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How Bauchi Politicians Facilitated PVC Collection in Rural Communities

Yakubu Mohammed

A one-day trip to Gamawa to collect PVC is a luxury that Musa Yunusa, a resident of Kadi-Kadi community in Gamawa local government area of Bauchi State, could not afford despite his willingness to vote in the 2023 polls. He makes an average of N500 daily from firewood.

Left with no means to reach Gamawa, Yunusa becomes desperate to grasp any chance that knocks at his door.

WikkiTimes gathered that traditional rulers in the area sought help from politicians to help Yunusa and others to get their voter cards.

“They gave us money and other welfare packages to mobilise people for PVC collection,” Abdullahi Saleh, Mai Anguwan Dole said, stressing that he had no idea of how their senior traditional rulers were able to source the resources being disbursed.

WikkiTimes gathered that political candidates and political parties partnered with traditional rulers in Gamawa to facilitate PVC registration for residents of remote villages in the area. They deployed different strategies to get prospective voters to pick up their voter cards.

Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu Kesa, the PDP’s Deputy Chairman of Gamawa Local Government Area, told **WikkiTimes** that he was satisfied with what the party did in the area to sponsor potential voters to register with INEC.

“I cannot tell you all the strategies we used to influence the people of Gamawa to acquire their PVCs. Sometimes we give money,” he said.

For Bello Sarki Jadori who represents Gamawa at the State House of Assembly, WikkiTimes reliably gathered that he sponsored a social media team of three young and agile men who visit remote communities to enrol potential voters’ personal data into the INEC PVC registration portal before completing physical registration at the INEC office in Gamawa later in the day.

On average, the team, led by Usman Alhaji Bundujaru, captured between 50 and 60 people daily. The team went to four different communities twice each.

“Hon Jadori supported our people in rural communities of Gamawa local government with transportation fares and other logistics to visit the Gamawa INEC office to complete their voter registration,” said Musa Umar, a resident of Gamawa.

While this may appear to be a call to national duty from a neutral standpoint, the politicians and their political parties have a different agenda. They want to use this to gain cheap and undue acceptance from voters.

IN NINGI, CANDIDATES SPONSOR RURAL DWELLERS TO REGISTER FOR PVC

Aspirants in Ningi local government area of Bauchi State paid residents of rural communities in the area an average of N500 daily stipend to register and get their PVCs, WikkiTimes reliably gathered. Nazif Abdullahi Rio, Chairman of Abdul Ningi Ambassadors told WikkiTimes they expended over N1,000,000 to get people from the area registered as voters.

Abdullahi said, “we gave N500 to some rural dwellers as motivation before the concert to register with INEC. Most of them needed that kind of support before they could register.”

Ibrahim Gom, a prospective voter in Ningi who is worried about the deceptive tendencies of political candidates, said the average voter easily identified with people who offered them assistance; hence, candidates who assisted prospective voters to register and collect their voter cards after registration are more likely to have voters’ sympathy during the election than those who did not.

He said despite the assistance they received while making registration with INEC, their PVCs are safe with them, stressing that “we don’t give any data about our PVCs to anybody no matter what, but we are open to aligning with anybody who aligns with our interest.”

Dr. Hamid Adamu Muhammad, a lecturer with the Department of Mass Communication at the Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi observed that in an ideal democratic setting, aspirants jostling for various elective positions present themselves to the electorate without offering unnecessary assistance.

“The context is the overall perception of politics, standing for election, and voting in Nigeria. This is a normal thing in the Nigerian context – politicians do not see themselves fit for any elective position they aspire for if they don’t spend money,” Muhammad said.

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Flashback As Light Dims on Former BUK Vice-Chancellor

By Yakubu Mohammed

On January 30, light dimmed on Professor Ibrahim Umar, a renowned physicist and former Vice Chancellor of Bayero University Kano (BUK). The erudite was appointed the head of institution three years after he started teaching physics at the citadel. He would hold the position for seven years.

Professor Umar was the first academic to teach physics at BUK in 1979, according to Daily Trust. A 2017 interview with the medium revealed that the deceased was part of those that drafted 1979 constitution that came with some distinct features, making it a difference from other constitution the country had had.

Professor Umar was a member of the Nigerian delegation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference from 1989 and was appointed Director-General of the Energy Commission of Nigeria in 1989. He served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the IAEA for 2000-2001 and In 2004 he was the Director of the Centre for Energy Research and Training, where the first Nigerian research nuclear reactor is located. In 1990, he represented Nigeria at the Executive Assembly of the World Energy Council.

Professor Umar was among the international advisory committee for the international workshop on Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development in Africa, held at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 2007. Between 1994 and 1997, Umar served as Sole Administrator of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Professor Sagir Abbas, the current head of BUK while saying encomiums of the deceased, expressed sadness and condoled with the entire university community.

According to him, Professor Umar laid a good foundation during his stewardship as the head of the university and was very instrumental to the second phase of university's development particularly the new site campus.

The deceased, according to his son, Farouk Ibrahim Umar died on Monday and would be given a befitting burial on Tuesday according to Islamic rites.

Professor Umar held a B. Sc. in physics and mathematics from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, a M. Sc. in physics from Northern Illinois University, USA and a PhD in physics at the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom (1974).

Prof Pate Harps on Journalists' Safety Ahead General of Elections

By Usman Babaji

Professor Umaru Pate, Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, said elections in Nigeria have always not been violent-free, adding the 2023 elections may not be different.

He stated this while giving a keynote address at a symposium organised by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) on Tuesday in Abuja.

In his address themed: Election 2023: Security, Media and Safety, Pate stated that Nigeria's elections are highly competitive, characterised by tension, anxiety and violence, hence, independent investigative journalism involving politics, terrorism or financial embezzlement by the powerful individuals has always been a risky and often dangerous venture. "That may not change in 2023," he noted.

Professor Pate stated that media despite helping in early warning signs for authorities to take proactive measures and generate ideas that set the agenda for the politicians, because of existing conflicts, polarisations and other social divisions in the country, elections can be prone to violence.

According to Pate, Nigerian journalists operate in the midst of ethnic, religious and political intrigues compounded by poor funding, low remuneration, professional ethical breaches and corruption. "in many cases, female journalists face the double jeopardy of professionalism and gender," he stated.

He added that the tension and violence in Nigeria often impact media freedom and the safety of journalists in many forms of personal and organisational risks.

Professor Pate bemoaned how journalists covering gubernatorial and state assembly elections were detained, harassed, and assaulted by security agents across many states and in some instances, journalists monitoring elections are forced to delete visual evidence of election malpractices, while the perpetrators go unpunished.

He said without a protected professional journalism, independent reporting on wrongdoing in elections cannot be possible.

Pate, however, called for strong institutional collaborations and partnerships with agencies, CSOs and community alliances and to uphold investigative and data-driven journalism, advising journalists to be fully informed about security issues and to take care of themselves during any assignment.

