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Bauchi Flood Victims Face Disfranchisement After Losing Voter Cards

By Idris Kamal

few weeks to Nigeria's general elections, many residents of Katagum local government area of Bauchi State who voted in previous elections are still uncertain about exercising their voting rights this time around.

Their possible disfranchisement is not of their making. A devastating flood that swept away homes in many parts of the country last year not only destroyed their properties but also their vital documents, including their permanent voter cards.

No eligible voter can vote without PVC, according to the Independent National Electoral Commission. Hence, those who had registered but have either lost their voter card or never collected it from INEC cannot vote during the 2023 general elections.

While the people of Katagum struggle to recover from the devastating flood, many of them are following the current political campaigns with dismay as their hope of casting their ballots is dashed.

"I lost my PVC to the flood," said Adamu Bulama Gara who lives in Gara in Katagum. "Five other members of my household are without their cards despite obtaining and guarding them since 2019."

WikkiTimes gathered that more than 120 people in Gara could not trace the whereabouts of their PVCs after the flood. They complained that INEC had not made alternative arrangements for them to participate in the elections.

"It is painful to watch others elect leaders for your country," Adamu Bulama Gara said. "They might not elect the candidates you wanted. Everybody has their preferred candidates in mind. This is even more so in this dispensation. We want to vote for competent leaders who will secure our lives with a shelter to sleep under and food on the table."

INEC, however, declined to comment on the fate of those who lost their voter cards to the flood.

The INEC spokesperson in Bauchi declined to respond to multiple requests for comment by WikkiTimes.

In Gamawa local government, many inhabitants in Kore and Kubdiya who were hardest hit by the flood are pleading for alternative arrangements for them to cast their ballots after losing their PVC.

Gamawa is surrounded by River Jama'are which flows from mountains in Plateau State and Hadeja River in Jigawa State flowing from Kano State alluvial plains that support all year-round farming activities.

A large percentage of the residents of Kore who are of voting age lost their PVC to the flood.

Hauwa'u Abdullahi, 30, whose thatch house was swept away in the flood has given up hope of voting in the general elections.

"At the height of the flood, no one thought of their PVCs because the trauma was so tense at that time," she told **WikkiTimes**.

"Initially, we had our PVCs but cannot find them now. Three of us in the house have no cards to vote in this year's general elections," she added.

"INEC should consider us by making a special provision to accommodate exigencies of our type," said Furera Idi, a 25-year-old resident of Kore.

Villagers from Kore ward in Gamawa have been pleading to their councillor Sarki Garba to intervene on the matter.

Garba told **WikkiTimes** that at least nine persons complain to him almost every day about their missing voter cards with the hope that he could find the solution for them to cast their ballots.

"I took up their complaints, but nothing was done in response to the cries yet," Garba said. "Our hopes remain as high as ever," he added.

A lecturer with Sa'adu Zungur University Gadau, Dr Adamu Wunti opined that INEC ought to consider replacing PVCs for flood victims, adding it does not amount to new enrolment.

"This is an emergency. It is a crisis situation where some people were involved in a natural disaster. The 2023 Electoral Act is explicit about PVC and temporary cards. It is only those in possession of PVC are allowed to cast votes.

"Since we have challenges and this is a challenge that was not planned for, this is a period when there is a need for a concession on the side of INEC. The original PVCs of flood victims can be reproduced for them to enable take part in the elections," he said.

This report was published with support from Civic Media Lab

EXPOSED: How Abba Kyari Forced Suspect to Implicate Saraki in Offa Robbery Trial

By Umar Yunusa

Abba Kyari, a disgraced Nigerian super-cop allegedly forced one of the suspected armed robbers, who wreaked havoc in Offa town, Kwara State, on April 5, 2018, to implicate Bukola Saraka, Nigeria's former Senate President.

In a continued trial of the 2018 robbery, Ayoade Akinninbosun, one of the suspects told Kwara State High Court, sitting in Ilorin that Kyari offered him N10 million to indict Saraki in the case.

At the time, Kyari was heading Intelligence Response Team (IRT), a police tactical squad.

In addition to the money, Akinninbosun claimed Kyari promised to give him a visa to any country of his choice if he could implicate Saraki for the robbery.

Reports had it that five suspects — Ayoade Akinninbosun, Ibikunle Ogunleye, Adeola Abraham and two others — were charged to court by the police for criminal conspiracy to rob banks, murder of nine policemen and other citizens.

They were also accused of illegal possession of firearms.

CONSPIRACY

During cross-examination by the Defence Counsel, Mathias Emeribe (SAN), Akinninbosun revealed he was offered N10 million to claim that Saraki asked them to carry out the robbery operation.

According to him, he declined the offer stressing he would not implicate an innocent person.

His words: "He said I should admit and say Saraki was the one who asked us to go and rob. I told him I won't do that. That I will rather die for what I didn't do than to lie against an innocent man.

"He asked me to think over his offer very well. At this point he ordered officers Hassan and Moshood to return me to the cell. A separate one different from where others are and they should stop torturing me."

After declining the offer, Kyari's boys threatened Akinninbosun following a gruesome murder of some "Fulani" men in his presence.

"We were like 15 to 20 taken to Abuja, I only know a few of them.

We were put outside and served meals, but I couldn't eat because my hands were paralyzed due to the torture I went through in their hands in Ilorin. They asked Kunle Ogunleye to feed me.

"They separated five of us, put us in the generator house and Officer Hassan Attila ordered they brought some men. They went to bring five Fulani men. They brought them and killed them all in my presence.

"I was told that was not a film. He asked me to stretch my legs and shot my right leg. He shot the second leg but when I tried shifting the leg, it hit my tomb," he added.

Further, Akinninbosun showed his gunshot wound in the courtroom.

Akinninbosun said he eventually agreed to implicate Saraki after the police killed one of the robbery suspects, Micheal Adikwu in his presence.

Following his revelation, Justice Alimat Salman, the presiding judge, adjourned the case till February 13, 2023.

Kyari is currently in Kuje prison facility following his involvement in cybercrime and drug trafficking allegations.

Anonymous Man Seeks Second Wife, Promises N1 Million Dowry

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

An unnamed man is seeking a compatible spouse he wants as his second wife with a promise of a one million naira bride price and a lowkey ceremony.

Halal matchmaking, an online matchmaking platform connecting prospective Muslim spouses, posted this on its Twitter handle.

