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# ANALYSIS: Removal of Kirfi Could Be Costly for Bala Mohammed — But There Is a Way Out

By Babaji Usman

The abrupt dethronement of former Wazirin Bauchi, Mohammad Bello Kirfi by the Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed has been presumed a political miscalculation that might cost the governor his ambition in the coming weeks.

Elected as the governor in 2019, Bala is seeking reelection for a second tenure, but the recent face-off between him and the dethroned Kirfi could impede his plans.

Last week, Kirfi, a prominent stalwart of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was stripped of his title [Wazirin Bauchi] and delisted from Bauchi Emirate Council following a directive from the government. The decision stemmed from alleged disregard for the governor.

It was not the first time Kirfi would be disgraced by the state governors. However, this is the first time the ousted Waziri would be replaced after his removal.

## **SERIES OF SUSPENSIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS**

Kirfi had suffered a similar fate in the past. He was first suspended by former governor Ahmed Adamu Mu'azu and reinstated by Malam Isah Yuguda after the latter emerged as the new governor.

In 2017, Kirfi was suspended by the then-governor of the state, Mohammed Abubakar for openly supporting the candidacy of Governor Bala at the Government House.

For the third time, Kirfi was reinstated on August 5, 2020, after Bala emerged as the governor in 2019, an election the embattled Kirfi put his weight on.

Because of his contribution to Bala's victory, two of his children were appointed commissioners to reward the 91-year-old Kirfi — Barrister Yakubu Bello Kirfi as Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General of the state and Saadatu Bello Kirfi as Commissioner for Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

## **THE DRAMAS AFTERWARDS**

Although Barrister Yakubu Kirfi was dropped from the cabinet before Sa'adatu was nominated, she, however, resigned from the cabinet following her father's removal as Wazirin Bauchi.

Subsequently, Bala's Senior Special Assistant SSA on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Harsanu Yunusa Guyaba, and the Deputy State Chairman of the PDP, Bala Hadith, also resigned.

A source close to Bala told WikkiTimes that the governor was chided by some aggrieved youths who attempted to deny him access to the palace even though it has become a norm for him to freely access the emirs' palace on Fridays.

Sources say, the youths, during the wedding of the Emir's daughter, barricaded the palace's entrance until "his (governor) security personnel forcefully dispersed them."

An ardent party loyalist believes that the faceoff would no doubt affects the governor politically. This is evident as Kirfi vowed that he would work against Bala in the forthcoming gubernatorial election. According to him, Bala would be removed from office the same way he was brought in.

WikkiTimes had reported that the residents of Gwabba and Ganjuwa communities in the state have pledged their political loyalty to Kirfi ahead of this year's gubernatorial election.

Speaking during a solidarity visit to the elder statesman at his residence in Bauchi, they described Kirfi as "not only a father but also a leader who symbolises the yearnings of his people."

This is to say that the elder statesman is getting public sympathy while the governor is being criticised.

## **GENESIS OF THE RIFT**

While the state government is claiming that the former Waziri was ousted from the emirate council because of what it described as "disloyalty and disrespect toward the state governor", the rift between the duo started last year, when Bala indicated his interest to contest for president under the umbrella of the PDP.

He reportedly consulted Kirfi, but the statesman advised him to shelve his ambition and allow Atiku Abubakar, the Wazirin Adamawa and former Vice President to claim the ticket.

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# Amid High Rate of Accidents, FRSC Subjects Bauchi Drivers to Alcohol Test

By Umar Yunusa

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), in Bauchi State, has introduced a breathalyzer, a device to detect the volume of alcohol content in commercial drivers' body systems in order to reduce the rate of Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs).

Speaking during the administration of the device on commercial drivers in Bauchi-Kano Motor Park at Awala Roundabout Bauchi on Monday, Sector Commander, FRSC Bauchi, Yusuf Abdullahi said any driver that is found guilty would not be allowed to drive.

The Commander explained that the device was not only for the detection of alcohol but any other substances that could tamper with an individual's body system.

He said if any driver is found guilty "The device would detect anything within the system and that's why we ask them to breathe in and breathe out during the test and by the time you breathe out the air in your body system, it would show that something is abnormal, be it drug or alcohol," he said.

Mr Abdullahi said the exercise would be sustained as the machines were permanent with its road marshals, adding that the personnel would also visit parks where drivers load passengers to conduct the test.

guilty, the corps would offer the necessary advice and also take away the vehicle from the driver from the point of contact.

"If it happens in the park, we will immediately inform your executive members that this man has some level of alcohol in his body system and for that, they should take the vehicle away from him.

"The cooperation from the transport union in Bauchi state is quite commendable and the exercise has been quite fruitful.

"One thing about the device is that the moment the body system is tampered with as a result of whatever goes in it, automatically, it's not left out either.

He called on all commercial drivers to abstain from taking alcohol and other substances that could affect their state of mind behind the wheel and to always obey traffic rules and regulations.

"There are some lifestyles that can not be co-opted into the driving profession and if you must take driving as a profession, some of those negative lifestyles that contravene the traffic profession should be dropped.

"By the time we are able to do away with those lifestyles before going into the driving profession, we will adhere strictly to the driving rules and regulations and that would go a long way in boosting our performance and aid us in our driving profession," he said.

The Sector Commander also urged passengers to always speak up whenever they realise that a driver is not obeying the traffic rules and regulations, saying this would go a long way in mitigating the level of road crashes.

Speaking, the Chairman Bauchi-Kano Motor Park, Awala Branch, Auwal Ibrahim commended the FRSC for coming up with such a 'life-saving' initiative.

He urged passengers in the park to always look out for the phone numbers written on their tickets to call and complain about the recklessness of any driver from the park.

WikkiTimes recalls that last week, 18 passengers were burnt to death in an accident along the Jos-Bauchi expressway.

## Popular Kannywood Singer Announces Plans to Quit Musical Career, Becomes Quran Reciter

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

Singer and songwriter, Ali Isa Jibril, popularly known as Ali Jita, has declared his intention to retire from the music industry to become a Quran reciter.

This was contained in a tweet by the 39-year-old celebrity on Wednesday, saying he wishes to become one of the best Quranic reciters the world would see.

"Soon I will retire from music I want to be one of the best Quran reciter the world has ever had in the future.#InnshaAllah," he tweeted.

Ali Jita is an award-winning international Nigerian Hausa Musician who also sings in English.