Speaking virtually, Jonathan Rozen of the Center for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) from the United States, noted that it is unfortunate that during elections, numerous politically-related clashes are documented.

One of the panellists, Dr Peter Afunaya representing the Department of State Services (DSS), called on journalists to work in a manner that consolidates unity by sticking to their functions.

Terrorists in Gun Trucks Share Bulky Old Naira Notes on Borno Highway

As the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) extended deadline for swap of old naira notes with the new ones, gunwielding terrorists suspected to be members of the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) have distributed N100,000 each to commuters plying a Borno State highway along Lake Chad Basin.

According to Daily Trust, the incident occurred after Mairari village, along the Maiduguri/Monguno highway on Saturday in Guzamala LGA of Borno State. A source told the medium that the ISWAP members were dressed in military camouflage and drove two gun trucks.

Bakura Ibrahim, a resident said the insurgents positioned themselves under a tree and stood by the roadside with bags of old naira notes.

“We left Monguno at about 12 noon,” he said. “As we approached Mairari, there were no existing checkpoints in the area; we were apprehensive. “They stopped us and asked if we were going to Maiduguri, then they started giving each person 100,000 old naira notes, but we could not believe it. They gave each occupant of the Golf Volkswagen.”

The terrorists, however, advised the beneficiaries to take the money to the bank and prayed that God bless it.

“If you think you can go to their banks and change it to new naira, go and do so; may Allah make it beneficial to you,” another source had quoted the terrorists.

Borno Residents Regain Freedom 21 Days After Abduction

By Yakubu Mohammed

A group of five children and six adults have regained their freedom after spending 21 days in Boko Haram’s captivity.

According to HumAngle, the locals were kidnapped in their village, Malam Fatori in Abadam local government area at the beginning of January.

WikkiTimes learnt that the community raised a three million naira ransom for their release. Although this is not the first time people would be abducted in the community, some people from the community are still in captivity.

“This evening 11 persons were welcomed and received at our camp after they had been under the hands of Boko Haram for 21 days. Three million naira was paid as ransom before they were released,” Boyi Dauda, member of management of the Shuwari V IDP camp in Maiduguri, told HumAngle. “They are traumatised. Therefore, we have contacted Medicine Sans Frontieres (MSF) and informed them of their health conditions that needed attention. They told us that they will come tomorrow to assess whether they are drugged and give them necessary medical checkups.”

Kano Hisbah Backs Woman Who Married Daughter’s Boy Friend

By Usman Babaji

The Kano State Hisbah Board has concluded an investigation on a Kano State-based woman Malama Khadija Rano who allegedly dissolved her marriage and married her daughter’s boyfriend, Daily Trust reports.

In a statement issued by the spokesman of the board in the state, Alhaji Lawan Ibrahim, on Tuesday, stated that the action is legitimate.

Alhaji Ibrahim explained that the chairman of the committee set up to investigate the matter, who doubles as deputy commander in charge of operations of the board, Malam Hussain Ahmed, maintained that the committee found out that the marriage is legal and had fulfilled all the necessary criteria.

WikkiTimes had earlier reported that Malama Khadija, a resident of Rano local government area of Kano State has ended her marriage and married the suitor of her daughter.

The woman resolved to go for the man who was about to be her son-in-law after her daughter, Aisha rejected him.

However, Malama Khadija’s uncle, Abdullahi Musa Rano, said they refused to allow her to marry the man because she deliberately dissolved her first marriage in order to marry her daughter’s suitor who was not qualified to be her husband.

“She mounted pressure on her husband to divorce her just to marry the man. We can’t do this shameful thing in our family which was why we refused to join them in marriage. We are not happy with what Hisbah did and we are reporting to bring out our daughter. We want the general commandant and the state government to look into the matter.”

However, Ahmed said Khadija was divorced by her husband and had observed the three months waiting period (iddah) prescribed by Islam before she later married a man whom her biological daughter had rejected.

The Hisbah boss dismissed allegations that Khadija was dating her present husband while married and instigated her husband to divorce her to marry her daughter’s boyfriend.

“The marriage is legal according to Islam. That was the reason Hisbah commander in Rano LGA supported and took part in the wedding rites,” the statement read further.

Commenting on the matter, the Commander General of the board, Dr Harun Ibn Sina, commended the committee for discharging their responsibilities, noting that the committee members were carefully selected due to their vast knowledge on Islamic teachings and societal orientation.

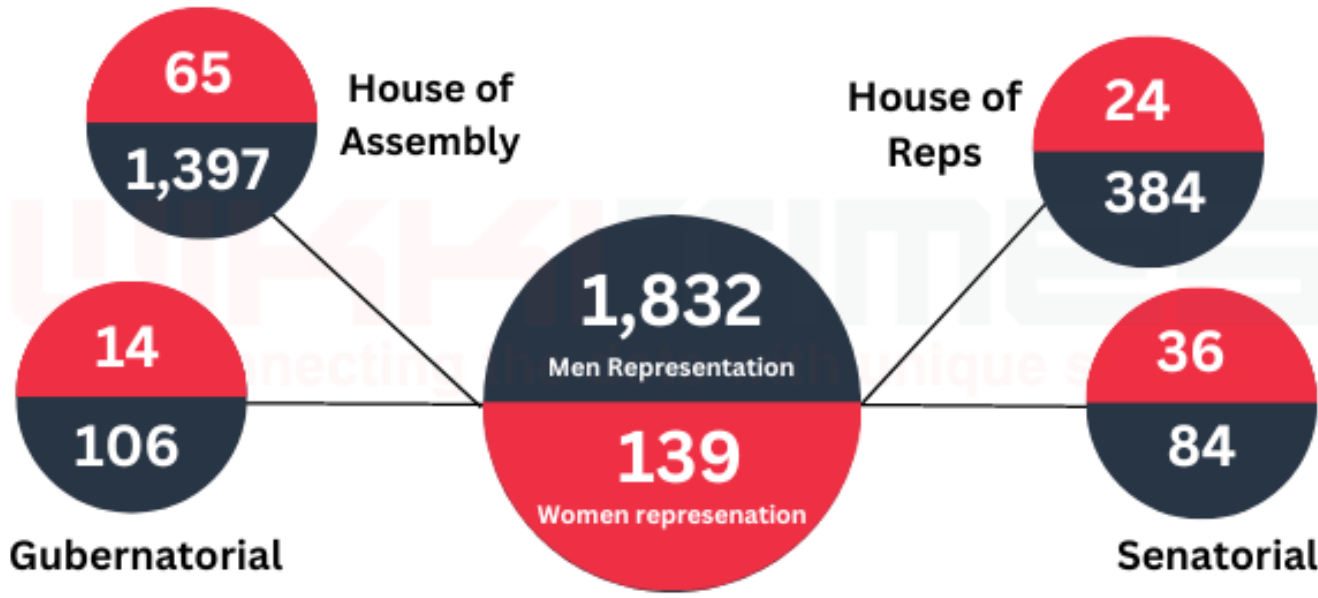
Sheikh Ibn Sina charged the public to desist from spreading fake news and avoid misconceptions on issues regarding Islam.