According to the matchmaking platform, the 49-year-old man, aside from the one million naira dowry, vowed to pay N200,000 as compensation for pre-wedding pictures and dinner events.

"No Lefe No Furnitures and he will pay N1 Million for Dowry + N200k for compensation of pre wedding pictures and Dinner," the platform tweeted.

"I don't need furniture and kitchen items. I will not do Lefe," the platform quoted him to have said.

Lefe is a marriage tradition observed in Northern Nigeria where the intended groom takes boxes of clothing to the bride which she brings along to her marital home.

872 Bauchi Women Died In 6 Months Amid Dearth of Midwives

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

As Bauchi State healthcare centres continue to wallow amid a dearth of professional midwives and birth attendants, about 872 women died of maternal and perinatal clinical conditions between July to December 2022.

The deaths, WikkiTimes learnt were recorded in about 123 health facilities across the state.

Jummai Inuwa, the Focal Person of Bauchi State's Maternal and Perinatal Deaths Surveillance Review (MPDSR) disclosed this in Bauchi.

Inuwa said Bauchi State MPDSR recorded 56 maternal and 816 perinatal deaths from July to December 2022. The MPDSR data is from 123 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) and 20 general hospitals; 31 maternal and 330 perinatal deaths were reviewed within the stipulated period."

To her, the general hospital in Toro recorded 14 maternal deaths, Ningi 11 and Azare six, adding that Toro recorded 162 perinatal deaths, Ningi 111 and Misau 106.

The focal person also said that some measures to be employed to reduce the burden include access to antenatal care, post-abortion care, task shifting and sharing, among others.

Dr Isiaka Alhasan said a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2022, indicated that Bauchi's health indices were poor; hence, the need for an in-depth conversation on doing the right thing for quality medicare.

MPDSR is a form of continuous surveillance that links the health information system and quality improvement processes from local to national levels, which includes routine identification, notification, quantification and determination of causes and avoids ability of all

maternal and perinatal deaths, as well as the use of such information to respond with actions that will prevent future deaths.

The Pause and Reflection Meeting is organised quarterly by the Integrated Health Programme (IHP) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to ascertain activities, and identify issues and recommendations to expedite action in health and education sectors in the state.

Over 2,000 Kidnapped in Kaduna, Niger, Zamfara Last Year

By Hamzat Ibrahim Abaga

In 2022, a total of 4,616 persons were reported to have been victims of kidnapping across Nigeria, with Kaduna, Niger and Zamfara States topping the list.

According to a Twitter post by TheCableIndex, Kaduna tops the chart with a total of 1,166, Niger with 782 and Zamfara has 691 cases.

Other states on the list include Katsina, Sokoto, and Plateau with 412, 251, and 129 cases respectively. While Adamawa has two, Osun and Kano have three each and Lagos has four.

Across the six geo-political regions of the country, the northwest has the highest number of victims with a total of 2,587, the north-central 1,180, and the northeast 303. Others include South-south with 274, Southwest with 137 and Northeast with 135.



In Midnight Terror, Gunmen Set Niger Pastor on Fire

By Yunusa Umar

In the wee hours of Sunday, gun-wielding terrorists invaded Kaffin-Koro Village in Paikoro local council of Niger State and set alight a Reverend Father of St. Peters and Paul Catholic Church, Isaac Archi.

It was also gathered that the gunmen also shot the clergy's associate, Father Collins, on his shoulder while trying to escape the attack. After inhumanely setting him ablaze, the gunmen also put fire to the church.

According to reports, the pastor was burnt to ashes while his associate who sustained a gunshot wound was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Wasiu Abiodun, spokesman for Niger Police Command, confirmed the attack in a press statement.

“On 15/01/2023 at about 0300hrs, armed bandits invaded the Parish residence of one Rev. Father Isaac Achi of St. Peters and Paul Catholic Church, along Daza road, Kafin-Koro, Paikoro LGA.

“Unfortunately, the bandits reportedly attempted to gain entrance into the residence, but seems difficult and set the house ablaze, while the said Rev. Father was burnt dead.

“A colleague of the Rev. Father identified as Father Collins was equally shot on the shoulder while trying to escape from the scene,” the statement read.

He, however, stated that police tactical teams attached to Kaffin-Koro Division were immediately deployed to the scene, but the gunmen had escaped before their arrival.



Bauchi Fatal Auto-Crash Kills 5, Injures 12 others

By Idris Kamal



The Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) in Bauchi has confirmed that at least five people died in a fatal auto crash with 12 others injured.

Speaking to journalists, the Bauchi State Sector Commander of the FRSC, Yusuf Abdullahi said the accident occurred at Kili Village, along the Darazo-Kari road, in Darazo local government area of the state.

He said the crash involved two vehicles, a commercial Hiace Hummer Bus which belongs to the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and a white Peugeot Boxer.

“There was fatal multiple crashes that occurred at RS 12.12 Darazo, Zebra 45 at Kili Village along Darazo-Kari road on Saturday, 14th January 2023, at about 1:37 am.

“Immediately we were called, our men rushed to the scene within nine minutes for a rescue operation. The rescue team evacuated them and rushed them to the Darazo General Hospital, for treatment and confirmation.

“It was at the hospital that a medical doctor confirmed five people, three male adults and two male adults, dead. 12 others, 10 male adults and two female adults, sustained varying degrees of bruises.

“The corpses were deposited at the morgue of the General Hospital Darazo. The rescue team returned to the base successfully.

“There were a total of 21 people involved in the crash, made up of 16 male adults and five female adults,” he stated.

Abdullahi who said that “the crash was caused by dangerous driving,” advised motorists, “to always abide by the laid down road traffic rules and regulations to avoid these crashes that often lead to loss of lives and properties.”

WikkiTimes recalls that 18 persons were burnt to death in another accident along the ever-busy Bauchi-Jos expressway early this month.

Why Civil Defence, Vigilantes Officers 'Brutalised' Policeman in Bauchi

By Babaji Usman



Last Saturday, men of local vigilantes and an officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) allegedly brutalised a police officer, Sulaiman Umar in Bauchi metropolis.

Umar told WikkiTimes the irate NSCDC officer identified as ASC Hassan Usman and his team from the state vigilantes group — Baushe Hunters — brutalised and left him even after identifying himself as a police officer.

The victim explained he was driving along Nasarawa Gate when their convoy was intercepted by a tricyclist.