The Kano-based musician is married with 5 kids and is known for numerous weddings and romantic songs since 2006. Most of his songs have been featured in several Kannywood movies.

Ali Jita has bagged at least 15 awards in his musical career including Music Artiste Of The Year in 2018 and a host of others.

# Wife of DSS Boss, A'isha Bichi, Incites Unrest at Kano Airport, Orders Aides to Brutalise Photographer Filming Scene

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

Garba Kilo, a Kano-based photographer was severely battered by operatives of Department of State Services (DSS) on the orders of A'isha Yusuf Bichi, wife of the Director-General of the State Security Service (SSS), Yusuf Bichi. According to DAILY NIGERIAN, the officials came after Kilo when their boss noticed he was filming an altercation between her and Abba Yusuf, Kano State governorship candidate New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

The newspaper reported that A'isha ordered her irate personnel to "kill" Kilo when she saw him taking a video with his phone during her faceoff with Abba on Sunday.

The crisis reportedly began at the gate of VIP lounge of Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano when motorcade of the politician caused a holdup, briefly delaying A'isha's convoy from gaining passage into the controlled area.

The situation angered A'isha as her security guards started beating up people and hitting their vehicles. However, the photographer was not killed as she ordered, but he was severely brutalised.

When the governorship aspirant approached A'isha to complain, she began to rain insults, vowing she would frustrate his ambition to become the state governor, the medium added.

"As Abba insisted on boarding the flight, a reinforcement of DSS personnel shortly arrived at the airport and cordoned off the lounge building. Some hefty-looking operatives then stormed into the lounge and told Abba that he was under arrest," a source told the paper.

"After Abba gave a statement, the DPO went to the left wing of the lounge to take her statement, but she declined, asking 'do you know who I am? Who are you to even confront me to write a statement? The DPO later left without taking her statement."

DAILY NIGERIAN reported that the DSS operatives later released Yusuf after the flight took off with their boss.

Peter Afunanya, spokesman for the SSS did not respond to questions about the incident. Similarly, spokesman for the governorship candidate, Sanusi Dawakintofa, could not be reached for comment.

## ATBU Gets New 14 Professors, 12 Readers

By Yunusa Umar



Fourteen academic staff of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), Bauchi have been promoted to the rank of professor while 12 others were confirmed readers (Associate Professors).

They were confirmed by the institution's governing council. In a letter of promotions issued to the academics by the citadel's Acting Registrar, Hajia Aisha Idris, the promotions were approved following the receipt of positive external assessments on each staff.

Congratulating the promoted staff, the university's management urged them to continue contributing positively to the development of the institution as well as giving purposeful leadership to their junior colleagues.



## For 2 Consecutive Times, Plateau Pastor Feigns Abduction, Pockets N600,000 Ransom From Congregants

By Babaji Usman

A police investigation has blown up the cover of Plateau-based pastor Albarka Sukuya who, on two occasions, planned his abduction and raised N600,000 from sympathising church members.

On November 14 and 15, Sukuya connived with some gangs who whisked him away and pocketed N400,000 and N200,000 afterwards.

Alfred Alabo, spokesperson for Plateau Police Command disclosed this in a statement obtained by WikkiTimes. According to Alabo, the pastor was invited by Musa Hassan, Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Nasarawa Gwong Police Station who launched an investigation into the matter. It would later be discovered that the abductions were staged.

However, the pastor had revealed the identities of his gang members among whom two have been arrested while the other is at large, according to Alabo.

The statement read: “The Police has uncovered the nefarious act of one Pastor Albarka Sukuya of Jenta Apata, Jos, who on several occasions staged his kidnap with his cohorts and received ransom from sympathising members of his congregation.”

“Sequel to his spurious kidnaps of Nov. 14 and Nov. 15, 2022, where N400,000 and N200,000, respectively, were paid by his sympathisers as ransom for his release, the incidents triggered suspicion.

“Through credible intelligence, the clergyman was invited by the DPO Nasarawa Gwong Police Station, CSP Musa Hassan and investigation commenced immediately.

“In the course of investigation, it was established that the suspect has been conspiring with his gang to stage his kidnap and fraudulently collect ransom.

“The suspect further disclosed that on Jan. 1, he set ablaze the vehicles and a bicycle parked at ECWA Bishara 3, Jenta Apata premises belonging to his colleagues. He has confessed to committing the crime.”

## INEC Extends PVCs Collection Deadline by 8 Days

By Idris Kamal



Independent National Commission (INEC) has extended the deadline for the collection of Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) by eight more days.

The commission had earlier slated the exercise in at wards level to end on January 22, 2023, but the collection will now continue until January 29, including weekends.

In a statement by INEC's National Commissioner & Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee, Festus Okoye Esq , the commission was encouraged by the turnout of registered voters and the surge in the number of collected PVCs across the country in the last five days since the devolution to warda level which started on January 6.

He added that the commission is determined to ensure that registered voters have ample opportunity to collect their PVCs ahead of the forthcoming election.

“For this reason, the timeframe for the collection of PVCs is extended by eight days. Instead of ending on Sunday 22nd January 2023, the collection of PVCs will continue until Sunday 29th January 2023. At the moment, the period of collection is 9.00 am – 3.00 pm daily (including Saturdays and Sundays),” he started.

Okoye explained that the commission is also investigating allegations of extortion by officials at some of the collection centres and inducement by some unscrupulous voters to circumvent processes in order to obtain their PVCs, vowing that those culprits would face disciplinary action.

He stressed that all bonafide registrants are entitled to their PVCs and to use them to vote on election days in any part of the country where they are registered.

According to Okoye, 13,868,441 PVCs were printed for all new valid registrants as well as applicants for transfer or replacement of cards.

# Newborn Dies After Nurse at Bauchi Specialist Hospital Carelessly Chops Umbilical Cord

*By Yawale Adamu*

A Bauchi-based man, Muhammed Bello, has detailed how his only child, Mohammad Mubarak, died from an injury he sustained after a nurse at Bauchi State Specialist Hospital, carelessly cut off his umbilical cord.

The bereaved father told WikkiTimes that the newborn lost blood in excess after the nurse chopped off the organ. According to him, the nurses on duty covered up the foul and wrapped the baby and kept him with his mother.

**READ: Bauchi Woman ‘Strangles’ Co-wife to Death**

“It was on Monday, January 2. The baby was crying, but when I complained they told me that they have years of work experience. He suffered for nine hours in the hospital unnoticed to us. We did not know and they disallowed our women access to the labour room,” said Bello.