He urged them to seek knowledge as Islam was a religion that had jurisdictions regarding marriage, family life and all other related issues of human endeavour.

Women Represent 7.1% Out of 1,971 Contestants in Northeast

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR 2023 ELECTION IN NORTHEAST



In a list published by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) last year, WikkiTimes observed that women’s representation in the northeastern zone of the country was low compared to their counterparts.

There are 1,971 candidates jostling for the senatorial, gubernatorial, house of representative and house of assembly seats in northeastern states — Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States. But only 139 of them are women, representing 7.1% of the total figure.

This further validates the low representation of women in Nigeria’s political landscape as argued over time.

SENATORIAL SEATS

For senatorial seats, Adamawa State has only two females — Sashi Beryl Nzobayaran and Grace Ezra — contesting out of 25 candidates. The figure improved way higher in Gombe State where seven women out of 33 contestants are vying for senatorial seats. They include Bala Abdullahi Habiba, Danjuma Riri, Senate James Christiana, Albashi David Abigail, Abdulsalam Serah and Garba Rukayya Muhammad.

In Borno State Maryam Tijjani would ruffle feathers with 25 male contenders. However, Bauchi, Taraba and Yobe have no female senatorial contenders.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

For House of Representatives, Adamawa State has three female candidates out of 60 candidates. They are Muhammad Yawale ADC, Fakuta Hyellagiziyu Naiwa and Hussaini Jamila. In Bauchi State, five women including Umar Jamila, Adamu Alheri, Hafsat Umar, Babageidam Lami and Aliyu Maryam, would go to polls with 105 men.

In Borno State, four women — Gimba Zainab, Abdullahi Aisha Adamu, Abubakar Hauwa Abdulrahman, Ahmed Satomi — are confronting 52 male counterparts. Also, in Gombe 10 female candidates out of 62 contestants are seeking a seat in the house of representatives.

They are Bello Rasheeda, Ahmad Aishatu Muhammad Bose, Godobe Dramu Joy, Muhammad Nusaiba Julde, Jibril Dukku Aishatu, Adamu Aishatu, Yunusa Zariyatu, Nasiru Haj Idaya, Polycarp Edna Zira, Maliya Marina and Mela Hannatu Molkulong.

Meanwhile, two women each in Taraba (Yerima Deborah and Gidado Habiba) and Yobe (Khadija Waziri and Talba Fatima) would go to polls with 60 and 36 male counterparts respectively.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

In Adamawa state, 13 females out of 241 contestants are vying for positions in the state house of assembly. They are Moses Anna, Jummai Zakiya Gundiri, Joel Esther Mildai, Hammawa Waziri Ramatu, Daniel Tayedi Sodom, Gambiye Anne, Tonkole Pwanovi, Wambai Mary Sylvester, Mamuno Raymond Kate, Hamidu Samira, Babale Madina, Yohanna Halita and Plamuram Esther Yerima.

Three hundred and two (302) male politicians in Bauchi are contesting against six female candidates namely: Stephen Dinatu, Sushi Habila Lumana, Sarauta Sophia, Umayma Aliyu Gambo, Jibrin Fatima Adams and Yakubu Hamida Captain.

In Borno, there are 10 female candidates out of 192 contestants. They are Kachaliah Tijjani, Saidu Falmata, Hajja Rukayya Shani, Dada Hajja Tanko, Kyari Bintu, Hajja Rukayya, Ali Zainab Abdulkadir Aisha and Nyako Muhammed Aisha.

Gombe has 14 female candidates out of 226. They are Yakubu Dangol, Idris Eglu, Mohammed Iganus Asmau, Muhammad Aishatu Sulaiman, Maisamari Mrs Linda, Dauda Vasty, Ayuba Alhaji Halima, Musa Aishatu, Abubakar Balkisu, Hamman Jauro Saratu, Ibrahim Zainab Abubakar, Hadiza Zubairu Hamza, Iliyasu Maimunatu Muhammad, Christy Babindis Adamu.

Seventeen women would challenge 235 men in Taraba. They include Johnson Eli, Kwaghikule Queen, Gidado Sakinatu, Kadiri Nangoma Angula, Aisha Abubakar, Hassana Abubakar Tanko, Yusuf Enudi, Adi Ndetsiba, Banko Magdalene, Ladi Danya’a, Elisha Patience, Garba H. Pheekamila, Alhassan Veronica, Ramson Ayosi, Musa Maryam and Manji Lohpon.

Yobe has five females — Abdullahi Abakar Aisha, Grema Gumsu, Aliyu Aisha and Ibrahim Maryam — out of 184 contestants.

Cont. reading [here](#).

ICPC Arrests Woman Selling New Naira Notes Via Social Media

By Yunusa Umar



A Twitter user, Omoseyin Oluwadarasimi Esther, has been arrested by Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC), for selling new naira notes via social media.

The commission in a tweet, yesterday, said the suspect was arrested following intelligence information.

“ICPC has today, 1st of February 2023, arrested a woman, Omoseyin Oluwadarasimi Esther, with the Twitter handle of Lala, offering new naira notes for sale on social media,” the commission tweeted. “The arrest was a result of intelligence received which led the ICPC operatives to seek out and promptly arrest the suspect.”

According to the statement, it is believed she is in collusion with key elements in the financial service sector, diverting the newly released notes away from the banks into the black market.

“She is currently in ICPC detention and is helping the commission with its findings on the criminals trading of the naira and the attendant scarcity and negative economic outcomes being caused by the action,” the commission further tweeted.

In October last year, CBN revealed its plan to redesign the N200, N500 and N1,000 notes, adding the old ones would not be accepted as legal tender by the end of this month. However, it extended the deadline following public outcry amplified by the media. Yet, the new notes are not in circulation as expected.

Bauchi Gov Decries Citizens' Sufferings Amid Scarcity of New Naira Notes

By Usman Babaji

Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, the Governor of Bauchi State has decried untold hardships of his subjects as a result of the scarcity of naira notes crippling businesses across the country.

He urged the federal government and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to provide measures that would reduce the sufferings faced by citizens in getting the new notes.

“Have compassion for the poor, have compassion for the community,” the governor stated on his Facebook handle on Thursday.

“With this, I am calling on the federal government and the central bank of Nigeria to provide ways to facilitate the provision of funds to banks and the community to enable them to carry on with their day-to-day operations,” he added.

Bala also urged the security agencies to monitor bank officials and POS operators who hoard and sell the new notes, thereby exacerbating people’s suffering.

“We call on the security agencies to monitor and punish bank officials and POS operators who hide new currency notes or sell them because this violates the provisions of the constitution and infringes the social laws,” said Bala.