“That was when I diverted my car and they started insulting me. As we drove further, they stood in my way and we both parked,” Umar narrated. “The NSCDC officer, ASC Hassan just came out from their Hilux vehicle and started flogging me with a cane even after I showed him my ID card and a pistol with me.”

“His team members could not wait, they continued dragging, beating me and matching me on the ground.”

Sulaiman explained that one of the vigilantes' members under the watch of the NSCDC officer used a gun wood (gun butt) on him.

He said the suspects fled when the villagers trooped out to challenge them for their wrongdoing before he was rushed to Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital by their boss Umar Shayi.

Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, spokesperson for Bauchi State Police Command confirmed the incident, noting that the matter is under investigation and anyone confirmed guilty will face the wrath of the law.

“We received the report of criminal conspiracy and assault, thuggery, on the 14 January,” Wakil said. “The commissioner of police has directed for discrete investigation and the investigation is in progress. And anyone found wanting will face the wrath of the law.”

But NSCDC described the allegation against his officer as baseless and uncalled for.

Ibrahim Abubakar Gafdo, spokesman for NSCDC, Bauchi Command told WikkiTimes that the agency's officer was only attached to the convoy of the governor's adviser and intervened in the faceoff “to rescue the victim.”

He said the police officer had intervened when the cyclist intercepted the convoy.

“The police officer intervened and started raining insults on them. Then the men of Umaru Shayi (Baushe hunters) reprised and started beating him. That was the time our officer ASC Hassan intervened and rescued the police officer,” the spokesman claimed “The allegation against our officer is not true.”

Gov Yahaya Appoints 11 Caretaker Chairmen for Gombe Local Councils

By Babaji Usman

Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, Gombe State Governor has approved the appointment of Caretaker Chairmen for the 11 local councils in the State.

This is contained in a statement signed by Ismaila Uba Misilli, Director-General of Press, noting that the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, conveyed the governor's approval.

He explained that Abubakar Usman Barambu is now the caretaker chairman of Akko LGA, as Garba Umar Garus was appointed to oversee Balanga LGA.

Margret Bitrus, will take care of Billiri LGA, Jamilu Ahmed Shabewa – Dukku LGA, Ibrahim Adamu Cheldu – Funakaye LGA, Aliyu Usman Haruna – Gombe LGA, Faruk Aliyu Umar – Kaltungo LGA and Ibrahim Buba will chair Kwami LGA.

Others are Salisu Shu'aibu Dendele, Yohanna Nahari and Garba Usman for Nafada, Shongom and Yamaltu Deba local councils respectively.

According to the statement, all the appointees would immediately take charge of their respective roles.

Gombe State conducted the local government elections in 2020, where candidates under the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) were declared winners of all 11 local governments in the state including 114 councillorship positions.

Bauchi Man Bags 15-Months Imprisonment For Stealing Ex-Gov's Air Conditioner

The presiding judge of Bauchi State Shariah Court no 2, Barrister Mukhtar Adamu Bello Dambam has sentenced one Abubakar Sadiq for stealing an Air Conditioner after he trespassed into the residence of a former governor of the state, Muhammad Abdullahi Abubakar (SAN).

Sadiq was accused of forcing his way into the house of the former governor located at Fadamar Mada without permission on the 13th of January 2023 and stealing the Air Conditioner.

He pledged guilty of the offence arguing that he only bought the Air Conditioner from another person but later cede to committing the offence.

Delivering his judgement on 16th January 2023, the judge sentenced Sadiq to 15 months imprisonment at the Nigerian Correctional Center Bauchi with an option of -

N20,000 fine.

The Judge ordered the stole Air Conditioner be returned to the former governor since it was found with the accused.

Speaking to our correspondent, the Prosecuting Officer, Yahuza Muhammad said Sadiq was caught with the Air Conditioner right in the residence of the former governor but did not give proper responses to the police investigation, hence they resolved to arraign him before the court for justice to take its course in the matter.

Among Other Props, Divorce-seeking Ganduje's Daughter Vows to Refund Dowry

Asiya Balaraba Ganduje, Governor Umar Ganduje's daughter who filed a divorce suit at a Shari'a court in Kano said she is going to refund N50,000 dowry to her husband amid other possessions the latter claimed to be in her possession.

The divorce-seeking Kano governor's daughter had approached the court to dissolve her 16-year-old marriage with Inuwa Uba, her husband, according to Daily Trust.

As prescribed by Islamic jurisprudence, Asiya told the court she would refund the dowry Uba paid before marrying her. But the embattled husband claimed Asiya is holding some documents belonging to him.

Barrister Umar I. Umar, Uba's lawyer told the court to retrieve his client's properties before dissolving the marriage.

"The issue is not only for her to pay back the dowry of N50,000," Uba's lawyer said. "There are a lot of his belongings with her, which include his credentials, certificates of his properties and his cars. Above all, we want her to relinquish her right of possession in a joint venture of one rice milling company."

In response, Asiya's lawyer said the Shari'a court could only rule on the subject of divorce, asking the court to advise the defence council to file a separate file in another court.

"We want him to understand that the khul'i is based on the actual subject matter of the marriage which is dowry. His dowry was N50,000 and we say we are giving him N50, 000. But we are not going to abide by his conditions," the plaintiff's lawyer said. "All these issues are the subject matter of this suit. If he wants these claims, he should file another suit before another court. And we are saying that she is not willing to relinquish her right in the rice milling company. We are giving him what he gave us as dowry but we are not giving him what is not his own."

The presiding judge, Khadi Abdullahi Halliru adjourned the case to February 2, 2023.

MRA Tackles APC Presidential Campaign Council Over 'Bizarre' Expulsion of Arise TV Cameraman

By Idris Kamal

Media Rights Agenda (MRA) has condemned the expulsion of Arise Television cameraman from a campaign meeting of the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

The cameraman was rejected from the meeting Tinubu had with the business community in Lagos on January 13, 2023. MRA's Programme Director, Mr Ayode Longeb in a statement on Monday in Lagos described the action of the party's Presidential Campaign Council (APC-PCC) as bizarre, highhanded and a violation of the rights of the media.

"The APC-PCC's blatant disregard for the rights of a journalist performing a constitutionally-protected function even at a time when the party is seeking to persuade Nigerians to vote its candidate into the highest office in the land portends grave dangers for the media should that candidate prevail in the elections.