On getting home, Bello said they thought the baby was sleeping. “We later discovered that he was dead and the umbilical cord was bleeding and swollen up. They wrongly cut it and kept mum.”

Bello noted that he petitioned the Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the hospital Dr Ya’u Sulaiman Gital over the nurses’ levity in post-delivery services that caused the death of his son.

“I petitioned the Chief Medical Director but they did not respond. But I will not leave them to go free. I feel disturbed and I want this nonsense to stop,” he said.

The bereaved father said despite believing in destiny, he would not allow such recklessness go unpunished. He explained the petition was to ensure that the culprits are punished and to get compensated for his son’s death.

Malam Bello posted on his personal Facebook handle: “I have just petitioned the CMD of Bauchi Specialist Hospital over the death of my son, Affan. I know some people will be surprised why this guy would petition the CMD who cannot bring his son back to this world. Of course, I wrote yesterday that ‘Allah has really tested us’ but that doesn’t mean one should keep mum and leave things the way they are.

“In this part of the world (Northern Nigeria), it is taboo for one to fight for his right even at the expense of someone’s life dear to his heart!”

He added that he is an advocate of ‘Diya’ (an Islamic right to be compensated for the death of a family member) as that would make people become more careful in preventing further occurrence.

He added: “Many lives have been lost in our hospitals as a result of negligence and incompetence. Do you know why this continues? Because we always say, ‘it is an act of God’.

“I’m fighting this battle to make sure that thousands of lives are saved. Ayoosh (My wife) told her cousin yesterday that the Malam MB I know won’t let this slide.

**READ: How Bandits’ Attack in Bauchi Separated Man From His Family**

The CMD, Dr Gital, did not respond to questions about the allegation.

WikkiTimes had reported that a doctor at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) allegedly tied a baby’s arm for several hours in a futile attempt to locate the newborn’s vein for blood transfusion. Unfortunately, the newborn’s hand got damaged and he risks amputation.



# To Facilitate Meeting with Emir, Zazzau's Palace Guard 'Rapes' Help-seeking Lady



Sama'ila Abubakar Rimin Tsiwa, a palace guard at Zazzau Emirate Council allegedly raped a lady who went to the palace to seek the emir's assistance.

In a statement by the emirate's spokesman, Abdullahi Aliyu Kwarbai, the lady had approached Sama'ila, requesting him to take her to the emir to seek the latter's support for her marriage.

Sama'ila, however, lured the lady to a location where he and his friends gang-raped her.

READ: Flood: Prepare for Famine in the North, Says Emir of Zazzau

"A lady preparing for her wedding and seeking for assistance from the emir approached him (Sama'ila) to be taken before the emir but instead of doing that, he lured her to a location with his friends where they gang-raped her," Kwarbai stated.

## DISMISSAL

According to the emirate's spokesman, Sama'ila had been delisted and dismissed from the palace's security details.

"Zazzau Emirate Council under the Emir of Zazzau, His Highness Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, CFR has ordered for the immediate dismissal of Sama'ila Abubakar Rimin Tsiwa (one of the palace guards, Dogari) from the services of the emirate," the spokesman added.

Accordingly, the council said it had directed the police to launch investigations into the matter and prosecute the offenders.

# 'Herders' Intrude Man's Farm in Kwara, Kill Him for Challenging Them

Usman Baba, a farmer in Eshijiko Village under Pada district of Pategi local council, Kwara State, was killed by some herders who intruded his farm last Sunday.

According to a report by Daily Trust, Baba went to his farm at night where he met the herders and instructed them to leave. This incident, however, turned violent and the herders killed him.

READ: SPECIAL REPORT: Inside Kwara Secondary School Where Students Defecate in Open Amid Fear of Snake Bites  
In vengeance, the deceased's kinsmen stormed the herders' settlement and razed a number of houses. The unrest, according to locals, had displaced many residents. Alhaji Idris Ali, Sarkin Fulani of Ilorin East, disclosed over 1,000 Fulani have been displaced.

"Our position after the report of the killing of the farmer was for security agencies to be allowed to do their job and bring whoever is found culpable to book. We were surprised with the latest development of taking laws into their hands," the monarch said.

Also, Alhaji Jao Yahaya, one of the Fulani leaders in Kwara, said about 500 houses were destroyed and several people have been displaced.

"Ten classrooms blocks of nomadic school for our children, maize, guinea corn, yam, rice, cassava, motorcycles and several cows worth over N50m were lost to the incident," he stated.

Yahaya claimed that the warring communities had lived peacefully for over 47 years. He, however, urged the authority to restore normalcy to the area.

Spokesman for the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), in Kwara State, Olasunkanmi Ayeni, confirmed the incident, saying, the herders' settlement was completely razed with a number of cows and foodstuffs following the murder of the farmer.

# Inside Kazurawa's Deplorable Health Facility Amid Multi-billion Naira Funding

By Elijah Akoji

Although Ibrahim Bala was the second child in a family of nine after his father and elder brother died in an accident, he knew that the bulk of the responsibility of caring for his aged mother and siblings after his father's demise in 2019 rested on his shoulders. While he awaited his certificate from the Jigawa State Polytechnic, he started a phone business in Gaya and catered for his family with the little he made.

"The hope was that after the result comes out, he will get a better job and give the family a good life; he was our light," Danjuma, a younger brother to Ibrahim said outside their family home in Kazurawa.

Ibrahim died in the heat of the cholera outbreak that claimed hundreds of lives in Kano state in 2021.

One evening in August, while he was out meeting with friends, he began to complain about his stomach, saying he needed to go home. Ibrahim's younger brother and some friends accompanied him and, upon getting to his house, he started stooling.

"No one knew what the problem was, and we did not know what to do. We prayed that he would get better, but it got worse. He started vomiting too," Danjuma told WikkiTimes.

Unknown to the family, it was cholera. All they knew was that he needed medical attention, and he was rushed to Kazurawa Primary Health Care Centre.

The health facility was in a deplorable state, with the only member of staff, a nurse, doubling as the midwife and pharmacist.

"The only treatment he got was the drip he was placed on for some hours. If he had gotten the best attention and drugs, my brother wouldn't have died," Danjuma added.