WikkiTimes had reported that residents of Bauchi suffered untold hardships in getting the new notes from their various banks.

In October last year, CBN revealed its plan to redesign the N200, N500 and N1,000 notes, adding that the old ones would not be accepted as legal tender after the expiration of the dateline. However, the apex bank extended the deadline by 10 more days.

Last week, the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele, at a meeting with an ad-hoc committee on the review of the apex bank cashless policy and currency swap reiterates that the old series of the notes will lose legal tender status after February 10, 2023.

On Thursday CBN insisted that it is committed to ensuring that the new notes reach the hands of Nigerians as soon as possible. In collaboration with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC), CBN has been carrying out Banks’ Branch Spot-Checks on ATMs to tackle violations of the processes.

REPORTER'S DIARY: Cash-strapped ATMs, Frustrating Queues and More — New Naira Hardships in Bauchi Banks

By Babaji Usman

It was a hellish experience for WikkiTimes' USMAN BABAJI when he visited about seven banks in Bauchi metropolis to detail the hardship residents faced as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) insisted it would not extend the deadline for the disposal of old naira notes.

In October last year, CBN revealed its plan to redesign the N200, N500 and N1,000 notes, adding the old ones would not be accepted as legal tender by the end of this month.

Following its resistance, Nigerians have been trooping to banks to deposit the old notes and get the new ones which are in low circulation.

In Bauchi metropolis, customers are facing double jeopardy — depositing the old notes and not getting the new ones. They hopelessly queue up in front of cash-strapped Automated Teller Machines (ATMs).

Our reporter observes that there were insufficient funds in the machines, even as the apex bank pegged daily withdrawal to N20,000 per person.

At Firstbank, there are six machines but only two were dispensing funds as stranded customers groaned uncontrollably.

267th at GTBank, 232nd at First Bank — SUFFERING AT CASH-STRAPPED ATM POINTS

At GTBank, WikkiTimes' reporter was the 267th on the queue. He also clinched 232 at First Bank, as hundreds of residents lined up at various banks in the metropolis.

Jibrin Sallau, a United Bank for Africa (UBA) customer told WikkiTimes he had waited for a long hour at the bank's ATM point but could not withdraw money.

"About N50,000 was withdrawn from one cubicle and the money finished," Sallau said angrily, adding he was at the point for over three hours and may spend another couple of hours "just to withdraw N20,000."

At Sterling Bank's customer, Mohammed Adamu explained that he deposited old naira notes in the bank and demanded new notes, but the bankers told him to join queue at the "overcrowded" ATM gallery.

But he insisted that he needed money from the counter and he was offered old notes.

"He wanted to give me old notes again, but I refused. This refusal to extend the deadline is an anti-people decision," said Musa.

He claimed that the few notes presently in the banks were made available a week earlier "because the banks were dispensing the old ones hitherto."

At Access Bank ATM point, a customer, Mohammad Rabiou said his family would soon run out of food.

"Everyone wants to get what to take home but we could not," he said. "What does that mean? To be sincere I am not happy. I must wait because the old notes are being rejected in markets and my home has no food. Foodstuff sellers do not collect old notes from us. This is injustice. If the new notes were in abundance, there would be no problem."

Rabiou argued that the poor masses are bearing the suffering. "Have you seen any wealthy person or his son here? Have you seen a son of the president here, have you seen a son of a governor or senator or any lawmaker here? You can't even see a son of a local government chairman here. They just make a phone call and the new notes would be taken to their home. The suffering is ours."

He called on the authorities, to as a matter of urgency, look into how their policy is suffering Nigerians.

"If they know that they are pro-masses leaders, they should immediately address this problem deliberately created."

BANKS DECLINE COMMENTS

Efforts to speak to managers of the banks our report visited proved abortive as they said they were not authorized to speak to the media.

"We were not authorized to speak to the media," the manager of the First Bank who also declined to reveal his name stated. At some banks, access was not given to see the managers. Also, emails sent to them were not responded to.



Bauchi Gov Makes U-turn, Solicits Support for Atiku, Other PDP Candidates

By Babaji Usman

After openly threatened to sabotage the victory of the People Democratic Party's (PDP) presidential candidate, Abubakar Atiku, Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed has made a U-turn, urging students to vote for the party's flagbearer and other party members in the forthcoming election.

Governor Bala while speaking at the SIGN-UP of the North East Student Groups for Atiku/Okowa held at Event Center, Bauchi, called on the students to mobilise and vote for PDP candidates.

He pledged to support Atiku Abubakar to transform the educational sector to ensure learning and teaching are accessible to all Nigerians.

"I also pledged to support the administration of Atiku Abubakar to strengthen the educational capacity of youth by repositioning the sector through leveraging ICT for the total transformation that will ensure learning and teaching are made more accessible to Nigerians," he said.

He added that PDP, if elected, will change the narratives on the numerous challenges Nigerians are struggling with, particularly in education which is critical to societal development. "Hence the need to support Atiku to restore the lost glory of the sector," said Bala.

Governor Bala who is the Vice Chairman North in the PDP Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) reportedly had a rift with Alhaji Atiku over alleged maltreatment by the former Vice President's allies who he said were plotting to cripple his reelection in 2023.

In November last year, Bala, in an eight-page letter addressed to the National Chairman of the party, Senator Dr Iyiocha Ayu, threatened to withdraw from the PCC if Atiku failed to publicly disown those working against him and declare support for his reelection.

A few days later, the governor led a delegation from the state to Abuja to visit Atiku, a parley many seemed as fruitful as the duo settled their grudges.

Bauchi APC Rally: Police Confirm One Dead, Another Injured

By Idris Kamal Ibrahim

As the race for the March 25th governorship election gathered momentum, Bauchi State Police Command has confirmed that security details attached to APC governorship candidate, Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar (retired) shot one Yakubu Yunusa, 20, to death in Akuyam, a community in Misau local government area of the state.

Our correspondent reports that the incident happened when some youths attempted to deny Sadique entrance to Akuyam for his campaign. Spokesperson of Bauchi Police Command, SP Ahmed Muhammed Wakil while confirming the incident said, "At 20:30 00hrs, the gubernatorial APC candidate of APC, Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar (retired) on his way from Dambam to Akuyam for a campaign."

He added, "on reaching Akuyam, his entourage was attacked. And, on that note, his escort opened fire and two persons, Sale Garba aged 35 years and Yakubu Yunusa 20 years old all of Akuyam village were shot and evacuated to Federal Medical Center Azare for treatment."

Wakil said a medical report that the police obtained confirmed that on 31st January 2023 that "one of them is dead on receiving treatment."

On his part, the Director of Media and Publicity of the APC Governorship Campaign Council, Salisu Ahmed Barau alleged that some hoodlums stoned the APC campaign entourage on 29th January 2023 at the outskirts of Akuyam.

"Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar is a contestant under the platform of the APC and like any other candidate, he is qualified to go round and canvassed for votes.

