on the independent press in 2001.

THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

“Egypt remains the top jailer of journalists across Africa, despite some releases under international pressure. Eritrea is one of the most censored countries in the world. The majority of the journalists imprisoned there have been detained without trial for 21 years, since the crackdown on the independent press in 2001.

“Cameroon has appeared on the census every year since 2014, with some currently jailed journalists held since 2016. Senegal has one journalist imprisoned for their work, Pape Alé Niang, marking the first time the country has been on the census since 2008.

“Three of the 4 jailed journalists in Rwanda are YouTubers. Two of them – Aimable Karasira and Dieudonné Niyonsenga allege that they have been tortured and ill-treated while imprisoned.

“French journalist Olivier Dubois, who was abducted in Mali in April 2021, and five Tigray TV journalists, detained in the rebel-held city of Mekelle in the northern Ethiopian state of Tigray, are not included in the census because they are in the custody of non-state actors,” the report reads.

Over 10,000 Tweeted About #Zaria Massacre — Here Is Why

By Babaji Usman



Adetutu Balogun posted one Bukhari Bello Jega (now late), who supported president Muhammadu Buhari in 2015 but was killed alongside his daughter by officials of the president's administration. "They wipe out his family in one night", she wrote.

Adetutu's post attracted 1,298 reactions where 738 Twitter users liked the post, 541 retweeted with 19 quotes.

So far, there are over 10,000 Twitter posts and trending reactions to commemorate the seventh anniversary of slain members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria.

The movement, popularly called 'Shi'a' under the leadership of Ibrahim Al-Zakzaki lost hundreds of its adherents on December 12, 2015.

Reportedly, about 1000 adherents were killed, with over 300 given a mass burial. The mass killing was aftermath of a face-off between the group and military operatives led by former Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Tukur Burtai.

The army claimed it responded to an attempted assassination of Burtai, in Gyellesu, Zaria, Kaduna. But the group and human rights organisations refuted the claim.

Human rights activists insisted that the mass murder of the sect's faithful violated their rights.

Ammar Mohammad Rajab, a multimedia journalist tweeted: "Zaria massacre is trending on Twitter. Over six thousand people talked about it so far".

Zakzaky, the leader of the movement, distributed items to some widows and widowers, according to a tweet from his office.

"While commemorating the 7th anniversary of #ZariaMassacre, the leader Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky (H) met with the 4th batch of the families of martyrs in his Abuja residence," the tweet read. It has 424 likes, 150 retweets and 5 quotes.

Also, Adam Abubakar Rogo posted two sons of Zakzaki reportedly murdered during the raid.

"These are Ali Ibraheem Zakzaky and Humaid Ibraheem Zakzaky. The biological sons of Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky. Until their martyrdom, Ali has completed Senior Secondary Education waiting for admission into the university while Humaid was at Secondary School.

"They were murdered at their father's residence Gyallesu Zaria by Nigerian Army led by Buratai ordered on 14/12/2015. Their bodies were buried in a mass grave by Kaduna State Governor Elrufai," Rogo tweeted.

‘Bamayi’ — Kaduna Youths Reject Tinubu’s Candidature

By Hamzat Ibrahim Abaga



Youths in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State, yesterday, stood against the candidacy of Asiwaju Ahmed Tinubu, presidential flag bearer for All Progressive Congress (APC).

The youths could be seen in a video posted on Twitter, chanting ‘Bamayi’ which loosely translated into Hausa as ‘We are not doing.’

The youths hurled this against Tinubu as security operatives tried to disperse them.

Yesterday, Tinubu alongside his running mate, Kashim Shetima and the APC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) were at the palace of Emir of Birnin Gwari, a banditry-ravaged area in Kaduna.

At the palace, Tinubu was also crowned with the traditional title of ‘Dakare of Birnin Gwari (Defender of Birnin Gwari).

WikkiTimes understands that the youths were protesting negligence by political office holders amid incessant bandits attack in the axis.