## HEIGHTENED MATERNAL MORTALITY

Ibrahim's family wasn't alone in their suffering. For Aisha Suleiman, September 12, 2021, was a date she would never forget. She was rushed to the health centre after her contractions started at about 1 am. It was still in the peak of the rainy season and parts of the roof had pulled off, exposing the entire health facility to rain.

Aisha was admitted into a room with no windows or doors and part of the roof pulled off. In her vulnerable state, she was forced to wait in an exposed ward for the traditional birth attendant (TBA) who stayed some kilometres away from the health facility. Long before the arrival of the TBA, Aisha began to bleed.

READ: Filin Aljanu — A Water-strapped Kano Community

"I will never wish anyone, even my enemy, to go through my experience. I was in pain with no help. I was exposed to cold because it was still raining when I was rushed to the hospital. It was when the traditional birth attendants came that they discovered my baby had already died because my water had broken for so long and the baby couldn't survive anymore. I totally lacked the care every pregnant woman deserved," Aisha said.

Nigeria accounts for almost 20 per cent of global maternal deaths. The prevalence of maternal mortality in Nigeria is very much connected to the state of primary healthcare centres in the country and inequities in access to health services. Primary healthcare is the first level of contact of individuals, families, and communities in providing services to the majority of people based on need without geographical, social or financial barriers.

Maryam Jibril, who gave birth three months ago at the healthcare centre, recounted how her three years old daughter was admitted to the health facility on a mat because there was no functional bed available. But this unfortunate experience didn't surprise her.

"As a pregnant woman, I was kept on the same mat for two days before they made a provision and admitted me. The whole health facility looks empty and in bad condition," Maryam said.

*Cont. on page 11*



# Loyalists Berate ‘Lopsided’ Gov Bala’s Empowerment Program

By Babaji Usman

As parts of his plans to woo electorates, Bala Mohammed, Governor of Bauchi State has distributed motorcycles and cars to some loyalists under the umbrella of People Democratic Party (PDP).

The beneficiaries of the empowerment promote the present administration and are campaigning for the re-election of the governor in the forthcoming 2023 elections.

READ: ANALYSIS: Removal of Kirfi Could Be Costly for Bala Mohammed — But There Is a Way Out

Posts and tweets about the empowerment trended on the social media pages congratulating the beneficiaries while others commended the Governor for the initiative.

Lawal Mu’azu Bauchi, the New Media Aide to Governor Bala, tweeted on Bauchi Vision: “I want to use this medium too, on behalf of my senior colleague, the Special Adviser (Media and Publicity) to His Excellency, express my sincere appreciation to our social media platforms and activists who in one way or another contributed actively to ensure the Kaura Economic Empowerment Programme (Social media) went successful.

Aslo, the governor’s son, Shamsudeen Bala Mohammed, on his Facebook timeline posted a message, congratulating the beneficiaries and posted.

“Congratulation to all beneficiaries of HE’s Empowerment,” he wrote.

But his post was greeted with criticisms as netizens argued that the intervention was ‘one-sided.’

## REACTIONS

In his comment, Nuhu Yakubu Tuwur bemoaned that their social media group DUGURI SOCIAL MEDIA did not benefit from the empowerment program despite their support to the governor, describing it unfortunate.

He posted: “We DUGURI SOCIAL MEDIA nothing for us and it disturbs us. Despite our support to the governor, it’s sad that none benefited from that empowerment.”

Another grieving loyalist, Miftahu Ladan Bauchi, said despite meeting requirements to benefit from the scheme, it was counterproductive.

“We congratulate them but were seriously left behind. We have not benefited from anything despite the need.”

Instead of cars or motorcycles, some supposed beneficiaries got N40,000 smartphones, according to Eshat Yarhajiya commented.

“We are always supporting Kaura, but for five years, we haven’t benefitted with anything apart from 40k phone,” she commented.

Abubakar Ibrahim Wuromadaki, another loyalist, lamented that in Kirfi LGA, none of the members benefited despite their “unreserved” support to the governor.

He pleaded with Shamsudeen to consider their grievances and connect them with relevant agents to get them to benefit from the program.

Abdul Abk Badara described the empowerment as ‘Friends and Family Empowerment’. He bemoaned Kirfi LG have not benefited with “even a bicycle.”

Another netizen from Duguri, Babangida mocked the fellow group members that could not secure anything. He wrote “so we Duguri youth are left with congratulating people?”

Abdul Warji Na Leader had it that recounted that members from Warji LG are “always the victims of politics”.

He vowed that they would not support Governor Bala’s re-election. But Ibrahim Haruna Ibson Warji subsequently commented that “we will support Kaura in 2023 even without empowerment.”

Jones James decried that sharing of the items was deliberately centralised and sidelined. “This empowerment is only within Bauchi metropolis, is very unfortunate seriously. Is that how empowerment should be? It’s one-sided, let there be corrections.”

In contrast, Bashir Abdulhamid said he is one of the beneficiaries: “Thank you so much because I am one of the beneficiaries.”

However, Simon Levi argued that those that could not benefit should remain patient and might get one day.

“I attended, and I saw how these people were jubilating for the empowerment that impressed me dearly. Anyone jubilating I felicitate with him and any with sorry, I condole him, I believe one day is our chance to jubilate too, congratulation to the beneficiaries,” he said.

READ: G-5 Governors For Bala Mohammed’s Campaign Flagg-Off, No Mention of Atiku

Governor Bala is seeking reelection for another four years term under PDP against the Sadique Baba Abubakar of All Progressives Congress (APC) and Senator Halliru Dauda Jika of the New Nigerian Party (NNPP).

# UBA Wires N109,000 From Student's Account Through Uninstalled Mobile App

By Idris Kamal Ibrahim

In midnight transactions, a sum of N109,000 belonging to a student of Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State, Feyishade Adejoke, was wired from her account domiciled with United Bank for Africa (UBA) using a mobile application she had never installed on her phone.

Adejoke told WikkiTimes that the money was wired in the wee hours of December 28, 2022.

“The money was transferred through a mobile app and I don't have a mobile app on my phone nor did I activate a USSD code for my UBA account,” she explained.

READ: Kuda Bank Completely Refunds Student's N15,000 After WikkiTimes' Stories

Further, Adejoke said it stuns her that the scammers were able to steal her money despite having her phone with her,

“My phone was with me all through that day. I didn't even get any welcome to UBA mobile message nor did I get any OTP code for the activation of the mobile app,” she told WikkiTimes. “I woke up and did not even know. Until the following morning when I woke up to see the alert. And I did not initiate any transaction.”