"We set out to go to Akuyam that Sunday, but unfortunately when we were approaching there, were accosted by some hoodlums who were trying to cause confusion by throwing stones, beating people and what have you," he said.

Barau further alleged that the hoodlums destroyed more than 15 vehicles in the convoy of the APC governorship candidate.

"I cannot attack myself," he said.

Reacting to the incident, Director General Bauchi PDP Campaign Council, Farouk Mustapha described the incident as unfortunate, denying allegations that the entourage of the APC Governorship candidate, Sadique Baba Abubakar as insinuated in some quarters.

"I totally disagree that there was an attack on their vehicles. It was a deliberate thing to just cause serious injuries to the people of Akuyam and it resulted in a loss of life.

"The overzealous security details began shooting into the crowd and the bullet struck two young persons in the crowd, two others sustained fatal injuries.

"We were equally informed that the rally ended abruptly and the APC gubernatorial candidate left the rally not minding the injured victims," he said.

Northeast Labour Party's Leaders Dump Obi-Datti For Atiku-Okowa

Ahead of the February Presidential election in Nigeria, the North East Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) of the Labour Party (LP) has diverted their support to Atiku Abubakar instead of the party's presidential candidate, Peter Obi.

Announcing the decision during a press Conference held at Khairan Guest House in Bauchi on Tuesday, the Spokesperson of the Party's Presidential Campaign Council, North East, Muhammad Pantami, declared that over 40 million voters in the North East sub-region will vote for Alhaji Atiku Abubakar of the PDP in the 2023 general elections.

To him, based on their observations, the action of the leaders of the party has rendered the support groups and the Presidential Campaign Council of the party in the North East worthless most especially during presidential Campaign rallies despite having a huge number of party members of about 4 million voters.

Muhammad Pantami further explained that they have not been carried along during campaign rallies in almost all the states of the North East which include Taraba, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe and Borno.

"And from all indications the story will not change in Yobe State tomorrow 1st February 2023", he said.

Pantami who lamented that the Labour Party has been bedevilled by a lack of internal democracy, Tribalism and Godfatherism, alleged that his members have not been getting complete information about the internal functioning of the party.

He said power inside the party is concentrated among the leaders, such that, not all members are able to influence decisions.

Pantami further alleged that the Northern block is not been involved in the process of decision-making in the party.

"We only see politicking activities going or asked to do something without adequate time and other resources to prepare effectively, unlike the southerners", he said.

The Spokesperson of the North East Labour Party Presidential campaign council also revealed that lack of federal character is the order of the day in the party such that loyalty towards leaders becomes more important than loyalty to the party principles, policies, and patriotism.



Muhammad Pantami stated that the mainstream politicking decision of the party and the presidential campaign council (PCC) is tilted toward Southerners in the party, thereby sidelining Northerners.

"We the northerners, constitute about 65% of the voting in the presidential elections, our members are totally not satisfied with this the situation", he said.

Pantami went further to note that "despite the fact that the North has a greater percentage of voters, this problem of sidelining persists, the current situation calls for an action".

According to him, loyalty to a few individuals that influence major decisions becomes more important than loyalty to the party constitution and patriotism which has made it impossible for many hardworking stakeholders to be engaged properly in the politicking of the party.

He added that the acute lack of proper engagement of stakeholders, leaders and PCC Presidential campaign council members from the North is one of the major issues that made it necessary for them to find an alternative platform for their political engagement.

Pantami noted that leadership actions and actions in the Labour Party have not bonded leaders and followers together in a mutual and continuing pursuit of a higher purpose, which he said has highly reduced the possibility of the success of the party in the coming presidential polls.

"Based on the aforementioned issues raised, we the leaders, stakeholders and about 4 million registered voters in the six states of Taraba, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Borno, and Yobe resolved firmly to resign our membership from the labour party and defect to the People's Democratic Party", he declared.

"We also resolved to declare our full support to Alhaji Atiku Abubakar of the PDP", he concluded.

Police Confirm One Killed As Sara-Suka Thugs Clash in Bauchi

By Yawale Adamu

Police in Bauchi has said that a clash between two warring groups of notorious thugs locally known as Sara Suka boys in Wunti market, Bauchi has claimed the life of one Musa Shadow.

WikkiTimes learnt that the two warring groups of Bashir Bakaji of Nassarawa/Bakin Kura and Musa Shadow Jaja were engaged in a verbal exchange of words before it turns into a violent one.

Confirming the incident in a statement issued in Bauchi, the Bauchi State Police Command PPRO, SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakili said it was Bashir Bakaji that mobilized ten of these boys armed with dangerous weapons and attacked Musa Shadow in Wunti market, Bauchi Town.

”On 21st January 2023 intelligence at the Command disposal reveals that one Ahmad Bashir “m” A.K.A Bakaji of Nassarawa ward Bauchi criminally conspired and mobilized ten (10) of his thugs (Sara-suka) members armed with dangerous weapons all of Nassarawa ward Bauchi and Bakin Kura respectively, attacked one Abdullahi Musa “m” A.K.A shadow of Jaja ward Bauchi now deceased at Wunti market Bauchi.

“After a little altercation between them which led to engaging in fighting in the process the said Ahmad Bashir stabbed the said Abdullahi Musa with a sharp knife on his back, as a result, he fell unconscious,” the statement read in part.

Wakil added that on receiving the information, a team of detectives attached to Area Command Metro arrived at the scene, and evaluated the victim to ATBU Teaching Hospital Bauchi for immediate attention but pronounced dead by a medical doctor, saying “the prime suspect (Ahmad Bashir) was arrested on the 24th of January, 2023 after hiding for days. Meanwhile, an effort is intensified to arrest his cohorts to face the full wrath of the law.”

Kano Police Arrests Kidnapper Trying to Bribe Officer

By Yawale Adamu

Kano State Police Command claims a suspected kidnapper, Alhaji Bamuwa Umaru, was arrested while trying to bribe its operative with N1 million to secure get his colleague out of detention.

The suspect who hails from Shika town in Sabon Gari local council, Kaduna State was aid to have approached the Officer in Charge of the command’s Anti-Kidnapping Squad, Aliyu Mohammed with the bribe to bail a Zamafara-based kidnapper, Yusuf Ibrahim.

Spokesman for the command, Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, said the police officer “rejected” the bride and arrested Bamuwa, who later confessed to being a member of a kidnapping gang that terrorized locals in Sheme, Yankara, Kucheri and Faskari local areas of Katsina and Zamfara States. According to a press statement by Kiyawa, Yusuf was earlier arrested at a motor park by Kano police operatives after he was identified by a driver whom he had kidnapped and collected N500,000 ransom before releasing him.

The statement read: “On 16th December 2022 at about 1400hrs, one Alhaji Bamuwa Umaru, ‘m’, 62 years old, of Shika town, Sabon Gari LGA.