Birnin Gwari is known for attacks (by terror groups), counter-attacks (by military operatives) and supremacy fights among the terror groups.

APC Reinstates Ex-Bauchi Gov, Abubakar As Member

By Idris Kamal

All Progressives Congress (APC) Bauchi State Chapter has okayed the membership of a former Bauchi State Governor Muhammed Abdullahi Abubakar (SAN) after leaders of the party at Makama Sarkin Baki Ward suspended him for alleged anti-party activities.

APC Makama Sarkin Baki Ward, where the former governor hailed, had in a letter dated 14th December 2022 suspended Mr Mohammed, citing his open support for the reelection bid of Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed of PDP as a clear-cut anti-party activity contrary to the provisions of the constitution of the party.

Adamu Aliyu Jalla, the Publicity Secretary of the APC in Bauchi, in a press statement made available to reporters on Friday said the State Working Committee of the party considered the purported suspension of Mr Mohammed null and void.

He said the former governor remains a legal APC member with all right and privileges that every member of the party is entitled to.

The Publicity Secretary said the suspension of Mr Mohammed violates fair hearing and necessary disciplinary processes and procedures laid down in the party’s constitution.

In 2019, PDP’s Bala Mohammed defeated APC’s Mohammed at the polls to deny him second tenure after he was first elected governor in 2015.



IMPACTS

After WikkiTimes' Investigation, FERMA Returns to Bauchi-Ningi-Jigawa Road

By Idris Kamal



The Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has returned to the 123.1km Bauchi-Ningi-Jigawa road to continue patching of potholes earlier abandoned.

Nanpan Joroh, Engineer in charge of Bauchi FERMA office confirmed this development to WikkiTimes in a phone interview.

WikkiTimes in an investigation co-sponsored by International Center For Investigative Reporting (ICIR) and MacArthur Foundation revealed how the road remains in bad shape years after FERMA multi-million naira contracts for various repair works on the road.

The investigation chronicled how the road continues to deteriorate as a number of road crashes have claimed lives and property of commuters along the route.

In April 2021, the federal government through FERMA paid N75.5 million to a contractor Na'atika Nigeria Ltd — for repair and patching of potholes along Bauchi-Ningi-Jigawa road. The money, according to data obtained by WikkiTimes, was paid in instalments.

Engineer Joroh said FERMA “is currently working on the Bauchi-Ningi-Jigawa road patching potholes on the road.” When completed, he added, commuters will have ease and comfort plying the road. Musa Isma’il, a driver who plies the road said drivers are delighted that FERMA returned to site to complete the project. “We hope that FERMA will not disappear from the site again until all potholes consuming lives and property on this road are patched,” he said.

After WikkiTimes' Investigation, Gombe Medical Association Vows to Prosecute Perpetrators

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

The Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN), Gombe State chapter, says it will engage necessary authorities to prosecute some health workers exposed in WikkiTimes' recent Investigation.

The investigation exposed how health workers in some facilities continue to subvert the system by issuing fake genotype certificates in exchange for financial gratification.

The story exposed how hospital laboratories in Gombe issue fake genotype certificates for a token, sometimes even free.

In an extensive undercover, the medium discovered how laboratory workers in Gombe with a little persuasion and financial gratification concede to issuing fake genotype certificates.

The report which documented how a married couple gave birth to a sickle cell child with different kinds of falsified genotype certificates also revealed how health workers accepted birds' blood for genotype tests.

The medium-exposed hospitals, including, Pantami Primary Health Care, FOMWAN Clinic Tabra, Nasawaro Primary Health Care and BCGA Primary Health Care, Gombe.

WikkiTimes' findings also revealed that the ill practices have, among other things, contributed to the birth of sickle cell patients in the state, while violating the ethics of the medical profession.

The medium accused the hospital authorities as well as regulatory bodies of lack of proper management and vigilance as well as indifference.

The malpractice uncovered by the medium is an unfortunate example of raging corruption in the health sector.