"What authorization does the journalist require to perform his professional duty of covering a political campaign event? How can a purely journalistic act by a cameraman from a television station filming a public political campaign event and beaming it live to a public audience be characterized as espionage? Should the cameraman have first made a public announcement that he is covering the event so as not to be accused of doing so clandestinely?



"We find this particularly bewildering because Mr. Onanuga, who issued the justification and made the accusation of espionage, spent a significant portion of his career as a professional journalist engaged in what came to be known as guerrilla journalism, for which he and the two media outlets, TheNews and Tempo magazines, where he served as an editor, were widely applauded, including by people like Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. It is the worst form of irony that he is now attempting to condemn a journalist engaged in his professional pursuit as having committed a capital offence. "If this attitude is indicative of the vision of the party or its presidential candidate on the role of the media in the democratic process, then we shudder to think of what the future holds for journalists and the media community should this attitude and mentality be brought into the highest political office in Nigeria," the statement read in parts.

However, Mr. Bayo Onanuga, the APC-PCC Director of Media and Publicity, had claimed on Twitter that the Arise Television cameraman was caught clandestinely live streaming Bola Tinubu's campaign event without authorization and accused him of being "on espionage mission".

Denied Entitlements Plunge Bauchi Retiree into Abject Poverty, Debts

By Babaji Usman



Adamu Shekal, a 66-year-old resident of Jamda community in Liman Katagum, Bauchi State, is going through hurdles with 20 family members he looks after amid denied entitlements and pension arrears by Bauchi State Government.

The sexagenarian told WikkiTimes he served the state government for 28 years under the Ministry of Works, Bauchi Local Government Area. At the time, he was working with Micro Finance Bank.

In his post-service years, Shekal hoped to relax and enjoy the little entitlements he had earned during his active service with the state. But otherwise is the case, the old man laments.

After his retirement, Shekal ventured into grocery business. He would later purchase a Jingcheng model motorcycle to ease his business. This was after waiting for his pension.

As years passed on, the ex-civil servant began to believe that post-service life in Bauchi is a mess and counterproductive

THE ONLY TIMES HE WAS PAID

In 2019, Shekal was paid his entitlements for only four months. "They paid me from January to April," he recalled. He anticipated his pension in May but it never came. That was when things started getting out of hand for him and his family.

Shekal who is also suffering leg turmoil said he could not bear the hardship.

"I was really disturbed, I have 20 family members. Imagine how much I spend a day and because of my leg, I can't go to the farm," he decried.

It has been 20 months since Shekal has been anticipating his entitlement. He recalled a time when the government asked pensioners to fill a form at their banks.

"They are still owing me 20 months arrears," Shekal told WikkiTimes. "Last year, we were asked to go to our banks to fill some forms. It was just a deception. Nothing, nothing I am telling you."

In January, last year, Shekal was reinstated on payroll, leaving his arrears unsettled.

According to him, he had to sell his motorcycle to settle some debts. Shekal has since become a sedentary grocer.

"I can't go anywhere because of mobility issues. I manage here at home," he said.

Shekal blamed the Bauchi State Government for his torments, explaining that there are other ex-workers suffering similar predicaments.

However, he pleaded with the authorities responsible to settle the arrears of ex-workers who served the state and transformed it into its present status. According to, many retirees regret ever serving the state.

As of January 2022, the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) in Bauchi State said the state government was owing retirees over N20 billion in gratuities.

Ten months later, Alhaji Yahuza Haruna, the Bauchi State Head of Civil Service, claimed that the state government has been paying pensions and salaries "as at when due."

Mukhtar Gidado, media aide to Governor Bala Mohammed could not be reached for comment. He did not respond to calls and a text sent to him.

Nine Senior Journalists Quit BBC Hausa to Embrace Solutions Journalism

By Yawale Adamu

No fewer than nine senior journalists with the Hausa version of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) have resigned from their positions to take new roles as African correspondents at Turkish Radio and Television (TRT), a news outlet that specialises in telling positive stories about Africa.

Their mass resignation, according to Daily Trust, is the highest in the history of the British media outfit as the affected staff members comprised two senior digital journalists, three social media journalists — two of whom are senior reporters — a senior bilingual reporter for Hausa/English Africa, a multimedia reporter, and two video journalists.

The journalists' resignations followed a sequence started in December last year with five of them and another four who resigned on Monday to join the Turkish Radio and Television, TRT, in Istanbul. "This is unprecedented in the history of BBC Hausa. Nine journalists of BBC Hausa have joined the soon-to-be-launched TRT Hausa after the Turkish government decided to establish TRT Africa: Hausa, Swahili, French, and English for Africa," Daily quoted a discrete source.

According to the source, senior digital journalist Nasidi Adamu Yahaya, would head the Hausa service at TRT, with other senior journalists, Halima Umar Saleh and Ishaq Khalid, as his deputies.

One of the affected journalists who craved anonymity said they left the BBC Hausa Services because the medium do is not reporting positive issues concerning Africa. He added that they were primarily motivated by the Turkish media's resolve to tell positive stories in Africa.

"TRT wants us to change the narrative of storytelling. Other international media organizations have been reporting mainly on hunger, wars, and other negative narratives about Africa," he said. "There are good, positive stories in Africa – business and employment opportunities. There are cultural values, sports, innovations; people that are involved in artificial intelligence-related work. These are what TRT Hausa Service will be covering. Many international media are not reporting these things."

He added: "We're not saying we're not going to report Boko Haram, banditry, and others, but we have other positive stories. There are human-angle stories on Boko Haram. We want to give Africans voices. People should be heard about their positive stories; not just negative stories always."

According to him their resignations were "unprecedented," and that "the last set of journalists tendered their resignation letters on Monday."

"Some of them are leaving today (last Monday) while others will leave in a few days' time," the source revealed. "Five of us left in December. In Nigeria, BBC Hausa has more than 40 journalists, but now, about one-third of us are leaving. It has never happened in BBC Hausa Service."

Bauchi Police Impounds Suspects for Possession of Firearms, Car Theft, Others

The Bauchi State Police Command has arrested suspected criminals for possession of dangerous firearms, car theft and other criminal activities in the state.

The command's Public Relations Officer, SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil in a statement says the command acted on credible information to impound the suspects.

Wakil said the police attached to Toro Divisional Police headquarters have during a patrol near Nabardo village arrested, one Umar Abubakar, aged 21 years for acquiring a locally made pistol revolver.

