

Why US Military Personnel landed in Bauchi – DHQ

.... as two cases of abduction recorded in Alkaleri LGA

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

The Nigerian defense ministry has announced the arrival of 100 US soldiers at Bauchi Airport

The ministry did not specify when the “US military trainers” arrived.

The Director of Defence Information, Major General Samaila Uba gave the announcement in a statement last Monday.

The Defence Headquarters (DHQ) wishes to announce the arrival of about 100 United States military personnel and associated equipment at Bauchi Airfield,” the statement said.

He said the soldiers are to support the Nigerian Armed Forces in training, technical assistance, and intelligence cooperation.

“Their arrival is planned and deliberate following a formal request by the Federal Government of Nigeria to the US government to support a clearly defined military training requirement, technical support and intelligence sharing with the members of the Armed Forces of Nigeria.”

The American soldiers are being deployed to Nigeria as part of increased military cooperation to fight insecurity in the West African country,

General UBA said the deployment is part of ongoing Nigeria-US defence collaboration, following discussions



during a recent working group engagement between both countries' military delegations.

He said the collaboration aims to provide access to specialised technical capabilities to strengthen Nigeria's ability to deter terrorist threats and protect vulnerable communities nationwide.

General Uba said that the US personnel are technical specialists serving strictly in an advisory and training capacity—not combat troops—and that all activities will be conducted under the authority, direction, and control of the Nigerian government in close coordination with the Armed Forces of Nigeria.

“Nigerian troops,

alongside the US advisers, will undertake a series of joint training exercises and intelligence-focused cooperation initiatives designed to enhance the capacity of troops to identify, counter, and neutralise extremist groups seeking to destabilize the country”.

“The Armed Forces of Nigeria remain fully committed to degrading and defeating terrorist organisations that threaten the country's sovereignty, national security, and the safety of its citizens,” the statement said, assuring Nigerians of transparency and timely information regarding the cooperation

Nigeria is facing a longstanding jihadist insurgency in the northeast, a conflict between farmers and

herders in north-central regions, separatist violence in the southeast, and kidnappings for ransom in the northwest.

US President Donald Trump has claimed that Christians in Nigeria are being “persecuted” and are victims of “genocide” perpetrated by “terrorists.”

But Abuja and most independent experts say the violence in Nigeria indiscriminately affects both Christians and Muslims.

On December 25, the US military conducted airstrikes in Nigeria's Sokoto State. Nigerian authorities subsequently said the action was coordinated with them and it targeted Islamic State jihadists.

For the announced deployment, Nigeria's DHQ said: “The US personnel are technical specialists serving strictly in an advisory and training capacity. They are not combat forces.”

It was reported that Last week, United States military aircraft started landing in Nigeria, signaling the start of a new security cooperation phase between the US and Nigeria.

According to US officials, the steady flow of aircraft is expected to continue over the next several weeks as part of a temporary mission supporting targeted counterterrorism efforts.

On February 10, American and Nigerian officials told reporters that about 200 US soldiers

would be deployed to Nigeria in advisory and training roles, reinforcing the broader security cooperation framework.

The move would add to a small US team already in Nigeria after the first publicly acknowledged US ground presence since carrying out strikes on Christmas Day.

The troops are expected to provide training and technical support to the Nigerian military in the fight against terrorism and banditry.

Trump has said there could be more US military action in Nigeria, while Reuters has reported that the United States had been conducting surveillance flights over the country from Ghana since at least late November.

'Christian genocide'

Relations between Nigeria and the United States shifted after Trump late last year threatened to enter Nigeria “guns-ablazing” to avenge what he has called a “Christian genocide”.

Weeks later, on Christmas Day, US Navy warships, aided by Nigerian intelligence, launched 16 Tomahawk missiles at what Trump said was the “terrorist scum” responsible for killing Nigerian Christians.

Nigeria has come under intense pressure from the United States to act after Trump alleged the country was failing to protect Christians from

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News

El-Rufai faces two-year jail for alleged cybercrime offences

** DSS files charges * Ex-minister detained after hours of grilling at EFCC*

Former Kaduna State governor Nasir El-Rufai faces two years in jail for alleged cybercrime if found guilty of the offences he was charged with.

Yesterday, the Directorate of State Service (DSS) filed a three-count charge bordering on intrusion into privacy.

Also, he was detained last night after being grilled for hours by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over alleged financial impropriety.

His appearance at the EFCC's office was trailed by two groups of protesters – some in his support and others against him.

By nightfall, El-Rufai, once one of the most powerful figures in the political establishment, found himself facing the grim prospect of a jail term, multiple investigations, and a growing chorus of voices insisting that his public admissions had left him with “a clear case to answer.”

DSS slams ex-governor with cybercrime charge

The DSS filed a three-count criminal charge at the Federal High Court in Abuja over the alleged unlawful interception of telephone communications of the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu.

The charge, marked FHC/ABJ/CR/99/2026, was filed early yesterday and draws heavily from comments El-Rufai made during a February 13, 2026, interview on Arise TV's Prime Time programme.

In that interview, he spoke of listening to intercepted conversations allegedly involving Ribadu and security operatives, statements investigators now say amount to admissions of criminal conduct.

According to the prosecution, El-Rufai admitted knowledge of the unlawful interception, failed to report those responsible to security agencies, and, working with others still at large, benefited from or encouraged the use of technical systems that compromised national security and instilled fear among the public.

Counts in the charge read:



That you, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, adult, male, on 13th February, 2026, while appearing as a guest on Arise TV station's Prime Time Programme in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this court, did admit during the interview that you and your cohorts unlawfully intercepted the phone communications of the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 12(1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Amendment, Act, 2024.

That you, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, adult, male, on 13th February, 2026, while appearing as a guest on Arise TV station's Prime Time Programme in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this court, did state during the interview that you know and relate with certain individual, who unlawfully intercepted the phone Communications of the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, without reporting the said individual to relevant security agencies and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 27 (b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Amendment, Act, 2024.

That you, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, adult, male, and other still at large, sometime in 2026, in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this court, with others still at large did use technical equipment or systems which compromised

public safety, national security and instilling reasonable apprehension of insecurity among Nigerians by unlawfully intercepting the phone communications of the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, to which you admitted during an interview on 13th February, 2026, on Arise TV station's Prime Time Programme in Abuja and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 131(2) Nigerian Communications Act 2003.

Section 12 (1) of the Cybercrime Act provides for a two-year jail term or N5million fine or both on conviction; Section 131 (2) of the Nigerian Communications Act stipulates a fine not exceeding N100,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both.

EFCC detains El-Rufai

The EFCC detained the former governor after subjecting him to about eight hours of interrogation at its Abuja headquarters.

The detention followed a court order obtained by the commission to allow investigators more time to question El-Rufai over a raft of allegations arising from a Kaduna State House of Assembly report adopted in June 2024.

Investigators said he is expected to account for over N21 billion, part of broader claims that up to N432 billion in loans and state funds were mismanaged during his eight-year tenure from May 2015 to

May 2023.

An EFCC source said the former governor was grilled on allegations of diversion of funds, money laundering, and the accumulation of what lawmakers described as unjustified domestic and foreign debts.

The source added that the commission acted on a formal petition by the Kaduna State Government, supported by resolutions of the House of Assembly.

Part of the probe centres on the controversial Kaduna light rail project, for which substantial public funds were reportedly paid to a joint venture company, Indo Kaduna Marts JV Nigeria Ltd, but the project was never executed.

Assembly investigators recommended recovery actions and referrals of former commissioners of finance and accountants-general to law enforcement agencies.

The EFCC source said: “The court order allows us to detain him to enable him to make statements and clarify documents, agreements and instruments bearing his signature.

“How long he stays depends entirely on the court.”

Drama, protests, counter-protests

El-Rufai's appearance at the EFCC headquarters was marked by drama even before he arrived.

Groups of supporters and critics gathered within and around the precincts, some chanting solidarity songs, others demanding immediate prosecution.

Under the banner of various civil society and advocacy groups, protesters carried placards reading “El-Rufai Not Above the Law,” “Answer the Charges,” and “Let Justice Speak.”

Another cluster of demonstrators accused the agencies of political persecution, insisting that the former governor was being targeted for his outspoken views.

EFCC officials received petitions from protest leaders and urged calm, assuring them that the commission would act professionally and in line with due process.

An official told the crowd:

“The EFCC recognises the right of Nigerians to lawful protest.

“Your concerns will be communicated to the appropriate quarters.”

In Kaduna, hundreds of demonstrators also stormed the State House of Assembly, demanding updates on the legislative probe into El-Rufai's administration.

Lawmakers said their findings had already been transmitted to anti-graft agencies and warned that no individual, regardless of status, would be shielded from accountability.

El-Rufai has spoken himself into many troubles in recent months.

Last week, he stated that he was likely to be arrested.

The following day, he arrived from Cairo, Egypt and created a scene inside the arrival hall of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, when security operatives tried to have an audience with him.

His supporters found their way into the arrival hall and prevented the security men from doing their job. But his passport was seized.

On Sunday, he posted on X that he had written to the NSA seeking an explanation on the alleged importation of a toxic chemical from Poland.

The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) accused him of being deceptive by not saying that he received a response from the office and that the matter had been referred to the DSS for probe.

He is also expected to appear before the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Offences Commission (ICPC) to defend his integrity on another matter.