However, in a statement dated October 10, 2022 and signed by the league's chairman, Lynn Maori, the association acknowledged the report, pledging to take necessary actions against the perpetrators.

"The attention of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN), Gombe State Hospitals Chapter, has been drawn to a publication in WikkiTimes, of September 25, 2022, authored by Hafsa Ibrahim Muhammad, captioned: 'INVESTIGATION: Genotype Scam: How Health Workers in Gombe Issue Fake Genotype Certificates for a Token.'

"While we sympathize with the victims of this nefarious act by quacks, we would like to assure the general public that we will work closely with the relevant authorities to prosecute these crimes to a logical conclusion."

Furthermore, the statement applauded the author for "lending a voice" to a pressing issue that has plagued the state's hospital for years.

"We equally want to commend the author of this investigation journalism for baring the activities of these quacks, and lending a voice to our cries for years, on the need to amend the Gombe State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (GSPHCDA) Act, to make

provisions for the establishment of a functional Department of Medical Laboratory Services. Indeed, the importance of investigative journalism in uncovering the truth cannot be overstated.

“However, to put the record straight, and to educate the general public, AMLSN wishes to make the following clarifications:

“Medical Laboratory Scientist and Medical Laboratory Technicians are the only healthcare professionals licensed by Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria to independently carry out medical laboratory investigations for the purposes of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring of patients, and research. Medical laboratory technicians and assistants who are also registered by the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (National Medical Laboratory Accreditation Agency) are permitted to carry out certain activities in the medical laboratories under the supervision of qualified medical laboratory scientists. Thus, any other personnel carrying out medical laboratory tests is deemed a quack!

“Further, the Rules of Professional Conduct, along with the Minimum Practice Standards and Regulations, defines professionalism in the practice of medical laboratory science. Hence, medical laboratory scientists demonstrate an application of their ethical obligations through their professional and personal conduct.

“The primary healthcare centres (PHC) in the state are under the purview of the Gombe State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (GSPHCDA).

“There is no Department of Medical Laboratory Services to effectively and efficiently coordinate the activities of medical laboratory professionals at that level. Thus, most of the workers are not even qualified medical laboratory professionals.”

Also, the body condemned the Gombe State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (GSPHCDA) for its reluctance to address the issue which had been clamoured upon by the association in the past.

“AMLSN has on several occasions called the attention of GSPHCDA to facilitate the creation of the Department of Medical Laboratory Services to ensure the provision of quality medical laboratory services for the citizens of the state at the level of PHC, being that PHC is the “front door” of the health system and provides the foundation for the strengthening of the essential public health services. However, till date, this issue has not been addressed, unfortunately.

“It is evident from the report that all the quackery was perpetrated at the primary healthcare centres and some private health establishments where our medical laboratories are often manned by unqualified professionals.

“Furthermore, it is important to note that the aims of primary health care overlap with those of universal health coverage, which aims to ensure access to essential health services and safe, effective and affordable essential medicines and

vaccines for all people. All these would not be achievable in the absence of quality medical laboratory services, since the practice of modern medicine is evidence-based, and research has put it that up to 70% of clinical decisions are informed by data from medical laboratories,” it added.

Calling on the state government to bring the culprit to justice, the body also urged the public to be wary of such illegal endeavours.

“Accordingly, AMLSN wishes to call on the general public to be wary of quacks parading as medical laboratory professionals. Also, they should boldly request or look out for the MLSCN logo when accessing the services of a medical laboratory whether located in a clinic/hospital or a private facility.

“Secondly, for the umpteenth time, we call on the attention of the Gombe State Government to amend the GSPHCDA Act and other relevant healthcare Acts to make for the inclusion of medical laboratory services for the benefit of the citizenry.

“Finally, we wish to draw the attention of the proprietors of private healthcare facilities to eschew the culture of cutting corners by employing only qualified medical laboratory professionals to man their medical laboratories. Otherwise, the long arm of the law is bound to catch them,” the statement added.