The suspect was said to have acquired the weapon from his friend, Mohammed, who hails from Nasarawa State.

The statement also said the police have raided criminals' hideouts in Alkaleri LGA and recovered a couple of firearms.

"In a related development, Sequel to the ongoing operation around the Alkaleri axis, operatives attached to Alkaleri Divisional Police Headquarters, acted on intelligence information and raided a criminal's hideout situated at Kashereyel Hill near Gwana district of Alkaleri LGA. During the raid, one English Pump-Action gun was recovered", the statement read in part.

In a related development, the Police in the state also say it has arrested, "one Abdul Mohammed alias P. A 'm' of Karofi Bauchi town, Bauchi State in possession of one TOYOTA COROLLA LE with registration number NSR-510TY, ash in color, suspected to be stolen property.

"On interrogation, the suspect confessed to have received the vehicle from one Haruna second name not yet known 'm' of Biu, Biu LGA, Borno State, now at large for onward delivery to one Ibrahim Babaji 30yrs 'm' of Misau town, Misau LGA, Bauchi State who was also been arrested and thereafter confessed to have bought the vehicle from one Barau Alim Tela 'm' of the same address, also at large, investigation is ongoing", the statement added.

The statement said the Commissioner of Police Bauchi State Command CP Aminu Alhassan while commending the Command operatives for the success recorded, assured that all criminal elements will be smoked out of their hiding places and would answer to their crimes in due course.



Katsina Monarch Dethroned for Abetting Banditry

By Yawale Adamu

Katsina Emirate Council has dethroned Alhaji Idris Sule Idris, the Makaman Bakori over alleged connection to the banditry in his domain, Bakori local council

This was stated in a letter signed by Alhaji Aminu Nuhu Abdulkabir, the Kauran Katsina and addressed to the deposed traditional on January 19, 2023.

The council accused the monarch of several allegations bordering on insecurity conspiracy. Abdulkadir added that the Governor of the State, Aminu Bello Masari ordered for the immediate sacking of Makama following confirmation that he is abetting banditry activities in Bakori.

The statement read: "Sequel to the letter the Emirate Council of the Emir of Katsina, His Royal Highness Abdulmumini Kabir Usman CFR with no. SEC/54/VOLVI/1416 received from the state government dated 18/01/2023, which His Excellency, the Governor of the state, based on the complaints from your domain has confirmed your connection to the insecurity in your territory.

"Therefore, the Katsina Emirate Council resolved to dismiss you as Makaman Katsina on 19/01/2023."

In 2020, Garba Shehu, the Spokesperson to the President insisted that some traditional rulers in Katsina State are aiding bandits attacking villages across the state.

His comments came a few days after bandits murdered Dikko Usman, the village head of Mazoji, in Matazu Local Government Area of the State.

Katsina Emirate Council had in 2021, sacked "Sarkin-Pauwan Katsina, the District Head of Kankara, Alhaji Yusuf Lawal, over alleged involvement in aiding and abetting banditry in his terrain.

Last year, dozens of bandits ransacked Bakori, killing and kidnapping several people including children.

ALERT: These Cough Syrups Could Trigger Abdominal Pain, Urinary Retention, Kidney Injury

Substandard cough syrups — Ambronol and Dok-1 max — contain contaminants that could lead to health hazards such as abdominal pain, urinary retention, and kidney damage, according to National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

This is contained in a Twitter post by Drugs Counseling Nigeria, on January 18. According to the post, the syrups are toxic to human health.

"PUBLIC ALERT. NAFDAC is notifying the public of these two substandard. The products are contaminated with Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol which are toxic to humans when consumed. RT to save lives," Drugs Counseling Nigeria tweeted.

WikkiTimes further confirmed the claim from NAFDAC's official website where it is stated that the syrups were identified in Uzbekistan in Europe and reported to World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to NAFDAC, Laboratory analysis of the products' samples undertaken by national quality control laboratories of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan found both products to contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and /or ethylene glycol as contaminants.

The manufacturer of both products is MARION BIOTECH PVT. LTD, (Uttar Pradesh, India). To date, the stated manufacturer has not provided guarantees to WHO on the safety and quality of the syrups.

Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal. Toxic effects can include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, altered mental state, and acute kidney injury which may lead to death.

The substandard syrups are, therefore, unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death.

Substandard medical products are products that fail to meet quality standards or specifications and are therefore marked "out of specification."

WikkiTimes' Asked AI to Write About Healthcare and Pension Scheme Under Governor Bala's Administration — It Exaggerated Facts

Editor

As Bala Mohammed seeks a second term to keep governing Bauchi State, we asked ChapGPT, an OpenAI chatbot launched last year to write about the governor and his stewardship, particularly as it relates to health, pension and gratuity scheme. Below are the unedited responses it gave us.

TELL US ABOUT GOVERNOR BALA MOHAMMED

Governor Bala Mohammed is the current Governor of Bauchi State in Nigeria. He was elected in 2019 and is a member of the People's Democratic Party. He has a long history of public service, having served as a Senator for Bauchi South from 2007 to 2015. During his time in the Senate, he was a member of several committees, including the Senate Committee on Power and Steel.

As Governor, he has focused on improving infrastructure and providing basic services to citizens. He has also worked to improve security in the state by launching a security trust fund and creating a special security task force. He has also worked to improve the economy of the state by launching a number of initiatives, such as the Bauchi State Investment Promotion Agency and the Bauchi State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy.

HOW HAS GOVERNOR BALA FAIRED WITH PENSIONERS

Governor Bala Mohammed has taken a number of steps to improve the welfare of pensioners in Bauchi State. He has increased the monthly pension allowance for retirees, and he has also implemented a policy that allows pensioners to access their pensions through mobile banking. He has also launched a pensioners' welfare fund to provide financial assistance to pensioners in need. Additionally, he has established a Pensioners' Desk at the Bauchi State Ministry of Finance to ensure that pensioners receive their entitlements in a timely manner.

Overall, pensioners in Bauchi State are generally happy with the administration of Governor Bala Mohammed. He has taken a number of steps to improve their welfare, and his policies have been well-received by pensioners. Additionally, he has made it easier for pensioners to access their pensions, which has been a major source of satisfaction for them.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF HEALTH UNDER GOVERNOR BALA MOHAMMED?