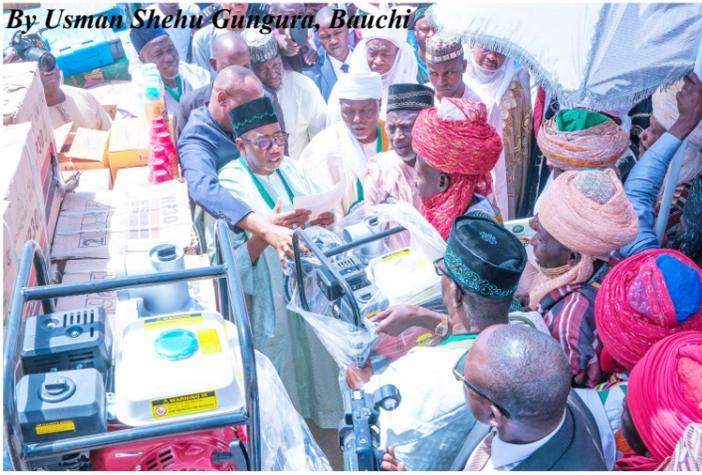
El-Rufai had said in the interview: “We found that it was the ICPC that procured the DSS to abduct me and hand over to them.

“This is the modus operandi of ICPC that increasingly has become a personal tool of... Ribadu, who made the call and ordered that I must be in custody that particular day.

“He made the call because we listened to their calls. The government thinks they are the only ones that listen to calls, but we also have our ways. He made the call and gave the order.”

Governor Mohammed Launches 2026 Dry Season Farming in Sarma, Misau LGA

By Usman Shehu Gungura, Bauchi



In his administration's unwavering commitment and determination to reposition agriculture for sustainable food Security and economic development in Bauchi state, Governor Bala Mohammed, on Monday officially launched the 2026 Dry Season Farming Programme in Sarma, Akuyam district in Misau Local Government Area.

The State Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Iliyasu Gital, while making his opening remarks at the event, assured farmers of the timely distribution of farm inputs, emphasizing government's readiness to ensure a smooth and productive dry season farming cycle.

Governor Bala Mohammed in his speech outlined bold vision to transform the agricultural sector through the launch of a comprehensive Agricultural Policy Roadmap designed to revamp the entire value chain, from production to processing and marketing. He noted that the initiative is strategically

positioned to strengthen food security, create jobs, and stimulate rural development.

He announced the production and sale of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs at subsidized rates to ease the burden on farmers and boost productivity. Reiterating his administration's vision to make Bauchi State a fertilizer production hub, describing Bauchi state as a key player in Nigeria's agricultural value chain.

While addressing stakeholders, Governor Bala Mohammed cautioned traditional leaders against the indiscriminate allocation of grazing and agricultural reserve lands, stressing the need to preserve designated areas to support long-term agricultural expansion and sustainability.

The launch marks another significant milestone in the administration's drive to modernize agriculture, empower farmers, and secure a prosperous future for Bauchi State.

Father allegedly confines, chains son for 17 years in Bauchi

The Bauchi State Police Command has rescued a middle-aged man who was allegedly confined and kept in chains by his biological father for about 17 years in Shadawanka village, Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

According to a statement issued by the Spokesperson of the Command, SP Nafiu Habib, the victim, identified as Muhammad Lawan, popularly known as Babangida, was rescued on Sunday, February 16, 2026, following a report from a good Samaritan who alerted the authorities to his condition.

A team of detectives from the Bauchi State Police Command, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of 'B' Division, accompanied by the

Spokesperson visited the residence where the man was reportedly held.

The officers found the victim in an emaciated state and immediately rescued him.

The victim's father, Mohammed Lawan, has been arrested and is currently in police custody. The rescued man has been taken to a hospital for medical treatment and rehabilitation.

The Commissioner of Police, Sani-Omolori Aliyu, has directed the DPO to carry out a preliminary investigation into the incident.

He further ordered that the case be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for a thorough investigation into the alleged inhumane treatment.

The police said further details would be made available as investigations progress.

Bauchi cuts out-of-school children by 85%, enrolls 284,000 learners in statewide education drive

By Mijinyawa Ahmed & Salihu Makera

The Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) says Bauchi has recorded a historic turnaround in basic education, reducing the number of out-of-school children by more than 85 per cent and enrolling 284,000 learners under the 2025/2026 statewide enrolment drive.

Chairman of the board, Alhaji Adamu Mohammed, represented by Permanent Secretary Abdulhamid Jibrin, disclosed this during a press briefing in Bauchi, where he commended the media for strengthening governance, accountability, and public trust through sustained engagement and scrutiny.

He said the enrollment drive marked a decisive shift from routine campaigns to a comprehensive reform programme designed to tackle long-standing structural barriers to education across the state.

According to him, Bauchi previously grappled with a deeply entrenched crisis of out-of-school children that at its peak exceeded 1.7 million, driven by systemic neglect, weak enforcement of compulsory education laws, poverty-related pressures, and socio-cultural constraints.

"Through deliberate leadership, coordinated reforms, and strong community ownership, the number of out-of-school children has now dropped to 216,000 as of Dec. 18, 2025," he said.

The chairman noted that the reduction restored access to education for more than 1.2 million children and represented not only a statistical milestone but also a moral and social victory for the state.

He explained that although the initial enrolment target for the 2025/2026 campaign was 220,000 children, actual enrolment surpassed expectations, reaching 284,000 learners equivalent to a 129 per cent performance rate.

The success, he added, was driven by a multi-sectoral, evidence-based approach supported by attendance monitoring systems, early-warning mechanisms, and coordinated stakeholder engagement across communities.

A central pillar of the reform, he said, was the deliberate strengthening of traditional and community governance structures to ensure sustainable education outcomes beyond government



institutions.

Emirate councils, district heads, ward heads, village heads, and hamlet leaders were mobilised as frontline partners in enforcing enrolment, monitoring attendance, protecting children, and promoting community advocacy for schooling.

"This approach restored accountability at the grassroots and ensured that education became a shared societal responsibility rather than a government-only obligation," he said.

He cited Toro Local Government Area as a flagship example, where more than 35,000 children were integrated into formal classrooms from an estimated 50,000 previously out of school demonstrating the impact of localised leadership and community ownership.

The state also prioritised equity and inclusion, particularly girls' education, through targeted interventions such as the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment and Conditional Cash Transfer programmes.

These initiatives, he said, significantly improved enrolment, retention, and transition rates for adolescent girls at upper basic and senior secondary levels, narrowing gender disparities and strengthening equitable access to education.

Beyond enrollment, the government invested in infrastructure expansion through the construction of mega, model, and smart schools, rehabilitation of existing facilities, and systematic integration of Tsangaya and Qur'anic schools into the formal education system.

He acknowledged, however, that the enrolment of 284,000 additional learners had increased pressure on infrastructure, learning resources, and teacher-pupil ratios in high-density areas underscoring the need for

sustained investment in classrooms, teacher recruitment, training, and instructional support.

To consolidate progress and integrate the remaining 216,000 out-of-school children, the government is advancing new measures, including formal institutionalisation of traditional leaders within education accountability frameworks, accelerated implementation of the state ICT policy on education, and the creation of a Special Teacher Corps for rural and underserved communities.

The SUBEB chairman described the achievement as a collective success made possible by political will, clear policy direction, and sustained investment by the Bauchi State Government, alongside the cooperation of parents, guardians, community members, and development partners.

He also praised traditional rulers, religious leaders, local government authorities, teachers, and school administrators whose grassroots commitment translated policy into measurable outcomes for children.

"This shared ownership remains the strongest guarantee that the gains recorded will be sustained and expanded in the years ahead," he said.

Mohammed emphasised that Bauchi had moved from an education system constrained by access deficits to one anchored on enrolment, retention, completion, and community participation placing the state on what he described as an irreversible path toward sustainable educational transformation, human capital development, and inclusive growth.

He thanked journalists for responsible reporting and reaffirmed the board's openness to continued engagement before inviting questions and clarifications from members of the press.

Northeast News

Insecurity: Borno Judiciary pledges to partner FG security agencies to fight scourge

By Usman Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

The Judicial arms of government in Borno state has pledged commitment to partner with the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) under the Office of the National Security Adviser to President Bola Tinubu to strengthen the fight against the use of illicit arms and ammunition in the Northeast sub-region.

Hon. Justice Kashim Zannah, the Chief Judge of Borno state made this known during a one-day workshop on forfeiture, handling of small arms and light weapons by courts after judgement for prosecutors of firearms cases and other stakeholders organized by NCCSALW Northeast Zonal Centre.

Zannah, who reaffirmed the commitment of the judiciary in the state to support the national effort of controlling the spread of illicit arms and ammunition in the state, urged stakeholders present to enlighten the youth in every community to reject the allure of violence and say no to illicit firearms and ammunition on the street, in the forest and in every home.

The Chief Judge appreciated the Centre for organizing the workshop and commended its efforts in addressing the menace of illicit arms proliferation in the region.

He assured the Centre of the co-operation of Judges and Magistrates under his jurisdiction and pledged the Judiciary's continued support to the NCCSALW in the discharge of its statutory mandate in accordance with the law.



Also speaking, Maj: -Gen. Abubakar Adamu (Rtd), the Northeast Zonal Director of NCCSALW assured the centre's readiness to tackle the problem of arms proliferation in the region in collaboration with every necessary stakeholder in the region.

He said the role of judicial officials, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders in ensuring that judicial decisions on arms forfeiture translate into tangible and lasting security gains was very instructive at this crucial time.