Adejoke added that the money was wired in three different transactions — the third one after she ordered her account be blocked.

“N20,000 was first debited and another N80, 000 followed,” she narrated. “I quickly picked up my ATM card and downloaded the UBA mobile app but couldn't activate it. I intended to transfer the remaining N9,000 but my ATM card was blocked.”

She, however, believes that her money was stolen by workers of the bank.

“See, my money was stolen with the help of the UBA staff,” she told our reporter. “They have fraudsters among them because they blocked my card before they began transferring the fund.”

Subsequently, Adejoke called the bank's customer care line to suspend all transactions on her account, but a responder who picked up the call confirmed to her that the account had been blocked.

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

“I called customer care service that they should suspend all transactions on my account and they said that they blocked it but I was amazed when the remaining N9,000 left my account,” she grieved.

When Adejoke visited the bank, the staff told her they were investigating the matter. She got the same response in the email she sent to them. Although, she was urged to be patient till January 10, 2023. Yet, her money is still missing.

At press time, WikkiTimes emailed UBA but did not receive a response. Similarly, an email sent to Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, (FCCPC), a subsidiary of Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment responsible for protecting market competition and promoting consumer protection, had not been responded to.



*Cont'd from page 8*

Idris Muhammed, the officer-in-charge of Kazurawa Primary Health Centre, said the health facility had been abandoned.

“For the past two years, the condition of the health facility is getting worse. Now, we can’t take deliveries. If we must, then we must call the traditional birth attendant. There is no ward to admit sick patients, no drugs, and no staff; I am the only staff here at the health facility (oic),” Idris said.

#### **KANO CHOLERA OUTBREAK**

Ibrahim was one out of the 369 deaths recorded in Kano state during the cholera outbreak in 2021. Between March 2021, when the outbreak started, and June 22 of the same year, 119 deaths were recorded in a caseload of 3,209 across 33 of the 44 local government areas in the state. Gaya and Bichi LGAs had the highest number of infected persons.

A cursory look at the cholera figures showed the government’s poor epidemic preparedness and management. In July 2021, the number of cholera casualties rose from 119 to 169 out of 5221 cases in the 41 LGAs hit by the outbreak. In August, the figure rose further to 173 out of 5316 laboratory-confirmed cases.

A month later, 329 people died with the number of laboratory-confirmed cases rising to 11,475 across the entire 44 LGAs in the state. Gaya LGA ranked the highest with over 2,000 cases.

#### **FINANCIAL MISAPPROPRIATION**

The Primary Healthcare Centre in Kazurawa community in Kano State is in deplorable condition despite the N3 billion provided by the state Primary Health Care Management Board in 2021 to fix healthcare centres in the state.

The decrepitude of the healthcare centre that was serving thousands of Kazurawa dwellers contributed to the pain and anguish residents felt. Many pregnant women lost their babies while sick patients risked their lives to the inadequate treatment provided by the only health facility available to the residents of the community.

WikkiTimes reported that in the same year, the Kano Ministry of Health received N30.720 billion to address health issues in the state.

In its Q1 2021 budget performance report, the state reported it had spent N2.899 billion on healthcare. Its Primary Health Care Management Board also approved a N3.021 billion budget for the rehabilitation and maintenance of primary healthcare facilities in the state.

Despite the billions of naira earmarked for improvement of healthcare delivery in the state, and the state government’s reported “great work” in primary healthcare delivery, the only healthcare facility in Kazurawa remained neglected.

The Kano state government should work to reduce the mortality rate of its citizens by improving medical equipment and facilities and supporting communities to implement affordable and effective access to medical services.

This report is done with support from the African Data Hub.



# 15 Die, 19 Injured In Bauchi, Niger Accidents

By Yawale Adamu

At least 15 persons have reportedly died while 19 others injured in three separate auto crashes in Bauchi and Niger States over the weekend.

WikkiTimes gathered that in one of the accidents along Bauchi-Maiduguri Expressway, 7 persons lost their lives while 14 others were severely injured.

Bauchi State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC) Yusuf Abdullahi while confirming the accident said, “a fatal motor accident that occurred on Saturday, the eve of the new year 2023, claimed 7 lives while 14 others were variously injured.”

He said two vehicles, a VW Sharoon model minibus with the registration number DRZ 47 YZ and a Fiat model Pick-up van used for commercial purposes were involved in the accident at about 1Km away from Badaromo Village along the Bauchi-Maiduguri Expressway.

The Sector Commander said the accident occurred as a result of a speed limit violation and the use of worn-out tyres.

Mr Abdullahi said, “the road traffic crash involved 21 persons comprising 18 Male Adults and 3 Female Adults out of which 7 people comprising 6 male adults and 1 female adult were killed on the spot while 14 people comprising 12 Male Adults and 2 Female Adults were variously injured.”

He said FRSC operatives took the injured victims to the ATBUTH, Bauchi for medical attention while the dead were taken for confirmation and deposited at the morgue.

Similarly, Four persons lost their lives in another accident involving two motorcycles at a junction along the Kurum – Bogoro junction in the Bogoro local government area of Bauchi state.

An eyewitness said that the two motorcyclists who were coming from opposite directions had a head-on collision at the junction leading to the death of four

persons while two travellers sustained varying degrees of injuries.

He said before the crash, one of the motorcycles operated without headlights making it difficult for the other rider from the opposite direction to be aware thereby leading to the crash.

A father to one of the victims involved in the accident, Daniel Haruna, who confirmed the crash narrated how his son perished in the accident saying, “yes, my son was killed in the unfortunate accident.

“He and his friend left home yesterday evening to go to a nearby village called Kurum, but, a few minutes later, I received a phone call that they were involved in an accident.

“I went to the hospital and saw his lifeless body. As I am talking to you, we are planning for their burials. The dead people are four in number while those injured are currently receiving treatment at the general hospital, Bogoro.”

Again, 4 persons died and 3 others were injured in a lone road crash in Niger State yesterday.

NAN reports that a truck heading to Kano from Lagos laden with chemicals with about 47 passengers seating on top was involved in the accident.

“Forty-nine male persons were involved in the accident; four of them died, while three others sustained injuries and 42 escaped unhurt.

“The injured victims were rescued and taken to the General hospital Lapai, while the dead were deposited at the same hospital mortuary in Lapai.