Kaduna State approached the Officer in Charge of Anti-Kidnapping Squad, State Criminal Investigation Department, Kano State Command, SP Aliyu Mohammed and offered him the sum of One Million Naira (N1,000,000:00) as bribe to secure the release of one Yusuf Ibrahim, ‘m’, 27 years old, of Danjibga Village, Tsafe LGA, Zamfara State, a suspected kidnapper arrested at

“Yusuf Ibrahim was arrested by a team of Operation Restore Peace led by CSP Usman Abdullahi, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Rijiyar Zaki Division Kano after he was identified by a driver they kidnapped along Funtuwa-Gusau Road, and collected the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000:00) as ransom before his release.

“He further confessed that their syndicate members killed about Ten (10) of their kidnapped victims, and he alone killed Two (2) of the victims.”

Kiyawa stated that the suspect would be arraigned in court after investigations.

Rijiyar Zaki Motor Park Kano.

Electoral Violence: Bauchi APC Petitions Police, Wants Rival PDP, Monarch Investigated

By Hafsah Mohammed Ibrahim

The All Progressives Congress (APC) in Bauchi State has petitioned the police authority to investigate the district head of Akuyam Community, Alhaji Iliya Aliyu and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) over “involvement and incitement” of thuggery on its campaign entourage.

WikkiTimes learnt that APC supporters were during a campaign on January 30, attacked and injured at Akuyam Town in Misau local council. The assailants also destroyed the vehicles of the party’s supporters.

According to the petition signed by the party’s attorney, Mukhtar Abubakar Usman, APC gubernatorial candidate in Bauchi, Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar, was about to enter the town when the chaos erupted.

Before the incident, it was written in the petition that the Director General of the Bauchi State APC Governorship Campaign Council, Alhaji Nadada Umar, received a phone call from the district head of Akuyam Alhaji Iliya Aliyu, warning the APC campaign entourage not to approach the town as the residents have resolved not to host any party other than the PDP.

The statement partly read: “Bauchi State APC Governorship Council, Alhaji Nadada Umar received a phone call from one, Alhaji Iliya Aliyu, the District Head of Akuyam, Misau Local Government Area (1 herein the accused person), who warned the former not to dare approach Akuyam Town because according to him, Akuyam people had purportedly resolved not to entertain any political party other than PDP as it had already met their communal demands for development of the area, hence his town and the entire district does not welcome the APC.

“That, in addition, the 1st accused person (Alhaji Iliya Aliyu, the District Head of Akuyam) warned in the telephone conversation that if the Bauchi State APC Governorship Candidate, Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar (Rtd.) enters Akuyam Town, then, APC and its supporters would have themselves to blame for any negative eventuality.

“That on the same day being Monday the 30th day of January, 2023, after many of APC supporters had already entered Akuyam Town but before the Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar could enter the town, some thugs, armed with stones and other harmful objects such as sticks, machetes etc. stationed themselves at different points inside Akuyam Town and continued to smash cars and buses conveying APC supporters, thereby damaging several number of vehicles forming part of the Air Marshal Abubakar’s campaign entourage. As a result of this unfortunate development, many APC supporters sustained various degrees of injuries.

“That having received information that his supporters were being attacked by armed thugs, the Bauchi APC Governorship candidate, Air Marshal Abubakar stopped part of his entourage which was reachable, turned to Azare and spent the night there to avoid escalation of the violent attack already started by the thugs instigated by the accused persons. On the next day, Tuesday the 31 day of January, 2023, the said APC campaign entourage went back to Akuyam and held its campaign rally peaceful including paying a courtesy visit on the said District Head of Akuyam, Alh. Iliya Aliyu (1 the accused person).

“That while addressing the said APC Governorship Candidate’s campaign entourage at his palace, the said District Head of Akuyam, Alh. Iliya Aliyu (the 1st accused person) bitterly accused Air Marshal Abubakar of not heeding to his earlier warning not to come to Akuyam because his District is for PDP which “has done everything for them” and he attributed the violent incident that escalated to smashing of their vehicles to APC’s entry into Akuyam against his earlier warning. And it is obvious that the District Head of Akuyam is an accomplice, if not a mastermind of the criminal act of smashing the APC’s vehicles because, surprisingly, it was he, the District Head of Akuyam who first told the false story of a purported shooting of individuals at our rally. Our client never knew anything whatsoever about the shooting incident.” While calling for a timely intervention of the Bauchi Police command, the party called for immediate arrest and prosecution of the persons involved.

Continued from page 2

“So, they will be looking for the slightest opportunity to make themselves look like good Samaritans to the voters,” he added.

“There is a close correlation between helping somebody secure the PVC and him or her voting for you,” Muhammad continued. “Sometimes somebody may just feel guilty. This politician is the one who helped me get this card; how can I use the same card to vote for someone else rather than him.”

This report was published with support from Civic Media Lab.

Why S/Court Sacks Taraba APC Guber Candidate, Bwacha

By Babaji Usman

Supreme court has annulled the nomination of the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Taraba state Senator Emmanuel Bwacha over a false declaration of results by INEC returning officer. A five-member panel led by Kudirat Kekere-Ekun while delivering judgment on Wednesday, affirmed the verdict of the federal high court which held that the APC did not conduct any valid governorship primary in the state.

Senator Bwacha was elected to the Senate for the Taraba South Senatorial District in the 2011 general elections on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) before he defected to APC in February 2022 and joined the guber race for the state.

WikkiTimes recalled that in September 2022, in a suit filed by one of the aspirants, David Sabo Kente, a federal high court in Jalingo, nullified Bwacha as the APC’s governorship candidate over what it described as not valid governorship primary.

The high court judge, Simon Amobeda, had agreed with the complainant that no governorship primary for APC was held in Taraba and ordered that a fresh exercise should be conducted within 14 days.

Amobeda condemned the false declaration of results at Danbaba Suntai airport in Jalingo by the returning officer who later reportedly left the country on a private jet.

However, Bwacha challenged the judgement and moved to the court of appeal in Yola which set aside the earlier judgment of the high court which sacked Senator Bwacha.

But Kente, through his counsel, Kanu Agabi, filed an appeal before the Supreme Court.

Human Rights Commission Holds Town Hall For Bauchi Guber Candidates

By Idris Kanmal Ibrahim

National Human Rights Commission has organized a town hall for the gubernatorial candidates of political parties in Bauchi State on human rights and the forthcoming 2023 elections.

The National Executive Secretary of the commission Chief Tony Ojukwu in his opening statement said the Commission has the mandate to protect and promote the human rights of every person in Nigeria in line with the human rights provided under the constitution.

Represented by the Senior Human Rights Adviser to the commission Hillary Ogbunnah, Chief Ojukwu said the commission also works with national and international partners to achieve its very important mandate, adding that free and fair elections are key tenets of a democratic system of governance.

“Free and fair elections are key tenets of a democratic system of governance. The right to participate in the governance process, including voting and standing for election, is central to a democracy. Elections are germane in creating an enabling environment for the fulfilment of human rights.