Adamu urged participants to engage actively, share experiences and contribute practical insight that would help strengthen procedures, close existing gaps and enhance the effective implementation of court judgments on arms forfeiture disposal.

"This workshop is to strengthen the capacity of prosecutors, judicial officers and other critical stakeholders involved in firearms related cases.

"The workshop was designed to address gaps in the prosecution, adjudication and post judgement handling of firearms related cases.

"Participants are drawn from the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, security agencies and civil

society organizations who play active roles in tackling the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons and enhancing public safety," he said.

It could be recalled that a similar workshop was organized by the centre in Yobe state on Thursday where the Director, Public Prosecution of the state's Ministry of Justice, Barr. Abdullahi Yusuf, said that collaboration of prosecutors with NCCSALW would determine whether future generations inherit a Nigeria plagued by gun violence or one where peace, security, and the rule of law prevail.

"Let us go forth from this workshop with renewed understanding, enhanced skills, and unwavering determination to fulfill our duty.

Every weapon we keep out of the wrong hands is a life saver. Every successful prosecution and forfeiture is a victory for justice and public safety.

"Together, as prosecutors united in purpose and committed to excellence, we will ensure that the lofty objectives of the NCCSALW Act are translated into tangible improvements in the security and well-being of all Nigerians," he said.



Bauchi reaffirms commitment to healthcare, gender equality

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

The Bauchi State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery, gender equality and social protection in the State

Gov. Bala Mohammed stated at the following a courtesy visit by a joint delegation from UNICEF and Global Affairs Canada to the Government House.

He described Bauchi as a peaceful and hospitable state dedicated to service, while highlighting the enduring partnership with UNICEF and Global Affairs Canada in

health services.

The governor added that the visit reflected development partners' confidence in Bauchi's commitment to the wellbeing of women and children,

He noted the state's dedication to the Abuja Declaration target of allocating at least 15 per cent of its budget to health.

Gov Mohammed disclosed that the government released over N872 million as counterpart funding to the Primary Healthcare Memorandum of Understanding basket fund, in



advancing economic growth, sustainable livelihoods and improved nutrition for women, children and youth.

Mohammed commended the partners for implementing key interventions, including the Youth Entrepreneurship and Women Empowerment in Northern Nigeria project, which supported more than 16,000 beneficiaries across 20 local government areas.

"Through strengthened agricultural value chains, improved business performance, savings culture and community dialogue against early and forced marriage.

Mohammed said the Livelihood and Nutritional Empowerment project also provided technical support to over 10,000 rural farmers and households 60 per cent of them women

"By boosting productivity, enhancing market access and improving nutrition, alongside promoting savings and loan associations and business incubation centres," he said

According to him, the Bauchi opportunities for responsive Neonatal and Maternal Health project has significantly reduced maternal and neonatal mortality through improved quality, accessibility and accountability of essential

"N300 million as a child nutrition matching grant to UNICEF, and plans an additional ₦500 million this year," he said.

"Other contributions include N50 million for family planning commodities, N500 million to scale up the Drug Revolving Fund and over N132 million to the Basic Health Care Provision Fund.

Mohammed further revealed that more than 130 primary healthcare centres had been constructed or renovated, two general hospitals built, and free antenatal and delivery services introduced, while the State Specialist Hospital is undergoing upgrade.

He added that Bauchi enacted the Violence Against Persons Prohibition and Child Rights laws, established gender-based violence response offices in 10 local government areas and created gender units across ministries and councils.

Earlier, Mr. Arash Irtalab of Global Affairs Canada commended Bauchi's leadership in strengthening primary healthcare, advancing gender equality and building climate resilience.

He noted that four of Canada's newly announced 64-million-dollar development projects in Nigeria target the state.

Free Medical Outreach Brings Hope to 5,000 as Bauchi Strengthens Lifeline of Accessible Healthcare

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

In a decisive move to deepen access to quality healthcare and reduce the burden of medical costs on vulnerable citizens, the Bauchi State Government, through its Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, has partnered with the African Medical Centre of Excellence and the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital to deliver free medical services to 5,000 residents across the state.

The large-scale outreach, officially flagged off on Saturday at the premises of the teaching hospital in Bauchi, provided specialist consultations, diagnostic screenings, structured referrals, heart examinations, and treatment for identified conditions—offering thousands of families renewed hope and immediate medical relief.

Declaring the programme open, Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed described the intervention as more than a routine health campaign, noting that it symbolises inclusive governance and a deliberate policy direction to expand equitable healthcare access.

“Today's event represents more than a medical outreach,” the governor said. “It reflects liberal governance in action and aligns squarely with our health agenda, which prioritises strategic partnerships, institutional collaboration, and structured interventions that expand access to quality healthcare for all citizens.”

He warmly welcomed the visiting medical partners from Abuja, praising their humility and willingness to extend specialised services beyond urban centres.

According to him, the collaboration underscores the power of cooperative federalism and institutional synergy in strengthening Nigeria's health system, particularly in underserved communities.

Governor Mohammed acknowledged initial logistical challenges encountered by the visiting team and offered assurances of improved coordination, pledging



personal oversight to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles that could hinder future collaborations.

The outreach, he emphasised, directly tackles geographic and financial barriers to care by bringing medical services to the elderly, women, children, and residents of remote communities.

Early diagnosis, he noted, is critical to reducing preventable illness and death while improving long-term public health outcomes.

Over the years, the state government has pursued layered health reforms—upgrading infrastructure, modernising equipment, improving workforce welfare, expanding access to essential medicines, and strengthening linkages across primary, secondary, and tertiary care.

The current outreach, he said, fills two major service gaps: access to specialist diagnosis and the creation of structured referral pathways supported by professional knowledge exchange.

“These components collectively strengthen service delivery while building long-term institutional capacity,” he added, stressing that Bauchi intends to institutionalise the collaboration rather than allow it to remain a one-off intervention.

Plans are underway to designate a dedicated hospital to anchor sustained specialist visits, continuous training, and coordinated referrals.

The governor also commended Nigeria's Coordinating Minister of Health, Mohammed Ali Pate, for ongoing improvements in

the country's health sector under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

He called for additional federal support to strengthen tertiary healthcare capacity in Bauchi, a rapidly growing state with a population exceeding 10 million.

Speaking earlier, outreach leader Brian Deaver described the initiative as a testament to leadership that prioritises human well-being.

He noted that healthcare access must be inclusive and available to everyone seeking help, regardless of location or income.

Marking the symbolic timing of the programme on Valentine's Day, Deaver reflected on the importance of caring for the human heart—both emotionally and medically. He urged residents not to fear medical diagnosis, stressing that early detection dramatically improves survival rates for serious illnesses such as cancer.

“In the United States and Europe, most cancers have an 82 per cent treatment success rate, while in Africa it drops to about 50 per cent, largely because of late detection,” he explained. “What we are beginning here is a culture of routine check-ups, early screening, and access to the right care at the right time.”

He expressed deep affection for Nigeria and Bauchi in particular, revealing that his years of service in the country have inspired him to continue working closely with local communities to improve health outcomes.

Earlier in his remarks, the State Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare, Mohammed Sani Dambam,

said the outreach specifically targets vulnerable residents already screened for various ailments, ensuring that those most in need receive timely intervention.

Also speaking, the Chief Medical Director of the teaching hospital, Yusuf Bara, praised the partnership and the decision to host the exercise at the institution.

He highlighted the importance of synergy among government bodies, development partners, and healthcare professionals in strengthening service delivery and improving citizens' quality of life.

Bara reaffirmed the hospital's readiness to sustain meaningful collaborations that advance public health, noting that institutional openness to partnership remains essential in addressing Nigeria's evolving healthcare challenges.

In her vote of thanks, Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, Hajara Yakubu Wanka, described the outreach as a strategic public-private partnership aligned with the state's broader health agenda. She disclosed that a 40-member medical team from the African Medical Centre of Excellence—comprising 20 doctors and 20 allied health professionals—is working alongside local personnel to deliver services throughout the programme.

She added that severe cases detected during

preliminary screenings have already been referred for advanced treatment, while laboratory and diagnostic services are being conducted on-site to accelerate care delivery.

Although early public sensitisation began late and affected initial turnout, she expressed confidence that participation would grow before the outreach concludes.

Beyond immediate treatment, the initiative is expected to ease the financial strain on families who often travel outside the state—or even abroad—for specialised care. By bringing high-quality services closer to home, authorities believe the programme will reduce medical tourism costs while strengthening local health institutions.

For thousands of beneficiaries, the outreach represents more than free consultations or screenings; it is a lifeline of dignity, reassurance, and renewed trust in public healthcare. For Bauchi State, it signals a strategic shift toward sustainable partnerships capable of transforming health outcomes for generations.

As the medical teams continue their work, the message resonating across hospital corridors and surrounding communities is clear: accessible healthcare is no longer a distant promise but an unfolding reality—one patient, one diagnosis, and one saved life at a time.



Bauchi's Climate Resilience Revolution: How Visionary Leadership, Community Action, and Global Partnerships Are Transforming Lives

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

In the heart of northeastern Nigeria, Bauchi State is quietly emerging as a continental reference point for climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and community-driven development.

At the centre of this transformation is the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) programme an ambitious, World Bank-supported initiative now widely celebrated for turning policy vision into measurable impact under the leadership of Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed.

What began as a modest intervention with barely seven per cent performance in its early phase has surged to an impressive 75 per cent implementation milestone,

according to the National Project Coordinator, Abdulhamid Umar. The dramatic turnaround, he noted, reflects not only administrative discipline but also a leadership culture rooted in accountability, inclusion, and results.