After WikkiTimes’ Story, Kuda Bank Releases Parts of Student’s N15,000

By Umar Yunusa



Kuda Bank, a Nigerian fintech company, has released parts of N15,000 belonging to Destiny Ebibibowei Okutu, an undergraduate student of Enugu State University.

This comes barely a week after WikkiTimes reported that the bank had been withholding the student’s money since November. The money, Okutu told WikkiTimes, was a refund from Jumia, an online shopping company.

He had purchased an earbud from Jumia on November 3, but demanded a refund after discovering that it was faulty.

Yesterday, Okutu contacted WikkiTimes saying the bank had refunded N7,000 out of the N15,000.

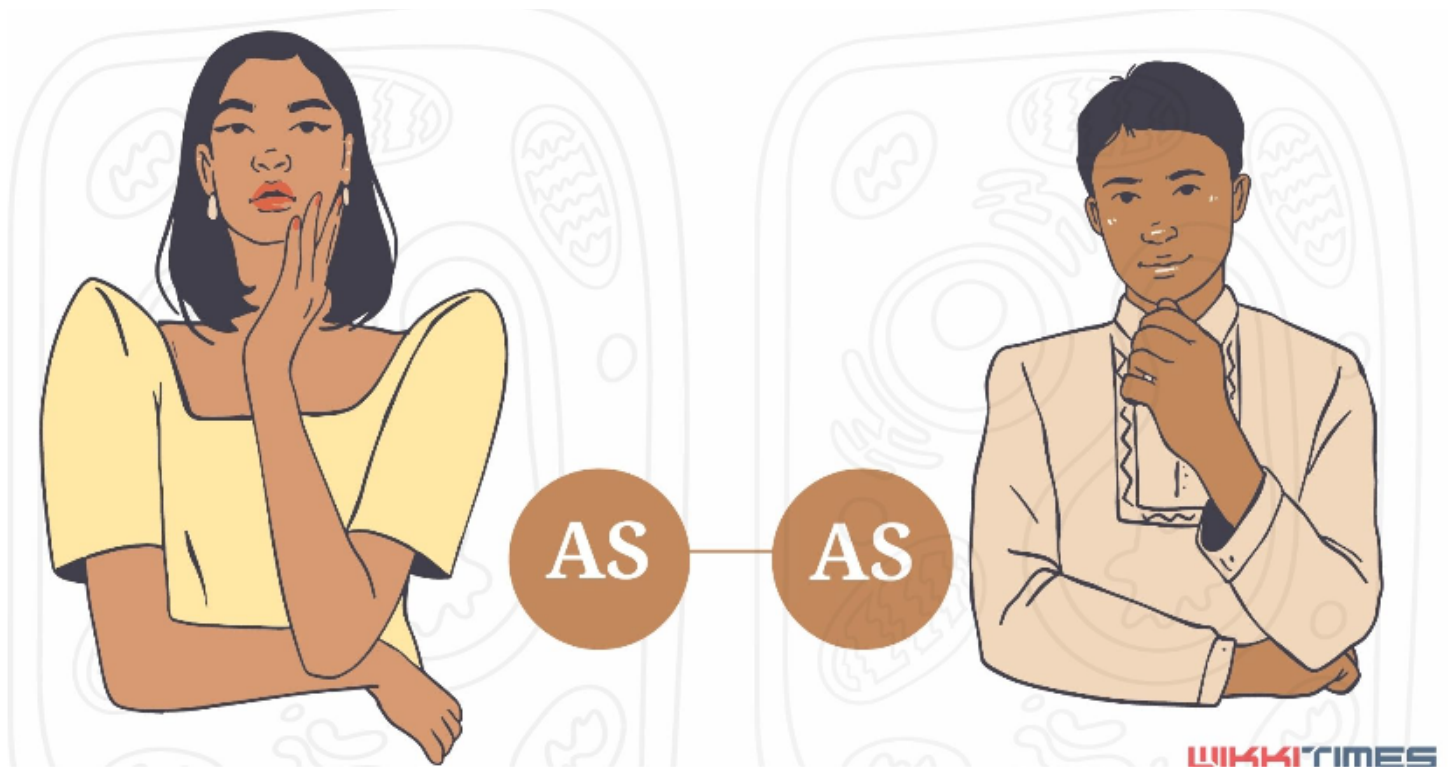
“I was checking my emails and saw a reversed message of my money,” the undergraduate student told WikkiTimes. “And I decided to check my account balance because the status changed to resolved”