He said the election should be a time of critical self-reflection in commitment to the social contract of democracy and achievement of human rights.

Ojukwu added that the commission and United Nations System as gatekeepers of human rights have decided to the human rights message to political parties and candidates contesting the Presidential and gubernatorial elections as the future leaders to discuss the place of human rights in a democracy and as a common standard of political commitment which every leader should sign onto.

He said Bauchi State is part of the 18 states the commission is holding the town hall for the guber candidates, noting that the event was a non-partisan one and there would be no endorsement of any candidate or evaluation of performance, but to develop a value system that places human rights as a key element in electoral process and democracy, hoping that the candidates would focus their campaigns on strategies to protect and fulfil the human rights.

Gubernatorial candidates present at the event were of People Redemption Party (PRP) Barrister Umar Faruk Ahmed and Amb. Khalid Arewa of Zenith Labour Party (ZLP).

Continue reading [here](#).

Polchi — Bauchi Community Where 9 Villages Seek Treatment from Drug Vendors

By Usman Babaji

Locals in villages under Polchi community in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State depend on drug vendors for healthcare needs.

The villages — Kuntal, Gurup, Layi, Unguawan Dawaki, Tsakani, Illi, Tudu, Unguwan Wakili, and Sang — have no health facility, WikkiTimes learnt. Locals trek several miles for medical treatment; but inside drug vendor shops.

Alternatively, they travel long distances to the 10km-Katsinawa town along Bauchi-Jos road or resort to 8km-Mararaban Liman Katagum along Bauchi-Dass road. Unfortunately, these communities also operate a not-too-good healthcare system.

Locals decried not having an indigenous son to take their affairs seriously, according to the District Head of Polchi, Dauda Jibrin.

According to the monarch, the community would be glad if the government provides them with a health centre.

“I wish to see the time when we will have a healthcare centre in this area,” he said.

Bala Dauda, one of the drug vendors, told WikkiTimes in a phone conversation that the patients suffer untold hardship if their cases go beyond what they could handle.

He added that a road linking Polchi to where they can get access to any health facility is in shambles. This, according to him, exacerbates the problem. “Patients on several occasions die along the road because of the prolonged journey.”

Dr Rilwanu Mohammed, the Chairman of Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development Agency could not immediately comment.

When contacted, he told WikkiTimes he was away for official assignment and would only comment when he comes back.

But Mohammed had earlier told WikkiTimes that there are about 349 healthcare facilities in Bauchi State and the government is doing the needful to transform the existing ones and establish more centres.

Similarly, Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State had last week said his administration made giant strides in improving healthcare delivery, saying hundreds of facilities and general hospitals had been renovated, equipped and upgraded.



The monarch told WikkiTimes that they only depend on the drug vendors operating in the area to treat most of their ailments, “but in some instances, the patients pay the cost through preventable deaths.”

During WikkiTimes’ visit to the community, all the (three) drug shops were not operating. One of the attendants “was away for over five days,” says Jibrin, adding, the other one was also closed but the third one might have gone to market.

“Our most pressing demand is; a healthcare centre then school,” the monarch stressed. “We complained several times and we could not succeed so far, we don’t even have a dispensary here. You see, we don’t have our son there to follow up.”

He added: “Because we have never been promised despite our several applications to both state and local government for the centre.

“We take our patients to the chemist (drug vendors) but when they are not around or when the illness worsened, we take the patients to Mararaban Liman Katagum, but sometime before reaching there, we lost some of our members, because there is no good road to Mararaba.”



Explosion Rocks Bauchi, Destroys Mosque, House, School

Editor

Dynamite-like explosives rocked Azare town in Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi State, destroying a house, mosque and school.

According to Daily Trust, Aminu Alhassan, Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, disclosed this earlier today at the Palace of Emir of Katagum, Alhaji Umar Faruk II and the Palace of Galadiman Katagum Alhaji Usman Mahmood Abdullahi, when he accompanied Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed, to commiserate with the victims.

The police boss said no live was lost in the explosion, adding that it occurred after some people cleared the grasses and garbage in the area and burnt them.

Alhassan suspected that explosives were planted by Boko Haram insurgents about three decades ago when they attacked Azara Police Station.

“We suspected may be the explosives device like dynamite was buried in the area for more than three decades, because the road construction company once lived in that place, and sometimes back when Boko Haram attacked Azare Police Station, they followed through the same route where the device exploded, we are still investigating,” he said, adding that anti-bomb disposal unit while carrying out investigation at the site discovered two explosives.

On his part, Governor Bala pledged to compensate the affected victims and expressed gratitude to God that no life was lost to the explosion.

He asked the affected victims to take the incident as an act of God and reiterated the government’s commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens.

Governor Bala urged the resident in the area to cooperate with the security agencies, even if it means relocating them from the area in order to clear all the suspected explosives that might have been planted in the area.

Extolling the monarch, Bala said: “He is the Emir who leaves his palace in the night and goes round his domain to encourage security operatives in their effort to protect lives and properties of citizens.”

The Emir, Alhaji Umar Faruk II, however, thanked the governor for the visit and assured him of cooperation in his effort to provide security to lives and property of his subjects.

He commended the governor for his concern and commitment to providing adequate security to the people of the state.

“We were shocked when we heard the loud sound. No life was lost, but it damaged so many things in my house,” said Alhaji Muhammadu Baba, the owner of the house destroyed by the explosion,

Joy Envelopes Locals As Word Bank Takes Over N10m Dispensary Renovation Project in Bauchi

By Usman Babaji

It was a joyful moment for residents of Dokan Lugge community in the Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State when they learnt that the Word Bank would spend N10 million to renovate their dispensary. Built by the locals in 1977, the dispensary is serving about 15 villages with thousands of residents who seek medical help at the centre.

The World Bank would donate N9.5 million, while the locals are expected to contribute 5% (N500,000) of the total amount.

During WikkiTimes’ visit to the site at Kadage village on Monday, ten heaps of sand were already provided by the locals.

The renovation is expected to kick off as soon as the villagers complete their 5% contribution, according to Sama’ila Yakubu, spokesman for a community cooperative union, Dokan Lugge Multipurpose Association.

Yakubu explained that there was also an initial expansion of the dispensary which was done out of the funds contributed by locals. According to him, the dispensary is planned to be transformed into a maternity facility when completed.

He said the centre was selected after the local association attended a seminar organised by the World Bank for nine local governments in the state in December 2022.

Yakubu recalled that about 10 associations participated in the program and benefited on the condition that each beneficiary would contribute 5% of the total project cost.

He expressed his gratitude to World Bank’s efforts to revamp the healthcare system in the community.

Yakubu, however, pleaded with the state government to intervene, noting that the dispensary is understaffed. “We need more healthcare staff, this is part of the challenges we are facing, we have only one healthcare female staff,” he said.