Across Africa, Bauchi is increasingly cited as proof that global development financing can translate into real change when matched with local ownership and strategic governance.

From Struggling Metrics to Continental Recognition

Umar described Bauchi's ACReSAL team as a model of professional rebirth leaders once considered "retired" from national relevance now driving one of the most successful climate-resilience programmes in Nigeria.

Their performance, he stressed, has drawn commendation from senior officials of the World Bank, particularly in livestock systems, land restoration, and agricultural productivity.

This recognition is not symbolic. Some Communities are already witnessing practical benefits: access to tractors, improved land rehabilitation, and strengthened rural livelihoods. Visiting officials from other regions now travel to Bauchi to study its mechanisation model an indication that the state's experience is shaping broader African development



conversations.

Mechanization, Revenue Growth, and Rural Opportunity

For the State Project Coordinator, Dr. Ibrahim Kabir, the last three and a half years tell a story of deliberate planning and disciplined execution. In 2024, Bauchi piloted the distribution of 20 tractors across its local government areas, linking mechanised farming directly to smallholder productivity and revenue generation.

The results were immediate. During the 2025 rainy season alone, the initiative generated more than ₦36 million, validating the revolving-asset approach. With expanded equipment deployment three tractors per local government area, projections suggest revenues could exceed ₦115 million in 2026 while reaching over two million smallholder farmers.

Beyond tractors, the programme has supplied heavy machinery, motorcycles for extension and environmental officers, and logistics vehicles to sustain field operations. The strategy is clear: climate resilience must be operational, not theoretical.

Human Capital at the Core of Climate Resilience

Infrastructure alone does not transform agriculture people do. Through partnerships with technical organisations and extension networks, Bauchi has trained more than 100 agricultural extension workers in soil fertility management, conservation practices, greening, and gender-responsive technologies.

Collaboration with the International Fertilizer Development

Center and support from the Netherlands' DGIS have expanded these gains. Within a single year, interventions reached over 10,000 smallholder farmers—40 per cent of them women and youth—while restoring more than 18,000 hectares of degraded land across multiple local government areas.

Youth-led compost production, seedling nurseries, and mobile input-delivery systems are now creating green livelihoods, demonstrating how climate action can also reduce unemployment and rural poverty.

Women, Inclusion, and Household Resilience

No resilience strategy is complete without women's participation. Bauchi's First Lady, Hajiya Aisha Bala Mohammed, has championed home gardening and climate-smart agriculture as tools for food security, income generation, and environmental stewardship.

Six hundred women recently completed specialised training under the state's assisted home-gardening initiative, receiving seedlings, inputs, and financial support to begin production immediately.

The programme reflects a broader philosophy: resilience must begin at the household level before it can succeed at scale.

Governance, Ownership, and Sustainability

Governor Mohammed frames ACReSAL not as a temporary project but as a governance model grounded in community ownership. From water provision along grazing routes to dam construction, land restoration, and livelihood diversification, the state's strategy integrates environment, agriculture, and social development into a single resilience architecture.

Central to this approach is maintenance culture and communal accountability ensuring tractors, funds, and infrastructure serve communities rather than individuals.

The Community Revolving Fund, which has grown from modest beginnings into millions of naira supporting local health centres and development initiatives, illustrates

how sustainability can be built from within.

Equally significant is Bauchi's deliberate commitment to inclusion. Policies intentionally bring together Christians, Muslims, Fulani communities, and diverse ethnic groups such as the Jarawa and Tsawa reducing conflict while strengthening shared ownership of development outcomes. In fragile ecological zones, social cohesion is itself a form of climate resilience.

Partnerships Powering Long-Term Transformation

Bauchi's progress underscores the value of coordinated partnerships with federal institutions, state agencies, international donors, civil society, and local communities working toward shared goals. Engineers, environmental officers, extension agents, and traditional leaders are no longer peripheral actors but central drivers of implementation.

Stakeholder engagement forums now serve as accountability platforms where achievements are reviewed, lessons shared, and future priorities defined. This culture of transparency has helped sustain momentum and attract wider national attention.

A Model for Nigeria and Africa

As Nigeria confronts desertification, land degradation, and rural vulnerability, Bauchi's ACReSAL experience offers a compelling template. It shows that climate resilience is achievable when visionary leadership aligns with community participation, technical expertise, and sustained financing.

From seven per cent performance to continental recognition, from degraded land to restored livelihoods, and from policy aspiration to measurable impact, Bauchi's journey reflects what is possible across semi-arid Africa.

Looking ahead, national coordinators are already considering bringing federal ministers and regional leaders to witness the transformation firsthand an acknowledgment that the most powerful development lessons are those lived in communities, not written in reports.

For the people of Bauchi, however, the significance is simpler and more profound: improved harvests, restored landscapes, empowered women, engaged youth, and renewed hope in the promise of sustainable development.

And in a world increasingly defined by climate uncertainty, that hope may be Bauchi's greatest achievement of all.



Bauchi Police Command Showcases early 2026 Achievements

By Usman Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

A combined Task Force Operatives under the Bauchi State Police Command has intercepted two suspects, Ayuba Ahmadu and Danlami Ayuba, of same ages of 25 years each from Bogwas village in KIRFI Local Government Area of the state.

"The two suspects were found in possession of 560 liters of petroleum motor spirit (PMS). They confessed to selling fuel to bandits in the area. Each suspect was carrying a container with 280 liters on a Honda motorcycle", the suspects were carrying the fuel along KIRFI/Alkaleri LGA

This was informed by the Bauchi Command Police Public Relations Officer, SP Nafi'u Habib during a press briefing where he said that police during investigation recovered from the suspects' den Two (2) AK 47; Three (3) Dane gun; Two hundred (200) live ammunitions; Forty (40) Empty Shell; Twelve (12) Shape Knives; Eighteen (18) Cutlasses; One (1) Axe; and Two (2) Sticks.

He said "On Tuesday, 3rd February, 2026, at about 1400hrs, the ever-alert JTF operatives deployed to Mansur town in Alkaleri LGA intercepted two suspects", saying the suspects have confessed to their crimes.

In another development, operatives of the Kirfi Police Divisional Office responded to suspected seizures of motorist movement in Kirfi area along Bauchi-Gombe highway, it was discovered that the federal highway was blocked by miscreants near Kalajanga hamlet.

"During the operation, the



team confronted and overpowered the culprit's which led to the arrest of the dual of siblings Isiya Nasiru 20-yrs and Umaru Nasiru 18-yrs. Exhibits recovered from items include; 1. Sticks, 2. A charm bulletproof shirt, 3. One (1) Live Ammunition 4. Facemask, 5. Phones, 6. Bags, and 7. Other personal items".

"Again, on the 27th January, 2026 at about 0330hrs, following an

intelligence report that one was kidnapped from, a combined team of operatives and local quasi-security outfits tracked the kidnapers to their hideout".

The team, according to SP Nafi'u engaged the kidnapers in a gun duel, neutralized one suspected Kidnapper, and arrested the kingpin, Mr. Abdulkadir Adamu aged 60-yr, more interestingly two captives were safely rescued and took

to hospital for medical attention.

SP Habib revealed that exhibits recovered during the operation include; 1. Three (3) fabricated revolver gun rifle, 2. One Fabricated SMG gun rifle, 3. Three (3) live cartridges, 4. One (1) Empty cartridge, 5. One Chain and Padlock 6. Two (2) Keypad phones 7. A blindfolded scrap, and 8. Cutlasses

The police in another operation also arrested a suspect for falsely presenting himself as a legal practitioner, alleged to have forged and

used the complainant's expired NBA stamp and seal on legal document, including sale agreement.

Also, "On 28th January, 2026, Operatives attached to State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) acted on a complaint received from Barrister Adam Tanko Jibril. The Command arrested for falsely presenting himself as a legal practitioner."

The PPRO told journalists that preliminary investigation reveals that the suspect had prior access to the seal while working with the complainant in 2024, saying "The Command is investigating additional complaints from other potential victims".

SP Habib said that the command under the steadfast leadership of CP Sani-Omolori Aliyu, remained unwavering in its resolve to create and maintain a safe and secured environment for all, consistently reviewing and adapting our strategies to meet evolving security challenges.

He reiterated the command's call for continued stronger partnership with the public, whose vigilance in reporting suspicious activities, as seen in these cases, is invaluable, assured citizens that all information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality and acted upon promptly.

"Let these successes serve as both a reassurance to the law-abiding public and a stern warning to all criminals within our peaceful 50 years old State. Moreover, the Command is more than ever equipped, determined, and duty-bound to apprehend criminal and ensured no one evade justice.", Habib assured.



NAFISATU

I, formerly known and addressed as NAFISA AKUYAM MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as NAFISATU MUHAMMADAKUYAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned Authorities and the General Public to take note.

MARYAM

I, formerly known and addressed as MARYAM ADAMU HAYATU, now wish to be known and addressed as MARYAM ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to take note.

News

2027: INEC consults over poll dates, Ramadan overlap

**Reps summon emergency session on poll timetable, others*

**Lobbying intensifies ahead harmonisation of Amended Electoral Bill*

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is considering legislative intervention to address concerns raised by some Nigerians over the 2027 election timetable.

The leadership of the House of Representatives has already summoned members for a session on Tuesday to deliberate on the election timetable.