Under Governor Bala Mohammed, the state of health in Bauchi State has improved significantly. The Governor has implemented a number of initiatives to improve access to healthcare, including the establishment of a Primary Health Care Development Agency and the introduction of free healthcare services for pregnant women and children under five.

He has also increased the number of health facilities and improved the quality of care in existing facilities. Additionally, he has launched a number of health awareness campaigns to educate the public on preventive healthcare measures.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN BAUCHI RURAL AREAS UNDER GOVERNOR BALA?

Under Governor Bala Mohammed, the conditions of health facilities in Bauchi rural communities have improved significantly. The Governor has invested in the construction and renovation of health facilities in rural areas, as well as providing additional medical equipment and supplies. He has also increased the number of healthcare personnel in rural areas.

WHAT WE KNOW

- Health sector

Governor Bala on May 29, 2019, in his inaugural address, said: “The primary healthcare level will be strengthened to provide the majority of the services required in our communities. We commit to making pregnancy and childhood safe for all citizens wherever they live. At present, 1 in 115 live births result in a mother dying from preventable causes related to limited access to either basic midwifery or emergency care.

“To improve access to quality midwifery care, the government will strengthen and expand the Midwifery schools, but beyond training more midwives. We would work to retain frontline health workers, too. To address the acute shortage of health workers and the health crisis in Bauchi State as a whole, I would convene a Health Sector Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable Conference which will explore avenues for enhancing the capacity of the workforce in terms of numbers, quality and equitable distribution across the 20 LGAs.”

EXCLUSIVE: Inside Bauchi Rotten PHC Where Staff Treat over 8,000 Locals on 3 Beds

At one point, the governor ordered that 100 doctors be recruited to tackle the dearth of medical doctors in hospitals across the state, but WikkiTimes understands that it did not go well.

Presently, the governor is seeking reelection amid the decaying state of health in Bauchi. Two years after emerging as the governor, WikkiTimes extensively reported that his promise to rejig the state’s health sector had not been fulfilled.

Last year, WikkiTimes documented a number of Primary Health Care (PHC) centres in Bauchi that need overhauling, a scenario that triggered the state government to explain a few things to the platform.

Bauchi Govt Reacts to WikkiTimes’ All-round Reportage on Dilapidating State of Health Centres

According to the Executive Secretary of Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Dr Rilwanu Muhammed, lack of support from donor organisations deepens health facility crisis in the state. The secretary said the state is trying its best to keep afloat.

But the health crises continued as WikkiTimes recently reported that about 872 women died of maternal and perinatal clinical conditions between July to December 2022.

- Pensioners’ plights

Under Governor Bala’s administration, pension and gratuity have continued to accumulate as senior citizens who had served the state in several capacities lament denied entitlements, WikkiTimes can report.

As of December 2018, Bauchi State owed N16.937 Billion in pensions and gratuities. In 2019, the state incurred an additional N3.998 billion, while it settled N 1.069 billion. By the end of 2019, the debt rose to N19.86 billion, WikkiTimes’ investigation revealed.

Five Years After, Bauchi PHC Still Operates In Shambles

By November 2020, the state pension and gratuity debt stood at N21.6 billion, 7.97 per cent increase over the previous year. As of January 2022, the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) in Bauchi State said the state government was owing retirees over N20 billion in gratuities.

Although WikkiTimes could not access recent data on owed pensions and gratuities, the government, about two months ago, claimed it released N500 million to



Bauchi Govt Certified Dass an ODF — But Students, Teachers Still Defecate in Open

By Babaji Usman

In 2017, Bauchi State Government certified Dass an Open Defecation Free (ODF), but the scourge still lingers in the local council, WikkiTimes can report.

Over 700 pupils at Darussalam Nomadic Primary School in Dass Local Government Area (LGA), including their teachers are being exposed to health-related risks as they defecate in the open amidst collapsed toilet facility. The school, established in 2000, is located a few kilometres away from Dass Town, the headquarters of Dass LGA.

READ: Locals' Hope Dashed As FG Fails to Deliver Constituency Roads in Dass, Bauchi After Wasting Billions

It hosts primary classes in the morning while students of the Darussalam Junior Secondary School (JSS) take over the afternoon session.

The only toilet facility in the school collapsed about three years ago, staff told WikkiTimes. Since it collapsed, the students and their teachers openly defecate around the school. This, according to health experts, will expose them to health risk.

WHEN THE SCOURGE WENT OUT OF HANDS

According to findings, Nigeria became open defecation capital, globally, surpassing India. It was estimated that 50 million Nigerians defecate in the open. This triggered President Muhammdu Buhari to sign Executive Order 009 to tackle open defecation.

Similarly, Ministry of Water Resources in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other key agencies, launched an initiative tagged 'Nigeria Open-Defecation-Free By 2025: 'A National Road Map'.

Since that time, the Nigerian government has certified some local councils Open Defecation Free (ODF), including Dass LGA where the school is located.

According to workers in the school, several appeals have been made to the concerned authorities, but they have not had a positive result yet.

During WikkiTimes' visit to the centre on January 3, the surrounding of the three-block school was littered with faeces and other contaminants that could harm one's health. The collapsed toilet and the stench that oozed within the school are unbearable.

Sirajo Kaka Mohammad, Headmaster of the Primary School section told WikkiTimes that lack of toilet facility in the school compels the pupils to defecate "just at the school premises."

Renovated about four years ago, the Darussalam Primary School section has 339 pupils, 25 staff as well as 10 N-Power volunteer staff.

The head teacher recalled that the toilet was destroyed by a heavy thunderstorm accompanied by a downpour that wreaked havoc three years back. "Lack of toilets has become our problem in this school and it hurts," Sirajo lamented. "The pupils and the staff have no option than to randomly defecate in the school surroundings."

Sometimes in 2021, there were cases of cholera outbreaks where "sometimes our pupils complained of stomach pains only to discover that it was cholera."

The Headmaster noted that they complained to the authorities several times but the narrative remained the same. "We have been writing to Local Education Authority (LEA) and nothing has been done so far, and that's how the open defecation continues," he revealed.

Murtala Abdullahi, Vice Principal II of the secondary school section, corroborated Sirajo's words, adding the situation is exposing them to health hazards.

Cont reading [here](#)

How ATBUTH Processes 1,600 Lassa Fever Cases In Two Years

The Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital Bauchi (ATBUTH) has processed over 1,600 samples of Lassa Fever test requests received from five states of the country.