” The vehicle and items recovered were handed over to the Police outpost office at Nami village for safekeeping,” Mr Kumar Tsukwam Niger FRSC Sector Commander said



# Despite Lost of Lives in His Convoy, Gov Bala Holds Reelection Campaign

By Babaji Usman



Despite two lives lost to an auto crash in his convoy, Bala Mohammed, Bauchi State Governor went ahead with his reelection campaign at Bakori village in Gamawa local council.

The incident which occurred yesterday, claimed a female passerby and a driver who rammed into her with a Golf model vehicle in the governor's convoy.

It was gathered that Governor Bala's convoy was heading to Gamawa for his campaign ahead of the forthcoming governorship elections slated for March.

READ: ANALYSIS: Removal of Kirfi Could Be Costly for Bala Mohammed — But There Is a Way Out

One of the governor's entourage (name withheld), explained that the vehicle hit the woman from the village and lost control into a bush where the driver and the woman crushed died instantly.

According to him, other victims who sustained various degrees of injuries were rushed to a hospital for treatment, while the campaign was in progress.

However, Governor Bala in a Twitter post says he was excited about the campaigns and urged voters to give him another chance of four years.

"Today we took our ward-to-ward campaign to the Ubudo Ward, Gamawa Local Government Area, Bauchi State. I'm excited at the massive support and love from our people. 4+4," he tweeted.

Yusuf Abdullahi, Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Bauchi Sector denied the involvement of the governor's convoy in the accident.

READ: Loyalists Berate 'Lopsided' Gov Bala's Empowerment Program

"No motor crash recorded in Gov's convoy, unless if from another groups of cars, because there different groups of convoys in the campaign," he told said.

But WikkiTimes understands that the sector commander did not know about the accident as he asked our reporter to avail him further details.

"In which hospital the victims are hospitalised? Confirm so that we know what to do," he urged.

Mukhtar Gidado, Special Adviser on Media to the governor could not be reached for comments. At press time, a text sent to him had not been responded to.



*The deceased persons covered with leaves*



*The governor and hi team during the campaign at Gamawas*



# Former ABU Vice-Chancellor, Bursar Divert Over N1bn From Varsity's Accounts for Personal Gains

By Babaji Usman



Erstwhile Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Professor Ibrahim Garba, and Ibrahim Shehu Usman, former Bursar of the institution allegedly wired over one billion naira from different accounts belonging to the institution.

According to Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the duo were arraigned before Justice A. A Bello of Kaduna State High Court over the allegation.

READ: OBITUARY: Prof Mahadi's Footprints as Vice Chancellor of Gombe Varsity, ABU Zaria

They are being tried on eight-count charge bordering on theft and money laundering.

The anti-graft agency in a tweet explained that the academic figures were arraigned following "months of discreet investigation triggered by a petition accusing the duo of diverting monies meant for the renovation of the popular Kongo Conference Hotel, Zaria."

"The investigation established that over one billion Naira was allegedly stolen from different accounts of the institution by the defendants and diverted into their private accounts," EFCC tweeted.

A professor of Geology, Garba was appointed as the 14th Vice-Chancellor of ABU in 2015.

# Kano Woman Speaks Up After Herbalist Denies Impregnating Her

A Kano-based woman (name withheld) has spoken out about a seven-month-old pregnancy she conceived after an 'unwilling' affair with Muhammad Mansur, a herbalist in Kode town of Dawakin Kudu local council.

Daily Trust reports that the woman had gone for medication when the herbalist lured her into the affair. The herbalist would later be arrested by men of Hisbah, an Islamic law enforcement body in Kano.

READ: Wife of DSS Boss, A'isha Bichi, Incites Unrest at Kano Airport, Orders Aides to Brutalise Photographer Filming Scene

"When I accompanied my mother to his place, he told her that she should be coming along with me," she explained. "One day I went there alone and he said he must sleep with me before he will assist with the medication I needed. In fact, he said it wouldn't work if we didn't do so. That is what happened."

"I want the Hisbah to help me. I have a seven-month pregnancy, and he is trying to reject it," she added.

READ: Eight Years After Killing Step Mother, Kano Man to Die by Hanging However, the herbalist, Mansur, confessed to the crime, blaming it on devil.

"She came to my place for medication, but you know the devil is everywhere if you are not careful. I accept my offence and I want the Hisbah to please forgive me," he pleaded.

But, Ustaz Kabiru Musa Dawakiji, the local council's Hisbah Commandant, said the agency's head office will handle the matter.



# ‘Refund My Money in Full’ — Former Zenith Bank Staff Cries Out After ‘Recovering’ N800,000 Out of N4.039m Wired From Her Account

By Babaji Usman

Chiamaka Jennifer, a Lagos-based former staff with Zenith Bank, is calling on the bank to completely refund over N4 million fraudulently transferred from her account on January 9.

According to the ex-staff who lost her job last month, her money was transferred into two accounts — N3.2 million into an Access Bank account belonging to one Malikalu Isah and N102,000 into one Bakabe Abdulrahman Sani’s account domiciled with United Bank for Africa (UBA).

The bank, however, said only N800,000 out of N3.2 million wired into Isah’s Access Bank account could be salvaged. Jennifer in a video posted on her Twitter handle explained that the bank told her to get a court order before they could probe the crime further.

She explained that the account from where the money was moved was her staff account and, she believes that the account was compromised by an insider as the money was moved in a few minutes.