Spokesman of the House and Chairman of the House Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Akintunde Rotimi, said yesterday that the House would deliberate on matters arising from the schedule of activities and timetable released by the commission.

The Conference Committee on Electoral Act of the two chambers of the National Assembly had earlier been scheduled for tomorrow to resolve the issue of electronic transmission of election results adopted in the amendments to the Electoral Act.

The Presidential and National Assembly elections are scheduled for February 20 while the governorship and state assembly polls are fixed for March 6.

But moments after the timetable was made public, some Nigerians called for its review as it coincides with the Ramadan.

National Commissioner and Chairman, Information and Voter Education, Mohammed Haruna, said in a statement that INEC was mindful of the concerns raised by Nigerians about the timetable.

He explained that the timetable was developed in compliance with existing regulations and legal provisions while the commission has launched into consultation with stakeholders on the issue.

Haruna said: "The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) wishes to address public concerns arising from the recently released timetable and schedule of activities for the 2027 general election, particularly regarding the dates fixed for the conduct of elections.

"The Commission recalls that the timetable was developed in strict compliance with the timelines contained in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act, 2022, and the INEC Guidelines and Regulations for the Conduct of Elections, 2022.

"The INEC Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections, made since 2019, fixed the dates elections are to be held. Paragraph 2 of the Regulation provides:

"Election to the office of President and Vice President, as well as National Assembly, shall hold on the Third Saturday of February of any General Election year, while election to the Office of Governor and Deputy Governor and the State Houses of Assembly shall hold two (2) weeks thereafter."

"Accordingly, and in faithful observance of these extant legal and regulatory provisions, the

Commission fixed Saturday, 20th February 2027 for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections and Saturday, 6th March 2027, for the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Elections.

Sections 76(2), 116 (2), 132 (2) and 178 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) stipulate that elections to the advertised offices shall hold not earlier than One Hundred and Fifty (150) days and not later than Thirty (30) days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office.

Why INEC should review election schedule, by stakeholders

Several Muslim stakeholders, who spoke with The Nation on the development, said holding elections during Ramadan could pose challenges for millions of Muslim voters, electoral officials, and security personnel who would be observing the fast.

According to them, the physical demands of fasting during the days and midnights may affect voters turning out for long hours under the sun while queuing to carry out election duties.

The National Missioner of Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, Sheikh AbdurRahman Ahmad, described INEC's decision as insensitive and disrespectful to the Muslim Ummah.

He asked INEC to move the elections outside Ramadan, stressing that election dates are not sacrosanct, as adjustments have been made in the past.

"As Muslims, we do not complain when elections do not affect our religious activities. However, we must make our feelings known when actions appear to disregard our religious obligations.

"Millions of Nigerian Muslims are stakeholders in the Nigerian project and should be respected when fixing election dates.

"Elections are national exercises that should encourage the broadest participation. Fixing the polls during Ramadan may disenfranchise or discourage the active engagement of many Muslims," he said.

Speaking in the same vein, the National Amir (President) of The Companion — an association of Muslim men in business and professions — Imam Nojeem Jimoh, also called on the electoral commission to reconsider the dates.

According to him, INEC had in the past adjusted election timetables due to prevailing circumstances, including security concerns and logistical challenges, and should, therefore, review the 2027 dates in the interest of inclusivity and national cohesion.

Imam Jimoh noted that similar adjustments were made during the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan, adding that there would be nothing unusual in doing so again.

He stressed that sensitivity to

religious obligations would strengthen public trust in the electoral process.

"INEC should have a rethink; the Muslim community is not asking for too much.

"After all, off-cycle elections are not fixed on Christmas or Easter days.

"Even elections held on weekends are never scheduled on Sundays out of respect for Christians. Why then should Muslims' interest be disregarded?"

"Shifting the election dates will not adversely affect INEC. Our complaint is in the national interest," he said.

The Asiwaju Musulumi of Yorubaland, Asiwaju Khamis Olatunde Badmus, appealed to INEC for a possible review of the dates within the framework of electoral law to enable the Nigerian Muslim Ummah observe the 2027 fasting and still be able to exercise their civic obligations without hardship.

The Publicity Secretary of the Concerned Muslim Yoruba Scholars in Nigeria, Abdulganiyu Olaide Ezra, said: "It will not augur well for Muslims to be dragged into the street, moving up and down, queuing in the sun, and the rain when they are supposed to be relaxing and focus on their act of worship to the almighty creator.

"INEC can fix the election before or after the period of Ramadan."

An Osun State -based lawyer, Dele Abass, said: "There's no law that I know that says elections cannot be held during Ramadan; not even in any Islamic country of the world.

Lagos-based lawyer Dr Tayo Douglas saw nothing wrong with the timing of the election.

He said: "If the excuse or complaint is having to do with Ramadan, are we saying that all Muslims have not been going to work or doing one thing or the other during Ramadan period?"

"Why would the election dates be an exception this time around?"

"INEC should go ahead and conduct the elections as fixed."

Reps meet on Tuesday over election timetable

House of Representatives spokesman Rotimi said the Tuesday emergency sitting reflects the resolve of the House to respond promptly to issues with far-reaching implications for the nation's democratic process.

He said the session would focus on relevant legislative matters connected to the announcement, in line with the constitutional responsibilities of the National Assembly.

He said all legislative business relating to the matter is expected to be addressed expeditiously, saying

Intrigues as National Assembly Conference Committee meets

Ahead of the proposed meeting of

the Conference Committee on Electoral Act tomorrow, both chambers of the National Assembly have intensified lobby to get adopted their version of the proposed clause 60(3) which deals with electronic transmission of election results.

While the House of Representatives approved real-time transmission of election results from polling unit to IReV, the Senate also approved it but deleted the word "real time" and added a proviso that if communication network fails, the Form EC8A would be used for collation and declaration of results.

Investigation revealed that while the 12 House members in the 24-member committee are standing on the version passed by the House, the Senate team would want the Senate's version adopted.

An opposition Senator has openly aligned with the House by calling on the conference committee to adopt the version of Clause 60(3) on real time electronic transmission of election results to IReV.

Speaking at a press conference in Abuja last week, Senator Seriake Dickson asked the conference committee members to "go into that conference and adopt the House version. You should adopt the House version in its entirety."

He described the House version as a reflection of the consensus reached by the joint committees of the National Assembly, consultants and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, Clause 60(3) regulates how results from polling units are transmitted and collated.

The House of Representatives version mandates electronic transmission of results from polling units in real time, making e-transmission compulsory.

The Senate version, although it also adopted electronic transmission, introduced a proviso allowing manual transmission where technology fails, raising concerns among stakeholders about potential manipulation.

Dickson criticised the Senate proviso, saying it weakened the clarity and potency of the agreed framework.

He warned that manual transmission could create loopholes for electoral manipulation.

Dickson said electronic transmission would ensure transparency by making results publicly available immediately after polling.

House Spokesman, Akintunde Rotimi, said the emergency sitting will review matters arising from the recent announcement of the 2027 General Election timetable by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as well as the constitutional and national significance of the development and the need for timely legislative consideration.

Culled from The Nation.

First Batch of 300 Bauchi Women Graduate with Climate-Smart Agriculture Skills, Receive Starter Support

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

The journey toward stronger household food security and environmental resilience gained fresh momentum in Bauchi State as the first batch of 300 women graduated from a regenerative and climate-smart agriculture training programme implemented under the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project in collaboration with the Al-Muhibbah Foundation.

The graduation ceremony marked a significant milestone in a broader initiative designed to train 600 women across the state in sustainable home gardening and climate-responsive farming techniques.

For the newly certified participants, the event symbolised not just the completion of training, but the beginning of a pathway toward improved nutrition, income generation, and long-term environmental stewardship within their households and communities.

To support immediate application of the knowledge gained, each of the 300 graduates received starter packs containing cucumber and moringa seedlings, fertilisers, pesticides, sprayers, and a cash grant of ₦50,000.

The intervention supported by the World Bank—is structured to enable beneficiaries to establish productive backyard gardens capable of supplying nutritious food while generating surplus produce for sale.

Founder of the foundation and First Lady of the state, Hajiya Aisha Bala Mohammed, described the graduation of the first cohort as a powerful demonstration of the government's commitment to women-centred development and inclusive economic growth.

She expressed appreciation to Governor Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed for sustaining policies and programmes that prioritise women's empowerment, noting that multiple initiatives introduced by the administration were already transforming livelihoods across communities.

According to her, the successful training of the first 300 women reflects a deliberate effort to strengthen families from the grassroots by equipping women with practical, income-generating agricultural skills that also promote environmental sustainability.

She urged the graduates to put their training into practice immediately and to share their knowledge with other women in their communities so that the benefits of the programme would continue to multiply beyond the initial beneficiaries.

The First Lady also revealed her



personal engagement in home gardening, inspired by national advocacy encouraging women to cultivate household food gardens as a route to healthier living, reduced food costs, and financial resilience through small-scale farming.

Formally declaring the first batch graduated, she congratulated the women and expressed confidence that their new skills would produce lasting social and economic benefits for families across the state.

Earlier, the Executive Director of the foundation, Dr. Ladi Ibrahim, explained that the empowerment programme was designed to equip 600 women across the 20 local government areas with regenerative agriculture knowledge and home-based food production skills.

She described the graduation of the first 300 participants as a transition from learning to real-world implementation—where knowledge acquired during training would translate into improved nutrition, income opportunities, and restoration of degraded environments through sustainable farming practices.