The Chairman of the Dokan Lugge Multipurpose Association, Muhammadu Garba said there are 15 villages using the dispensary. He noted that the recent intervention would improve the well-being of the locals.

He thanked the World Bank including other stakeholders in the community who immensely contributed to the struggle.

Garba told WikkiTimes that the facility if completed and transformed, would serve the 15 villages and beyond.

Efforts to reach the World Bank for comments proved abortive, but Yakubu noted that it’s a matter of days for the work to commence.

Inside Bauchi Nomadic School Where Nothing Works

By Usman Babaji



Lack of learning materials and decaying structures frustrate pupils, including their teachers at Mararaba Liman Katagum Nomadic Primary School, in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

The pupils receive lessons on bare floors and often vacate the school whenever it rains. WikkiTimes learnt that there are 1,000 pupils who are being taught by six teachers in four classrooms.

The school has 580 male pupils and 420 female counterparts spread across nursery one to primary six. According to an enrolment board spotted by our reporter, there are 77 children in the nursery section and 923 pupils in the primary section.

Hitherto, the 20-year-old Mararaba school had three blocks of two classes, but one block was destroyed by a windstorm about six years ago. Continued decaying structure of the school is forcing students out of classrooms, according to teachers.

Malam Nura Sale, one of the staff in the school, told WikkiTimes that both the teachers and the pupils are in pathetic condition as the roofs of the classes including the staff office leak during rainy season. He added that dust also stains both pupils' and teachers' clothes.

He lamented that the school has not been provided with textbooks for over a decade and it is one of the reasons, both the teachers and the pupils see the classes as hell.

His words: "We don't have enough teachers, we can't control them all, no teaching materials. A child can come to school neat but return home dirty."

"The pupils and also the teachers do not have textbooks, that's why they don't want to come to school regularly."

Malam Nura lamented that despite the population of the pupils, the school has no source of water. "We don't have drinking water," he lamented. "It compels them to go somewhere and drink any water available. Though they have a toilet, there is no way they can use it without water,"

According to Malam Nura, the school management made several complaints about the situation to the state authorities but to no avail and the condition exacerbates on daily bases.

"We are not happy with this situation," he declared, urging the government to do the needful.

'PUPILS CAN LEARN UNDER TREES' — GOVT

Musa Ibrahim Ardo, the Secretary of the Bauchi State Agency for Nomadic Education (BASANE) told WikkiTimes that the state government is working hard to address the plights of about 526 nomadic schools in the state.

He explained that with 1,273 teachers serving 111,488 pupils in the state, the agency's priority is however to enroll more pupils into basic education so "they can learn even under a tree before the problems of structures are addressed."

Ardo explained that due to the number of schools with limited funds in the state, the government can only do their best.

For Bala Mohammed, the governor of the state, his administration had made giant strides in transforming the education sector in the state.

Bala stated this when he led top government officials to commission a healthcare facility at Dagauda community of Dambam local council over the weekend.



CLASS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
NUR 1	20	10	30
NUR 2	10	14	24
NUR 3	13	10	23
TOTAL	43	34	77
PR 1	80	62	142
PR 2	100	60	160
PR 3	110	80	190
TOTAL	290	202	492
PR 4	78	70	148
PR 5	95	90	185
PR 6	74	24	98
TOTAL	247	184	431
SECTION	MALE	SUMMARY FEMALE	TOTAL
NUR 1-3	43	34	77
PR 1-3	290	202	492
PR 4-6	247	184	431

Incessant ASUU Strike and Dwindling Performance of University Students In Nigeria

James Atang Itsegok & Adamu Muhammad Hamid

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is a Nigerian union of university academic staff, founded in 1978. ASUU is an offshoot of the Nigerian Association of University Teachers (NAUT) which was established in 1965. At that time, NAUT consisted of only five (5) Universities in total including University of Ibadan, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, University of Ife and University of Lagos. Professor Victor Emmanuel Osodeke emerged as the body's president on 30 May 2021.

Nothing can be more shocking than learning that the Academic Staff Union of Universities has embarked on no fewer than 16 industrial actions between 1999 and 2022.

For those who may not know, a major factor triggering university lecturers' strikes is the failure of the government to fulfill an agreement it entered into with the academic union. Another factor is the failure of the lecturers to reinvent themselves and face current realities and find fresh ways of resolving their incessant disputes with the government.

Each time the ASUU strike rears its ugly head, one is forced to conclude that both the government and our lecturers lack empathy for us the students. Better put, they don't have our interests at heart.

The recurrence of the ASUU strike has numerous negative impacts on us, something the government and ASUU don't consider when they fail to come to an agreement. We lost a whole session to this same madness two years ago. The same thing is already happening now, with the ongoing strike.

Since an idle mind, as they say, is the devil's workshop, it goes without saying that idle students, forced to remain at home by the ongoing strike, can be instigated to join criminal activities such as cybercrime, kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry and the likes.

It is however good to note that during ASUU strikes, some students devote their time to learning relevant vocational skills. And learning a skill is crucial, especially now that there is no hope of securing a sustainable job after graduation. However, skill is just a bonus to getting a quality education.

According to Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." If the strike persists and if future strike actions are not averted, there is every possibility that more students will lose interest in higher education.

Sadly, too, some young ladies have been forced into early and unprepared marriages by their parents during the course of this strike. It is not all parents that will agree to let ASUU waste their children's youthful age. That is why they won't mind marrying off their daughters, as the needless industrial action festers.

Meanwhile, what the lecturers' union demands from the government is for it to honour its own promises made in 2009 for improved funding of the university system and working conditions of the lecturers. Though the government has now devised means of strategically disowning the 2009 agreement signed between its representatives and ASUU, the leaders should be reminded that government is an institution and not a person. Change of administration should not be an excuse to renege on binding commitments made by the government, especially those relating to a critical sector like education.

Underfunding of the education sector, over the years, has had collateral effects on the country. Our universities, hitherto exemplary centers of excellence that attracted academics from far and near, have now become grotesque carcasses of their former selves.

In a shameful development, Nigerians from lower and upper classes fall over themselves to leave the shores of the country for studies. A report released last year put the figure of what Nigeria lost to overseas studies at N1.5 trillion per annum. It could be higher.

Embarrassingly, countries like Ghana, Uganda, Togo, etc. that were hitherto considered far below ours in all respects, have now turned to our preferred destinations. Ghana alone is estimated to be benefitting from about N160 billion from hundreds of Nigerians trooping there to pursue university education.

Five (5) Catastrophic Effects Of ASUU Strikes On University Students

With the recent declaration by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) on the 14th of August, 2017 to embark on an indefinite strike following the failure of the Federal Government to fully implement the 2009 FGN-ASUU agreement and the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) it has become imperative to state that the Nigeria education system is gradually losing her salt by the day. ASUU was established in 1978 and has since then encountered some of the worst problems in the history of trade unionism in Nigeria.

[Cont. reading here](#)