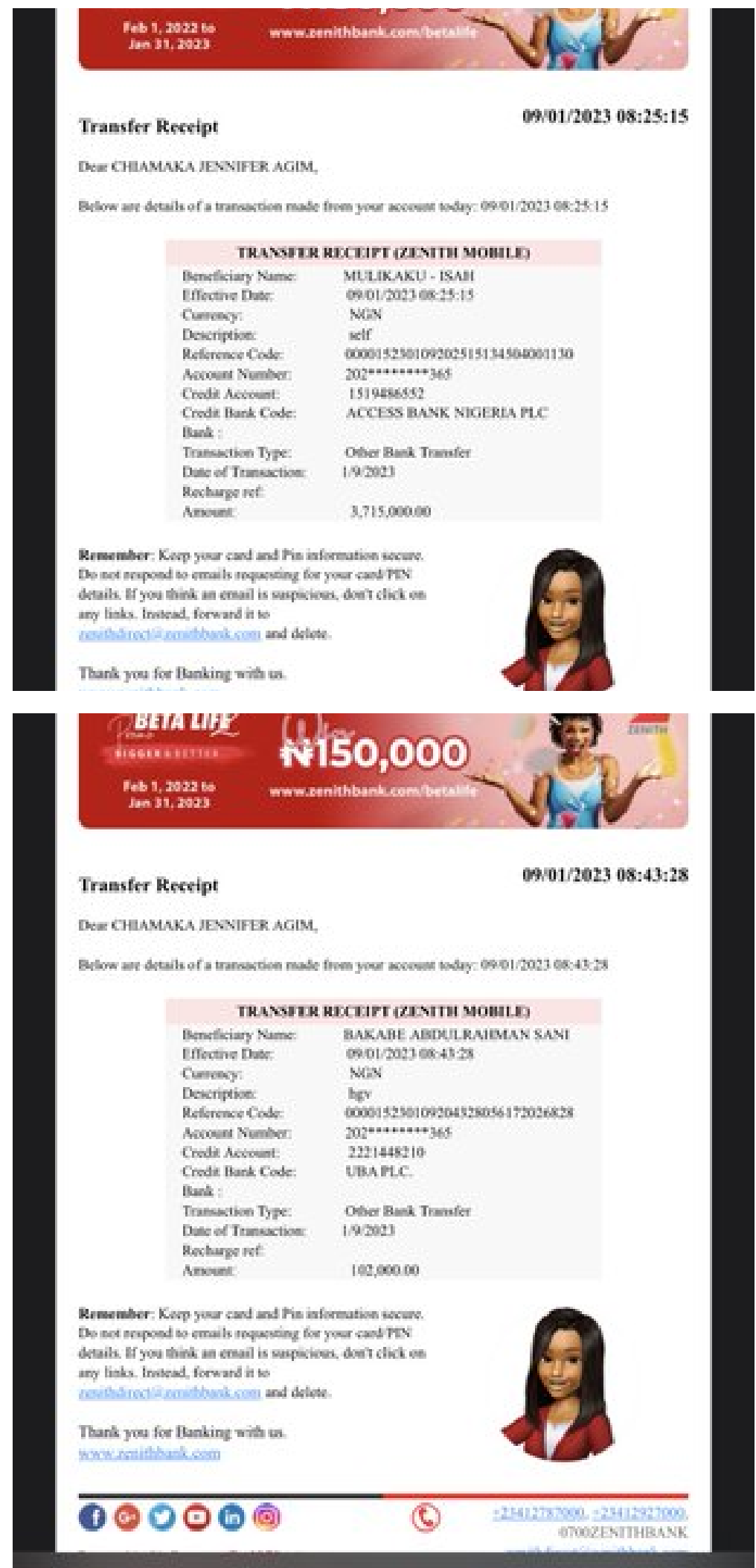
Jennifer received a debit alert of N3.7 million to the Access Bank account around 8. 43 pm on January 9, and within a minute she received another alert of N222, 900 to the same account. In the interval of five minutes, there was another debit alert of N102,000 to the UBA account, leaving her account with N12,000.

The victim further revealed that she was shocked when such huge amount left her account when the daily transfer limit on her account is N200,000.

FIJ had reported that Zenith Bank told the lady she should thank God for being alive after losing her money.

According to the medium, Zenith Bank told the victim it was liable for the incident since her e-Token and four-digit secret PIN details were used to enroll on the Mobile Banking App on a device.

At press time, an enquiry sent to Zenith Bank had not been responded to.



Screenshots of the transactions

Gwallagan Mayaka, a suburb of Bauchi State which is four kilometres away from the Government House, harbours about 20,000 locals, all of whom rely on a volunteer health worker who provides selfless healthcare services in a rented shop.

Not only that, the community also lacks access to a motorable road even as it links to the seat of power in Bauchi metropolis.

Aliyu Umar, Wakilin Gwallagan Mayaka [the district head] told WikkiTimes that lack of healthcare centres in the community exposed locals to untold hardships, citing women as the most vulnerable.

“We don’t have a good healthcare center,” Umar lamented. “When our family members, especially women fall sick, we suffer before we get to the hospital.”

According to findings, a Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) was established in the community about seven years ago, but it continues to degenerate from its own structure to a rented shop where the volunteer is rendering healthcare service to the locals.

Initially, Bauchi local council hired an apartment for the centre, but members of the community, at a point were left to offset the rent bill. This was after the first year’s rent had elapsed.

The facility was relocated after community members could not renew the rent. A contingent of community members under the aegis of Village Development Committee (VDC) rented another apartment afterwards, but the cash-strapped facility later found its way to a shop.

“Initially, the local government rented an apartment for the healthcare center for one year,” revealed the district head. “But due to its failure in renewing the rent, we were chased out of the apartment and we later got another temporary building rented by our community association, Village Development Committee (VDC). We were again ejected after the expiration of one year’s rent. We are now using a shop.”

#### **MANY OBSTACLES AT ONCE**

Umar, the district head told WikkiTimes the facility had a permanent staff before the government transferred him.

“We only have a volunteer staff in the center. There was a permanent staff initially but he was relocated somewhere,” he revealed. “And for being alone, he [the volunteer] cannot always be there. He is trying his best but there is no way he could do better.”

“What worsens the situation is we don’t have a good road. So access to a hospital takes us over 4 km on our dreaded road. Had you come here two months earlier, you wouldn’t have ridden on your motorcycle.

Umar grieved that several women in labour died on the road while trying to access hospitals in Bauchi metropolis.

He hoped the state government would look into their plights in no time. “This government is trying, so we are still optimistic that our challenges would at least be addressed.”

Umar revealed that VDC, in the last five years, contributed N450,000 and acquired land for the facility, but could not afford to erect a structure on it. “We are seriously in need of a healthcare centre or hospital,” he pleaded, adding the community hosts at least 20,000 people.

He stated that the community is geographically part of Bauchi metropolis, but socially isolated. “It seems like we are from a remote village,” Umar said in anguish.

WikkiTimes could not access the facility as it was locked when our reporter visited the community. Locals told him the volunteer had just left some moment before his arrival.

In 2021, Bauchi State Government claimed it spent about N2.5 billion on construction and renovation of the PHCs across the state, but Gwallaga PHC which is just about four kilometres away from the governor’s seat is still in its shadow.