The training modules, she said, covered organic vegetable production, seedling propagation, composting, efficient water conservation, and preparation of organic fertilisers and pesticides using locally available materials. These approaches are intended to reduce dependence on expensive external inputs while improving soil health and ensuring safer food production.

Dr. Ibrahim added that each graduate is expected to establish a functional backyard garden that will serve both household consumption and income generation purposes, while also acting as a demonstration site for peer learning among other women. Through this ripple effect, she noted, the programme's impact is

projected to expand organically across communities.

Also speaking, Bauchi ACRReSAL Project Coordinator, Dr. Kabir Ibrahim, described the first graduating cohort as the foundation of a wider strategy to reach at least 6,000 women statewide, subject to performance outcomes and measurable community impact.

He explained that beyond the graduation ceremony, beneficiaries would continue to receive technical monitoring, advisory support, and follow-up evaluation to ensure sustainability of their farming activities.

The combination of hands-on training, startup inputs, and financial grants, he said, is carefully structured to promote immediate productivity and long-term resilience.

According to him, empowering women through climate-resilient agriculture improves household welfare while stimulating local economies through surplus food production, value addition, and participation in local markets.

He emphasised that women and children remain among the most vulnerable to climate-induced food insecurity and land degradation, making targeted empowerment essential for sustainable development in semi-arid regions.

For the 300 graduates, the

ceremony represented more than recognition of training completion, it marked the beginning of renewed hope. Armed with practical agricultural knowledge, essential farm inputs, and modest financial capital, the women are expected to transform small household spaces into productive gardens capable of sustaining families throughout the year.

Development observers note that when women gain access to climate-smart agricultural skills, the benefits extend beyond food production to improved child nutrition, stronger household incomes, and better community-level natural resource management.

As the first batch returns home to begin cultivation, expectations are high that their success will inspire wider participation in sustainable agriculture across the state. The experience of these pioneers is already being viewed as a model for linking women's empowerment with climate adaptation and poverty reduction.

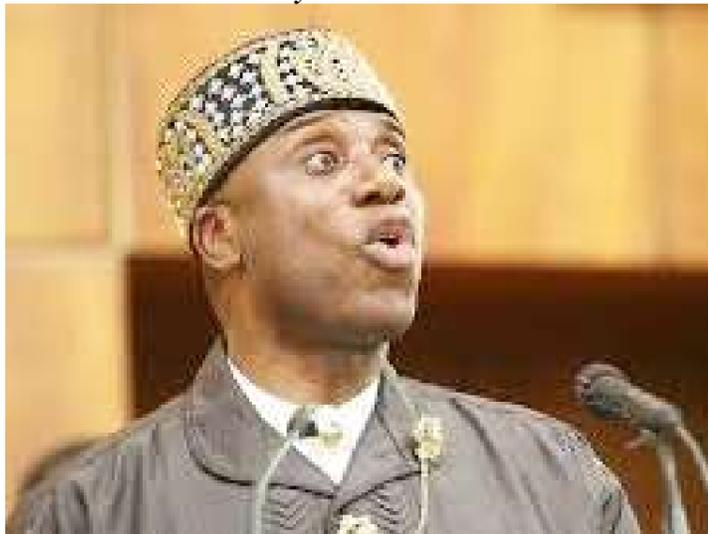
Ultimately, the graduation of the first 300 women stands as a defining step in Bauchi's broader resilience journey—demonstrating how targeted investment in women, agriculture, and environmental sustainability can create lasting change from the grassroots upward.



News

Amaechi lied on Tax Act, no 25% automatic debit from bank accounts

...says ex-minister spreading "egregious lies" ahead of 2027
...explains Nigeria Tax Act 2025 sets progressive rates, not levy on transactions



The Presidency faulted former Minister of Transportation and ex-governor of Rivers State, Rotimi Amaechi, over a viral claim that the new Tax Act empowers the Federal Government to take 25 per cent of money paid into private bank accounts.

Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Mr. Bayo Onanuga, said Amaechi was "caught spreading egregious lies" about the law, accusing him of deliberately misleading Nigerians.

"Rotimi Amaechi was caught spreading egregious lies about the Tax Act. The former minister, governor, has really slipped so low, misleading people about the law," Onanuga wrote on his verified X handle, @aonanuga1956.

He also suggested that the claim may be a sign of what Nigerians should expect from the opposition African Democratic Congress (ADC), where Amaechi is now a key figure, ahead of the 2027 general election.

"Is this blatant falsehood a foretaste of ADC campaign strategy during the campaign for the 2027 election?" Onanuga asked.

The rebuttal followed a video circulating online in which Amaechi told a crowd that the tax reform law contains a provision that would automatically deduct N25 million from any N100 million payment made into a person's account, using payments for business transactions, including building materials, as examples.

In the video, Amaechi also alleged that the law was being delayed and would only be implemented after the 2027 election if the All Progressives

Congress (APC) retained power.

"By January/February next year, all of you will be in trouble if APC wins. Go and check, what do you check? There's a tax law ... Why is the tax law not being implemented... Immediately after the election APC will implement the tax law.

"The tax law is that if I pay you N100 million for your building materials, automatically N25 million will leave your account," Amaechi claimed.

But reacting, the President's Special Assistant on Social Media, Mr. Dada Olusegun, dismissed the allegation as false and politically motivated, saying the former minister was spreading misinformation on the reforms.

Olusegun said the Nigeria Tax Act 2025, which he noted becomes effective in January 2026, only provides for a progressive personal income tax structure ranging from zero to 25 per cent.

According to him, low-income earners making N800,000 or less annually would pay no tax, while the 25 per cent rate applies only to ultra-high incomes on taxable earnings after statutory reliefs, not on transactions.

"The 25% top rate only hits ultra-high incomes... on taxable income after reliefs, and not random transactions or payments," Olusegun stated.

He added, "No automatic 25% grab from bank accounts or building material deals."

The Presidency maintained that Amaechi's claim was part of "desperate propaganda," insisting that Nigerians should not be misled into believing that routine bank inflows would be subjected to automatic deductions under the new law.

AGILE expands conditional cash transfers to support girls' education in Bauchi

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

The Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) Project in Bauchi State has intensified efforts to improve girls' access to secondary education through an expanded conditional cash transfer programme targeting thousands of students across the state.

The AGILE Project Coordinator, Ladi Mohammed Hama, disclosed this while briefing journalists on the progress of the initiative, emphasizing that financial support to vulnerable schoolgirls remains one of the project's most impactful interventions.

According to her, a total of 12,133 beneficiaries in 100 participating schools have already begun receiving education support grants designed to reduce the financial burden on families and encourage sustained school attendance.

She explained that each beneficiary initially received ₦40,000 during the last academic term to support school registration and transition into new learning levels.

The funds were deposited directly into students' bank accounts to ensure transparency and accountability in the disbursement process.

Hamma noted that although most beneficiaries have accessed their funds, a few students were yet to receive ATM cards required for withdrawals.

She said AGILE officials were working closely with the First City Monument Bank to complete card distribution and guarantee that every enrolled student benefits fully from the programme.

Providing further clarification, the coordinator stated that the total financial support attached to the conditional cash transfer scheme amounts to ₦60,000 per beneficiary, disbursed in phases tied to school transition and attendance performance.

She explained that girls transitioning from primary



school to Junior Secondary School, or from Junior to Senior Secondary School, receive ₦15,000 as a registration grant and ₦25,000 as a transition incentive in the first term bringing the initial payment to ₦40,000.

Subsequently, beneficiaries who maintain at least 70 per cent school attendance qualify for additional periodic payments of ₦10,000 until they complete their respective education cycles.

Hamma stressed that the structure of the intervention is deliberately designed to reward consistency in school attendance while easing the economic pressure that often forces girls out of school.

She added that AGILE is preparing to significantly scale up the programme by enrolling 40,000 new beneficiaries across 200 schools in the next phase doubling participation from the initial cohort.

"Our field teams have spent the last several months enumerating and registering eligible students. With the expansion from 100 to 200 schools, more girls from vulnerable households will now benefit from this financial support," she said.

Despite the progress, the coordinator identified documentation requirements as a major challenge affecting enrolment and smooth account opening for beneficiaries.

She urged parents to ensure their wards obtain National Identification Numbers (NIN), birth certificates and other required records, noting that these are mandatory for banking processes linked to the cash transfer scheme.

She also emphasized the

need for parents or guardians to provide their own NIN and Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) to facilitate account registration, appealing for cooperation to prevent delays that could exclude eligible students.

Hamma reiterated that programme forms and financial benefits are issued directly to the girls rather than their parents, a measure she said is intended to promote empowerment, responsibility and proper use of the funds for educational needs.

Beyond the cash transfer component, she noted that AGILE continues to implement complementary interventions such as school renovation, construction and safeguard training for technical service providers, all aimed at improving the overall learning environment for girls.

She revealed that the project recently secured approval from the World Bank to train 156 technical experts who will supervise environmental and social safeguards during infrastructure upgrades, ensuring that school improvements meet required standards.

According to her, these combined efforts financial support, infrastructure development and professional oversight are expected to significantly enhance enrolment, retention and completion rates among adolescent girls in Bauchi State.

Hamma concluded by calling on parents and community stakeholders to support the initiative and ensure that funds provided under the conditional cash transfer scheme are used strictly for educational purposes.

She said sustained collaboration between families, schools and development partners would be critical to achieving AGILE's broader goal of reducing gender disparities in education and expanding opportunities for girls to complete secondary schooling and build brighter futures.