Okutu said he was not alerted about the refund, though it reflected in his account balance. Although, he explained that he had abandoned the account following the incident.

“I switched to Union Bank because of my unresolved issues with Kuda,” he said. “I’m grateful to WikkiTimes’ impactful story and their strong professional journalism.”

As of press time, Kuda Bank had not replied to an email inquiry asking why the money had not been fully reversed.

With Help of Laboratory Attendant, Desperate Gombe Man Faked Genotype Results to Marry His Lover — ‘They Birthed Sickler’



Aminu Waziri (not real name), an aged father in the metropolis of Gombe State relived how a desperate lover conspired with a laboratory attendant to fake genotype results as a prerequisite to marrying his daughter. Nine months later, the conspiracy fired back and they gave birth to a sickler. They are likely to birth more... Hafsa Muhammed Ibrahim reports.

Whenever Waziri sees his daughter (name withheld), he quickly concludes “man cannot escape his destiny.” He believes destiny begot his daughter what had happened.

The aged father was unaware he had given his daughter to a man desperate to have her as his wife. This is despite their negating compatibility. The genotype result the man presented to him was faked and he never knew.

Waziri told WikkiTimes that his daughter and her suitor had visited Pantami Primary Health Care some two years ago to carry out a genotype compatibility test before deciding to join them together as husband and wife.

‘DRUNK IN LOVE’

The result, however, was not in favour of the marriage.

A laboratory attendant who carried out the genotype test had tipped the would-be groom the outcome of the test. But the results were altered as requested by the suitor.

Although, Waziri claimed the laboratory attendant was the suitor’s friend. “I guess the young man was drunk in love with my daughter,” Waziri said. “So he decided to conspire with his friend to alter the test results.”

The results were presented and the marriage was conducted in merriment. Sadly, everything fell off nine months after the wedding. However, Waziri claimed his daughter had no idea what the husband had done.

A SICKLE CELL WAS BORN

The couple, after giving birth nine months later, started facing the consequences of their actions as their newborn baby kept falling sick.

Medical doctors would later confirm that the baby was sickle cell.

“We were all shocked; my family and my in-laws,” Waziri told WikkiTimes. “So we asked the couple to go carry out another test and when the result came out, it turned out that both parents were AS.”

“I was even more shocked and when I recall the hospital that carried out the test, I accused them of issuing fake results and I threatened to sue them in court,” he added.

In his defense, the laboratory attendant argued that there was a fault in the machine that was used to conduct the test “that very day.”

Waziri explained that the truth of the matter was later revealed after a series of investigations. The perpetrator was reported to the hospital authorities who promised to sanction him, he recalled. Waziri would later instigate a divorce, but his daughter is in love.

“My daughter said she is not leaving her husband because she still loves him despite all that,” he said.

Waziri grudgingly conceded to reality and the family concentrated on the sick baby.

He further expressed his fears and uncertainties concerning the union, saying, “we continue to live in fear of how many more sickle cells she might have to bore.” WikkiTimes in September, carried out an undercover investigation to expose how some hospitals in Gombe State — for a token — issue out fake genotype certificates to people for different reasons. The investigation rocked the state’s health system as the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN), Gombe State chapter, pledged to ensure the exposed health workers are prosecuted.

A Year After, Survivors of Kaduna Attack Recount Tales of Arson, Mindless Killing

By Babaji Usman

A year after bandits wreaked havoc on residents of Kagoro in Kaura local council, Kaduna State, many of them still have sleepless nights from the nightmare.