At the centre of this feat is the Molecular, Genetics and Infectious Diseases Research/ Diagnostic Laboratory of the hospital constructed about two years ago with funding from the COVID-19 Intervention Fund.

The Chief Medical Director of ATBUTH, Professor Yusuf Jibrin Bara disclosed this in an interview with our journalists in Bauchi.

Professor Bara said the laboratory obtained NCDC certification to diagnose LASSA Fever in the state as well as in the neighbouring states of Gombe, Yobe, Adamawa, plateau and Jigawa.

He said over 1600 suspected Lassa samples were processed at the laboratory with Bauchi state accounting for about 1400 samples, Gombe 300 and other states accounting for about 100 samples.

“Collaborative research is ongoing in the laboratory, particularly with WHO on COVID-19 and Lassa fever clinical trials.

“The Laboratory collaborates alongside Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University and foreign partners from the University of Nebraska, Miami School of Medicine, USA and Finishtech University, Cameroon where postgraduate training will be conducted for the award of masters and PhD Degrees,” the Chief Medical Director said.

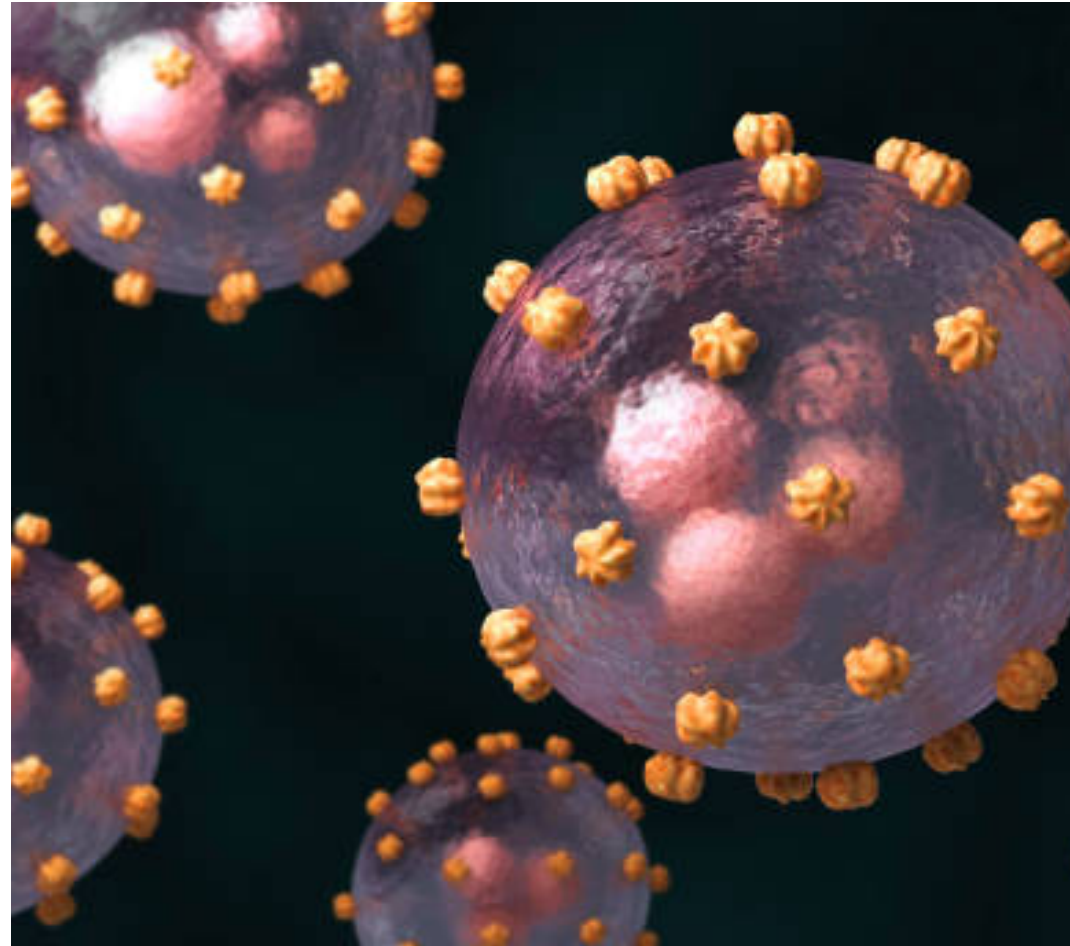
He said the laboratory processed over 8,000 COVID-19 test samples.

WikkiTimes gathered that the samples were received from states in the Northeast and Northcentral.

“This facility was established in June 2020 and funded from the special COVID-19 intervention fund and ATBU through TETfund. The laboratory is among the NCDC-accredited laboratory network for COVID-19 testing. It has a testing capacity of about Two Hundred (200) suspected samples per day.

“As of today, over eight thousand (8000) suspected COVID-19 samples were processed at the facility,” he said.

The Chief Medical Director said during the COVID-19 pandemic when there was a total shortage of oxygen supply in the country, the Hospital management came up with an oxygen plant to address the challenge of oxygen demand of the Hospital.



“As of today, over eight thousand (8000) suspected COVID-19 samples were processed at the facility,” he said.

The Chief Medical Director said during the COVID-19 pandemic when there was a total shortage of oxygen supply in the country, the Hospital management came up with an oxygen plant to address the challenge of oxygen demand of the Hospital.

He said some part of the COVID-19 intervention fund was utilized to purchase a cryogenic oxygen plant which can produce liquid oxygen and a capacity of 1600m³ (equivalent to 245 cylinders) of gaseous oxygen per day.

Professor Bara added, “In addition, the FH1360 which is a USAID-funded NGO in collaboration with the Federal ministry of health had selected our Hospital to be among the beneficiary of 20,000litres capacity cryogenic liquid oxygen tank which can be utilized to store the excess liquid Oxygen produced.”

He said the oxygen plant could supply Medical Oxygen to the entire Northeast region at a much lower rate than what is currently obtained in from private suppliers.

In Bauchi, Man Jokingly Marries Out Daughter

A mild drama occurred in Bauchi State yesterday as a man jokingly gave his daughter's hand in marriage while teasing a bachelor.

The incident happened in Wuntin Dada, a suburb of Bauchi town when the father attended one wedding Fatiha in the area.