NEDC Leadership Visits 13 Journalists sick beds, Expresses Sympathy, promise to bankroll Medical expenses, assist victims' families

By Usman Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

The leadership of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) on Saturday paid a sympathy visit to 13 journalists involved and sustained injuries in a road accident while covering the commissioning and handover of the Commission's completed projects in Bauchi State.

The delegation visited the injured journalists at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Bauchi, where they sympathised with the Victims and offered prayers for their quick recovery.

The NEDC delegation was led by the Commission's General Manager for Humanitarian Affairs, Dr. Batulu Isa Mohammed, who attended to the victims at the scene of the accident and facilitated their emergency medical treatment at Duguri and the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH). The delegation also includes the NEDC Bauchi State Coordinator, Alhaji Aliyu Isiyaku, alongside other officials.

Speaking during the visit, Dr. Batulu Isa Mohammed expressed concern over the incident, assuring the injured journalists



and their families of the Commission's readiness and willing to support them regain their health by the grace of Allah.

Dr. Batulu offered special prayers for their speedy recovery and conveyed the Commission's sympathy to their families, assuring them of NEDC's solidarity during the difficult period.

The Humanitarian Affairs Manager, described journalists as partners in progress whose contributions are critical to the Commission's work and the overall development of the North-East and the country at large. He added that the Commission would continue to closely monitor the medical situation of the injured journalists until they are fully recovered.

The accident occurred on Friday when a vehicle conveying 13 journalists from

various media organisations was involved in a crash along the Yashi-Yelwan Duguri Road in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Earlier, in a statement issued by the Head of Corporate Services of the Commission, Abba Musa, the NEDC Governing Board, Management and Staff expressed their heartfelt sympathies to the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), particularly the Bauchi State Council, as well as the Bauchi State Government over the unfortunate incident.

The Commission disclosed that its Governing Board had approved the provision of full medical support for the injured journalists, as well as assistance to their families. It added that efforts were already underway to engage the affected media organisations and families of the victims.

Governor Fintiri donates N100m, unveils new multi-million Naira grains market Project in Hong

By Umar Dankano, Yola

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa state has commissioned a newly constructed multi-million Naira grains market in Hong, aimed at boosting commercial activities and enhancing economic growth in the area.

Governor Fintiri who in Hong to grace the one-year anniversary of the paramount ruler of Hong, Tol-huba on the throne expressed gratitude to the traditional leaders for the fatherly roles they are playing in maintaining peace and harmony in their domains.

Fintiri also announced plans for the construction of six kilometres of road and the extension of electricity to communities in Hong Local Government Area assuring that the road project, alongside a new Science and Technology Secondary School would be

completed and commissioned before the end of 2026.

Fintiri further revealed that his administration would revitalize the water supply system to ensure improved access to potable water for residents pledging to support the Huba development plan with N100,000,000.

Chairman of the occasion and immediate past Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha while delivering his address said the Huba people had long maintained an organized institutional structure before colonial realignments.

Mustapha described the creation of the chiefdom as a formal recognition of their heritage and commended Governor Fintiri for restoring institutional dignity.

Earlier his remarks, the celebrant, and Tol Huba, Chief

Dr. Alheri Bulus Nyako extolled Governor Fintiri as a hero who restored honor and pride after over a century.

As mark of respect and honor for the contributions in making Huba people proud, the paramount ruler bestowed a traditional title of the chiefdom tagged "The second Midala Huba title on Governor Fintiri for as a of appreciation of his contributions to the Huba people.

Other highlights of the ceremony were presentation of a certificate confirming traditional titles on those who made the list including the governor and the official launch of the Huba Development Action Plan, and colourful processions by districts within the chiefdom.

Borno Unveils 'New Maiduguri' Layouts, Launches Digital Land Portal

By Alkali Muhammad Musa, Maiduguri

The Borno State Government has rolled out five new housing layouts as part of its ambitious "New Maiduguri" expansion project, alongside a fully digital land-allocation system aimed at eliminating delays and curbing corruption in land administration.

Announcing the development at a press conference in Maiduguri, the Executive Secretary of the Borno State Geographic Information Service (BOGIS), Adam Bukar Bababe, said the initiative is tied to the state's post-insurgency recovery agenda and long-term 25-year urban development plan.

Bababe explained that the project aligns with the ongoing urban renewal scheme and the construction of a 113-kilometre ring road designed to encircle Maiduguri and neighbouring communities. He disclosed that the first 16.5-kilometre stretch is already opening up thousands of plots for residential, commercial, and recreational use in areas including Njimitilo, Chabal,

Tungushe, the Lake Chad Research Institute axis, Dalori, and the Molai silos corridor.

He described the new digital platform as a landmark reform in land governance, eliminating human interface to prevent bribery, shortcuts, and duplication of land titles. Applicants, he said, must have a National Identification Number or other valid ID, be at least 21 years old, and pay a processing fee of N5,000.

According to Bababe, public response to the portal has been overwhelming, with nearly 8,000 applications submitted in the first 48 hours. He noted that about 130 approvals were issued within a day—a process that once took several months or even years.

He emphasized that the layouts were designed to be inclusive, catering to various income groups, including low-income earners. Bababe urged residents and investors to seize the opportunity, describing the project as a critical pillar of Maiduguri's long-term recovery and expansion strategy.



Insecurity aimed at frustrating polls

The lawmaker representing Kogi West Senatorial District, Sunday Karimi, has raised concerns over the wave of terrorism and banditry across Nigeria, linking the insecurity to attempts at undermining the forthcoming 2027 general elections.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Karimi suggested that despite ongoing operations by security agencies, the persistent attacks appear connected to political motives.

"Certain interests and tendencies are resolved to continue making the country ungovernable, with the ultimate aim of disrupting the forthcoming general elections," he said.

Karimi highlighted the administration's achievements under President Bola Tinubu, noting improvements in the economy, lower product prices, increased pay for university lecturers, and a strengthening of foreign reserves.

"Despite these heartwarming developments, certain pervers remain averse to the gradual resurgence of the economy," he added.

The senator also commended efforts to strengthen national security, pointing to collaborations with foreign partners, including the U.S, which recently carried out intelligence-led operations in Sokoto State.

He noted that the Minister of Defence, General Christopher Gwabin Musa, has hinted at deploying retired military personnel to secure ungoverned areas, complementing existing initiatives such as forest guard deployments and the recruitment of 50,000 new police constables.

News

UBEC boosts sports funding as Bauchi hosts National Basic Education Sports Games

By Ahmed Ahmed

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) has increased funding for sports development in basic education from one percent to two percent of its Matching Grant Funds, reaffirming its commitment to holistic learning through physical education and character building.

This was announced by the Executive Secretary of UBEC, Mrs. Aisha Garba, at the opening of the Basic Education School Sports (BESS) Competition held at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium, Bauchi, from 1st to 10th February, 2026. She was represented at the event by the Director, North East UBEC, Alhaji Abdullahi Jarma.

She described the BESS initiative as more than a sporting competition, noting that it was designed to identify and nurture young talents while instilling values of unity, resilience, teamwork, and discipline among pupils.

According to her, education is incomplete without sports, as physical development complements intellectual growth.

She praised Bauchi State Government, the State Universal Basic Education



Board (SUBEB), coaches, volunteers, and participating pupils for the successful hosting and enthusiastic participation in the games.

She also encouraged sustained collaboration with partners and sponsors to further elevate the competition.

Mrs. Garba congratulated the Bauchi State Government and its people on the state's 50th anniversary, commending Governor Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed for his leadership.

In his welcome address, the Bauchi State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Lawan Rimirzayam, described the second edition of the National BESS Games as a landmark event in Nigeria's basic education

history.

He emphasized the role of co-curricular activities in national development and assured participants from the 36 states and the FCT of Bauchi's hospitality and peaceful environment.

Delivering a goodwill message, the President of the National Association of SUBEB Sports Officers' Forum (NASSOF), Mr. Idepe Joseph, urged athletes to compete with fairness and discipline, stressing that sports build character as much as skill.

The event brought together pupils, educators, and sports administrators nationwide, reinforcing sports as a powerful tool for nation-building and youth development.

NEDC honours the legacy of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

The North East Development Commission NEDC has rehabilitated The Prime Minister Late Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Tomb and Museum in Bauchi State, aimed at preserving the legacy of Nigeria's first Prime Minister,

The intervention improved the facility for public access, tourism, and educational purposes.

Minister of State Federal Ministry of Regional Development Uba Maigari Ahmadu said this in Bauchi, when he visited the Tomb as part of the Minister's ongoing inspection and commissioning activities of completed NEDC projects across the state.

He said the rehabilitation work covered key sections of the facility, including the Museum and Library, the Tomb, the Reception Block, and Public Toilets (Male and Female), and commended NEDC for executing a good Job that honour the first Prime minister.

In a related development Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, has emphasised the importance of synergy and a cordial working relationship between the Federal Government and subnational entities for the benefit of citizens.

The Governor said this in Bauchi when he received the Minister of State, Ministry of Regional Development, Hon. Uba Maigari Ahmadu, who led the Board and Management of the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) during a courtesy visit to the Executive Chambers of the Governor's Office.

Governor Bala said "Collaboration with the federal government and its agencies is key to growth and development. Both state and federal governments have taken deliberate institutional steps to create a conducive atmosphere."

He said that the NEDC symbolizes partnership, solidarity, and shared purpose between the federal government and subnational entities.