Bandits had invaded the community in March 2021, killing scores of locals, setting alight a number of houses, and displaced the occupants.

Rita, as simply identified, was one of the unlucky residents, according to a podcast by HumAngle.

‘THEY FULFILLED THEIR PROMISE’

According to Rita, the bandits had sent a signal before they struck. They alerted them on Friday and attacked on Sunday.

“They (bandits) announced it before they actually came. It was on Friday March 18, 2022,” she recalled. Friday and Saturday passed, and nothing happened. But Sunday’s tragic attack was a rain and flood of bullets. The marauding bandits forced the helpless residents to desert their shops. They looted the shops and set them ablaze afterwards. but they started looting and later set them ablaze. “We all fled,” Rita said.

For Justina, she was away when her husband informed her that their community was under attack. She would return to the ashes of her residence.

“We ran away and even the soldiers around had to hide, before they later reprised and that helped to save some communities from the devastation,” said Justina. “I saw four bodies dumped in a shop and eight others in a yam farm,” Justina recounted.

Rita, Justina and many others knew that the terrorists would come again.

They were getting situation reports from some of their community members who were trapped in the community.

A day after the Sunday attack, the bandits came in three 18-seater buses at about 7:00 pm and spent 25 hours unchallenged, Justina recounted, adding the reinforced attack led to the death of three soldiers of Operation Safe Haven, who were repelling the invasion.

Presently, Justina and Rita are taking refuge somewhere in an apartment hosting over 30 persons. Yet, the invasion of March 2021 is still afresh in their memories.

COLUMN

Hon. Gudaji Kazaure Was Exemplary Patriot!

Controversial as he seemed, Hon. Muhammad Gudaji Kazaure garnered tremendous courage to have spilled the beans on shoddy dealings in government, involving the Central Bank governor Mr Godwin Emefiele and the Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami on mainly monies discovered in Investors and Exporters (I & E) Window Account amounting to 171 billion USD as at 2020. Hon. Kazaure claimed that the committee in which he's secretary was specially assigned by the President to investigate money accruing to CBN on Nigerian Inter-bank Settlement System (NIBSS) from 2013 due to the claim that from 2013 to 2016, Nigeria lost about N20trillion.

He claimed that the AGF was instrumental to initiating the letter from Presidency to stop the investigation. And subsequently, he attempted severally to see the President to brief him personally on what was happening.



Adamu Muhammad Hamid, PhD

Hon Kazaure's argument is that all the monies in the I & E Window Account are public funds accruing from NIBSS transactions. According to him, there is no way any foreign investor could deposit any money N1billion without the full information of DSS. Part of the allegation is that the CBN governor secretly owns two commercial banks in Nigeria and that he's richer than the country. These are quite huge allegations.

Ordinarily, citizens in Nigeria have fun listening to the submissions of Hon. Gudaji because of his characteristic bluntness and Hausa-accented Nigerian English.

Now he has brought an exceptionally serious matter that is rocking the country and dominating public discussion. He wouldn't dare address a news conference on this subject without his facts handy. In addition, he may have his little errors here and there, but the glaring lesson in his submission to the public this time is what is required to be patriotic is not faultlessness in Queen's, now King's English but faultlessness in good conduct. Now, why was the investigation halted?

Though none of Kazaure's allegations was against the Presidency, the Presidency saw it as a point of duty to respond. Why wouldn't the CBN governor be allowed to respond himself? Speaking to the Nigerian public in response to Kazaure's allegations, the Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media & Publicity) Garba Shehu recounted the history of the whole story in a statement that when President Buhari assumed office in 2015, the law for the collection of a token on banking transactions was there but ineffectual, and this was as a result of certain characters who apparently formed a cartel with collaborators in the Nigerian Postal Service, NIPOST, and they "were allegedly collecting and pocketing this money."

Continue [here](#)