Dr Rilwanu Mohammed, Chairman, Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development did not respond to phone calls and text messages requesting his comment about the PHC.

## **Plateau Pastor Set Ablaze Colleagues’ Cars, Bicycle**

Albarka Bitrus, a Jos-based pastor, allegedly set alight two cars and a bicycle belonging to some clerics he believed hated him, according to a police report.

The same pastor was arrested by Plateau Police Command arrested for staging his abduction and pocketing ransom from sympathising church members.

Spokesman for the command, Alabo Alfred, in a statement, said Bitrus disclosed that on January 1, 2023, he set ablaze a Mercedes Benz, a Toyota car and a bicycle, parked at ECWA Bishara 3, Jenta Apata, Jos, owned by his colleagues because they hated him.

WikkiTimes had reported that the pastor had on two different occasions connived with some guys to kidnap him. He would rake in N600,000 afterwards.



*Continued from page 2*

Despite being in the same party as Atiku, Bala on several occasions alleged that the former vice president was treating him badly and working against his bid for re-election just because he contested against him in the party's primaries.

READ: Ahead of Bauchi Gov'ship Election, Communities Seek Direction From Kirfi

Moreover, Kirfi held a stakeholders' meeting at his residence in Bauchi just a few days before he was sacked and reportedly directed his loyalists to mobilise for the presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar "only", but had not made up his mind on whom to support for the governorship election in the state.

This was the last in the row of why the governor directed Kirfi's removal.

In no time, Bala picked a new Wazirin Bauchi Alhaji Muhammad Uba Ahmed Kari (who is not popular as the deposed Waziri), from another zone of the state — central in particular leaving the north, his home zone in regret and grievances.

Moreover, political analysts believe Bala will never get the votes he expects from the zone where the new Waziri comes from. According to them, that is not just because the new Waziri's zone shares a border with that of Sadique Baba Abubakar, Bala's closest rival and the APC gubernatorial candidate, but also because the sacking of Kirfi as Wazirin Bauchi is already creating nightmares for Governor Bala.

The fact is that things are going out of hand for Governor Bala with respect to Kirfi's removal as the Waziri. The rift soured and a new Waziri was turbaned.



### **BUT THERE IS A WAY OUT**

While the mild war lingers, Bala could only exploit other strategies for winning the election but for Waziri's support "the one that brought him to power", the red line has already been drawn and "missiles" have started firing. The competition on who will make and mar between Kirfi and Bala would only be assessed after gubernatorial polls. But analysts believe Bala could still wither the storm. One of the ways to do that is to align himself more prominently with the masses. It means more incentives, and more empowerment for the vulnerable, the less privileged and the youth. Many also believe he needs to raise new frontiers of powers that could decimate Kirfi's influence, particularly in areas the former Waziri holds sway for ages. All these and more will help Bala Mohammed silence Kirfi's influence. But it has to be done dispassionately. In doing so, he must defy emotions— but above all, he needs good advisers and political strategists who have a good sense of judgment and who are also ready to relegate emotions.





Adamu Muhammad Hamid PhD

## 2023 Elections: Moment of Voting Preparation and Decision

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) revealed last week that there are about 8 million Permanent Voter Cards yet to be collected across 17 states of Nigeria. This is in spite of aggressive mobilization of the public by the commission through mass media and interpersonal channels for the collection of the cards. Remember, the 8 million figure is of citizens who have actually taken interest to register but did not turn up to collect the cards. No one is talking about or considers the number of those who did not submit themselves for the biometric registration for whatever reason! Voter turnout in the last election in 2019 was the worst (34.75% of registered voters) since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999. If the figure translates as a percentage of eligible voters, data shows it's mere 26.87 %, which literally means the nation's election was of low quality because the basic metric for quality democracy is in terms of voter turnout. The trend of downward slide of the quality of Nigeria's democracy started since 2007, and continued downwards by the passing general elections. Voter turnout in 1999 was 52.3%, 69.1 % in 2003, then 57.5 % in 2007, 53.7 % in 2011 and 43.7% in 2015.

In collaboration with UNDP, INEC had initiated adequate voter education and sensitization process across Nigeria. For example three months ago, the commission engaged civil society on the new voting procedure and technological advancement in voting, i.e. the introduction of Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), and the Provisions of the revised or amended electoral laws 2022. This was carried out at

six centers across the six geo-political zones; the one for Northeast took place at Garden Hotel, Adamawa.

NCC Launches Smart Clinic In Bauchi Teaching Hospital

Mr Matthew Alao, Head of UNDP Governance in Nigeria praised INEC at the occasion for conducting free and fair elections in Ekiti state. Going on to specify that one of the functions of INEC is voter education, as provided for by the Electoral Act, 2006. INEC should tell people How to Vote, but not Who to Vote for! INEC should also conceptualize and institutionalize voter education in school curricula. In the process of voter education, it should engage interpersonal, traditional and mass media channels. So at the workshop, INEC personnel sensitized participants on innovations and voting procedure for 2023 elections. And generally, across the six geopolitical zones, INEC detailed on crucial themes such as access to voting, targeting traditionally marginalized groups, gender and age-related issues in voting, new technology, integrity, environment, sustainability and election conflict management.

The New Technology and Voting

One of the most important issues that the new technology for voting called BVAS has helped bypass is the two cumbersome processes of round of voter verification first before the round of balloting, which created many difficulties in former elections. Now the Bi-modal Voter Authentication System (BVAS) bypasses that by having face and thumbprint alternatives; so voter authentication and balloting could take place all at once. The Smart Card Reader (SCR) was also dropped because of many shortcomings. It was made to read PVCs which must always be

kept away from direct sunlight, wet surfaces, etc. The SCR does not read defaced cards, or cards whose antenna was broken.

In former general elections, the alternative provided to mitigate such situations was the Incidence Form, which voters filled in order to have voting eligibility when SCR fail to read PVCs or fail to authenticate the voter. True to Nigerian character, politicians and voters grossly abused this window alternative, so INEC had to block this miserable specimen of gap in the process by introducing the new BVAS. With BVAS, there is no need for electronic verification of voters' cards.

The BVAS will just verify a voter's fingerprint or face after running on the bar code of a particular voter's registration on paper.

So in 2023 election, voting is expected to be fast and hitch free, given the ability of the BVAS which efficiency had been test run in Ekiti, Osun and Anambra gubernatorial elections.

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