According to eyewitnesses, the girl's father had attended a wedding Fatiha at a mosque in the area and was exchanging pleasantries with people when he came across a bachelor. He would jeer the single man, saying he won't shake hands with a bachelor.

Responding, the bachelor remarked that the man has many daughters and could marry off a particular one to him. Jokingly, the father responded in the affirmative.

JOKE WENT WRONG

The man whose name is yet unknown asked the bachelor to present a dowry of N5-N100. His (bachelor) friends would contribute N100,000 at the spot and presented to the father, but he refused to collect it, saying he was only joking.

"What happened is that we attended a wedding Fatiha and the man came, as he was shaking hands with everyone, he skipped our friend saying he can not shake hands with an unmarried man jokingly," as source told DW Hausa.

"Our friend replied that since the man has many daughters, she should marry off one of them (Nana) to him and he agreed that the man should present a dowry and called seven of us to witness it. We gathered money for the groom but the father said he will not collect the dowry insisting that he was joking," the source added.

Auwal Dada, a brother to the incidental bride was among those who witnessed the drama and he said he would proceed with the rites should the father failed to.

on whose wedding Fatiha the incident occurred, he would proceed with the marriage ties since both the bride and groom to be were his relatives if the father refused.

"If the father can not come into the mosque and proceed with the marriage, I can do so since she is a sister to me," said Auwal.

Reacting to controversial marriage, Malam Mustapha Baba Ilelah, a Bauchi-based cleric and Chairman of the state Shari'ah Commission said the marriage has been formalized since the father has consented to it and there were witnesses and dowry even though the father declined the dowry.

"In Islam, the marriage has been formalized since the father has said he has given him and there were witnesses and presentation of dowry, even though the father hasn't collected the dowry. These were among the basic requirements for a wedding in Islam," said Ilelah.

Corroborating Ilelah's words, Imam Dr Idris Abdulaziz, another cleric based in Bauchi cited Prophetic tradition that said three things are genuine even if they were pronounced jokingly among which is marriage. According to him, there are some conditions before marriage is formalized.

"The point is that if the girl is not married, she has to be informed and seek her consent to be sought on whether she likes him or not. But if she is a divorcee, she has to agree first before a marriage is conducted," Malam Idris stated.

One Month After, MTN Yet to Activate Twitter User's N30,000 Data

One month after Oladele John, a Twitter user purchased a N30,000 internet subscription from Mobile Telephone Network (MTN), the network provider is yet to activate the plan.

WikkiTimes had earlier reported that the subscriber was denied using the subscription he purchased via his Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB) account. John, in a tweet, claimed that the transaction was successful but the service provider failed to activate the subscription.

Earlier today John tagged WikkiTimes in a tweet, calling out MTN to "do the needful." John affirmed that his money is hanging between MTN and its Wema bank account.

The last time he contacted MTN, he was told to expect a result in 24 hours. This was after he had contacted his bank to enquire about the transaction.

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

However, WikkiTimes openly contacted MTN in a tweet after the service provider failed to respond to a direct message earlier sent.

Subsequently, MTN responded, requesting the affected number and other details.



Kano 2023: Only the Fittest Will Survive

Sani Danaudi Mohammed

As it promises to be in most Nigerian states, the gubernatorial elections which will be held come March 11, 2023 in Kano State will definitely constitute a fierce contest. It is instructive to note that, given its strategic position in the Nigerian political arrangements, Kano really matters. As a matter of fact, as the 2023 general elections draw near, Kano State is now being placed on the national radar, as having the capacity to assume the status of a 'political king' in the comity of the Nigerian states, which can determine the next political direction of the beleaguered country.

Therefore, it is the shared view of most politicians and public affairs commentators that the Kano State electorate must handle the process of determining who becomes their executive governor, not as business as usual. The one, whose head the cap fits to become the next governor of the state, must be such a person who, in the opinion of most people, has an understanding of the current realities in the state where the emphasis is placed on employment, empowerment, human, educational and capital development of the State.

Meanwhile, late last year, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced no fewer than 14 political parties that would field candidates in the forthcoming elections in the densely populated state. Some of the notable candidates fielded by the political parties announced by INEC are Abba Kabir Yusuf (NNPP), Hon. Sha'aban Sharada (ADP), Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna (APC) and Mohammed Sani Abacha (PDP). However,

as it obviously stands, two of the afore-listed candidates, Abba Kabir Yusuf (Abba Gida Gida) of (NNPP) and Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna (APC) and will likely tower above others in the contest.

What informs this claim cannot be unconnected with the results emerging from the statewide opinion polls consecutively conducted ahead of the forthcoming 2023 governorship elections in Kano State by Anap Foundation late last year. While Abba Kabir Yusuf (Abba Gida Gida of the NNPP maintained a conspicuous lead with the highest percentage of the voters proposing to vote for him if the governorship elections were to be held exactly when the polls were conducted, Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna of the APC fell in second place and Mohammed Sani Abacha of the PDP was a distant third with only 3 per cent of voters proposing to vote for him.

The announcement by the Court of Mohammed Abacha, the son of the late Head of State, Gen.Sani Abacha, in preference to Sadiq Wali, as the candidate of PDP in the state, was a surprise to most political gladiators and further support the assertions of political commentators that the contest in Kano is a two horse race. Though, Abacha has the backing of the former Governor of the State and now Kano Central Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau as the leader of the party. On the other hand, Nasir Yusuf Gawuna, who is the incumbent Deputy Governor of the state, emerged the favoured candidate of the ruling party (APC) in the state on the ticket of his boss.

Hence, out of the many contenders for Kano State's number one seat, Abba Kabir Yusuf (Abba Gida Gida) is distinguished as

he most prepared and suitable for the job. Given his enviable political pedigree and impressive action plan for birthing an unprecedented transformation in Kano State, Abba Kabir Yusuf, the NNPP gubernatorial candidate appears to be the man of the people at the moment. He was the runners up in the 2019 elections, a re-run poll that was highly criticized both at home and abroad by observers who accused the APC-led Government of infiltrating the process. The massive infrastructural revolution that Abba Kabir Yusuf brought about in the state when he served as Commissioner for Works, Housing and Transport in former Governor Rabi'u Musa Kwankwanso's administration remains a laudable achievement which continues to endear him to the well-meaning people of the state. This achievement, some political pundits opined, constituted part of the major successes which Kwankwanso's administration recorded. Continue reading @ <https://wikkitimes.com/kano-2023-only-the-fittest-will-survive/>