He stated, "On behalf of the government and people of both states, I express our profound gratitude to the North-East Development Commission for the sustained interventions in our states."

"Let me particularly commend the quality of leadership currently managing the affairs of the NEDC. The Commission, under Mohammed Goni Alkali, has demonstrated focus, clarity of vision, commitment, results, flexibility, and capacity to manage impact."

Speaking earlier, the Minister of State, Ministry of Regional Development, Hon. Uba Maigari Ahmadu, said, "Your Excellency, we are in Bauchi, the residence of the first, and probably the last, Prime Minister of Nigeria, the late Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and the home of the revolutionary poet and nationalist, Mallam Sa'adu Zungur, of blessed memory."

"Principally, we are here to supervise ongoing projects undertaken by NEDC and commission completed ones. These projects, by the grace of God, have been placed under our care courtesy of the creation of the Ministry of Regional Development by His Excellency President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the 24th of October last year."

He said, "Your Excellency, these projects span several sectors, including education, health, infrastructure, commerce such as markets, and other areas that enhance the lives of Bauchi State residents."

The Minister said, "Over the next two to three days, we shall supervise and commission these projects. We thought it necessary to pay homage in this hallowed chamber of the Bauchi State Government House.



Bauchi Government improves 2026 Ramadan Feeding Support to Mosques Across 20 LGA'S in the State

By Usman Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

Bauchi State Government, under the watchful eyes of Governor Bala Mohammed, has improved its annual Ramadan feeding allocation to mosques across the 20 Local government areas of the state.

The State Commissioner of Religious Affairs, Muhammad Binni Abdulkadir, made this public during a meeting with Islamic scholars and mosque leaders drawn from across 20 LGA's in Bauchi State.

The meeting which took place at the Sir. Ahmadu Bello International Conference

Centre, Bauchi, saw the commissioner Addressing the gathering, where he commended Governor Bala Mohammed for his unwavering commitment to religious affairs and for the consistent support his administration continues to provide to faith-based institutions throughout the state.

He expressed profound appreciation to the Governor for increasing this year's Ramadan feeding allocation beyond what was provided in previous years, describing the gesture as a clear demonstration of

compassionate, inclusive, and people-centered leadership.

Hon. Muhammad Binin urged mosque committees and administrators to ensure that the resources provided are judiciously utilized and transparently distributed, particularly to the less privileged and vulnerable members of the society during the breaking of fast (Iftar).

He further called on Islamic scholars and religious leaders across the state to intensify special prayers to Governor Bala Mohammed, his administration and for the sustained peace, unity, and development of Bauchi State.

"The Ramadan feeding initiative, among other people-oriented programmes, reflects the administration's sustained dedication to promoting religious harmony, social welfare, and inclusive development across Bauchi State". He said.



FG warns Nigerians against recruitment to fight in foreign wars



The Federal Government has warned Nigerians against recruitment to participate in foreign wars.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs disclosed that Nigerians are being recruited through deceptive offers, including promises of high-paying jobs, security positions, educational opportunities, or fast-tracked migration.

Victims have reportedly been coerced into signing military service contracts often in foreign languages and transported to conflict zones, with their travel documents allegedly confiscated upon arrival.

This was disclosed in a statement by Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Sunday.

“We are deeply concerned about reports that some Nigerian citizens are being misled into participating in foreign armed conflicts. Such actions endanger lives and may violate both Nigerian and international laws on mercenary activities.

“Citizens must not accept any offer that involves fighting in conflicts abroad outside approved government frameworks,” the statement said.

According to security

ACF sympathises with traders affected by fire outbreak in Kano

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Kano State Chapter, has, following the recent fire outbreak at Singer Market, expressed concern and solidarity with the State Government and the affected traders.

Dr Goni Faruk Umar, chairman of the forum, in a statement issued by its publicity secretary, Nasiru Yusuf Ibrahim, expressed shock at the magnitude of the destruction of property in the market, describing the situation as most unfortunate.

The ACF sympathised with traders who lost property worth billions of naira in the present inferno and the previous one, which occurred on February 2.

Umar thanked the Kano

sources and media investigations, recruitment tactics often involve signing bonuses, promises of high monthly salaries, and even foreign citizenship incentives.

Intermediaries are said to facilitate travel using tourist or non-military visas, deceiving recruits into dangerous situations.

The Federal Government said it is taking steps to counter this threat.

Nigerian missions abroad have been instructed to strengthen consular vigilance and issue timely advisories to nationals, while domestic authorities are working with international partners to investigate recruitment networks.

Ebienfa added, “Parents, guardians, and community leaders must actively educate young Nigerians about the risks of deceptive foreign recruitment schemes.

“Citizens should always verify overseas employment or study offers through official channels and report suspicious activities immediately.”

The Ministry reiterated that Nigeria is committed to safeguarding its citizens' welfare and dignity at home and abroad, emphasizing that Nigerians must never be exploited or trafficked into foreign conflicts.

State Fire Service, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and other first responders for their swift response and efforts in containing the fire and preventing further damage.

According to the statement, “The Federal and Kano State governments should develop and implement strategic interventions aimed at preventing future occurrences of such devastating incidents.”

The statement reaffirmed the forum's solidarity with the affected traders and called on the authorities to consider measures that would enhance safety standards and emergency preparedness in major markets across the state.

Argungu Fishing Festival: Winner smiles home with Toyota cars, N1m

Mr. Abubakar Usman from Maiyama Local Government Area of Kebbi on Saturday claimed the iconic award in the famous Argungu International Fishing Festival with the biggest fish-catch weighing 59 kilogrammes.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the winner smiled home with two brand new Toyota vehicles donated by Sokoto State Government and N1million cash.

NAN also reports that the second position went to Abdullahi Garba from Argungu Local Government Area of Kebbi, who caught a fish weighing 40kg and was rewarded with one brand new Toyota saloon car donated by WACOTT Rice Miles Limited and N1million.

The third position went to Danlansu Dankani from Jega with one other person who tallied by presenting two fishes weighing 34kg each and went home with N1million and a motorcycle each.

Speaking at the grand finale of the event, the Special Guest of Honour, President Bola Tinubu, described the event as a remarkable history and a festival that remained a powerful symbol of unity, resilience and peaceful coexistence amongst Nigerians.

“It reflects the richness of our culture, the strength of our tradition and the opportunities that lie in harnessing our natural resources for national development.

“Let me once again commend the government and the people of Kebbi for successfully hosting this year's festival, the organisation, security arrangements and internal outlook of the event demonstrate what is possible when leadership is purposeful and inclusive.

“Thank you, Mr Governor, you are a team leader and you are demonstrating it. A socio-cultural event like this can only thrive and becomes a tourist attraction when the



security atmosphere is conducive.

“I am pleased to note that significant progress has been made in combating insecurity across Kebbi and other parts of our nation.

“We are still working hard through coordinated efforts between the Federal Government, state government, and security agencies,” he said.

The President eulogised Gov. Nasir Idris for the landmark achievements recorded and appreciated him for naming the Ultra-Modern State Secretariat after him.

Tinubu assured that the fight against insecurity would be won so that people would go about their normal businesses peacefully without hindrance.

“This festival is a testament to the return of stability and normalcy, we will continue to support it and encourage it,” he assured.

In his speech, Kebbi Governor appreciated Tinubu for honouring his invitation to not only witness the Argungu International Fishing Festival but also his benevolence to commission some developmental projects in the state.

He said the present administration had recorded giant strides across key sectors of Kebbi development in just less than three years, adding that his administration had fulfilled over 80 per cent of its campaign promises.

He listed some of the achievements to include

25,000 capacity Bola Ahmed Tinubu Ultra-Modern State Secretariat, construction of three lane Super Highway on Emir Haruna Way, reconstruction of three lane dual carriageway from Abdullahi Fodio Roundabout to City Gate, and construction of carriageway from Ambursa to Sir Ahmad Bello International Airport.

Others, according to him, are reconstruction of 87-kilometre Koko-Dabai-Zuru Road, total renovation and upgrade of 16 general hospitals, construction of the biggest veterinary hospital in Nigeria, provision of 50,000 tons of fertiliser to farmers free, provision of power tillers, CNG pumping machines and other farming inputs, among others.

He noted that the state government was up to date in the payment of salaries, gratuity, pension and death benefits to all categories of workers.

Responding, the Emir of Argungu, Alhaji Muhammad Sama'ila-Mera, apologised to Tinubu and other distinguished personalities for the breach of protocol that happened before the President's arrival.

NAN recalls that more than 50,000 fishermen surged into the historic Matan Fada River in Argungu ahead of the scheduled arrival of the President.

Some of the competing fishermen had been anxiously waiting at a stipulated competition standpoint since 5:00a.m.

The Emir said the fishing festival was not just a fishing celebration but an event that showcases the rich cultural heritage of Kebbi people.

He reminded the president that the Federal Government had, in 2020, commenced the construction of a permanent fishing centre, being a centre recognised by UNESCO.

The Emir, however, lamented that the construction work had been abandoned since 2022. (NAN)



Issues

Targeting Kwankwaso over Twitter exchange with U.S. lawmaker is witch-hunt

By Zagazola Makama

The inclusion of former Kano State Governor and Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso in a proposed U.S. bill on religious freedom is nothing but a witch-hunt and grave injustice, as it is not based on any evidence but on a public disagreement with US Reps Riley Moore on X otherwise known as Twitter.

The proposed Nigeria Religious Freedom and Accountability Act of 2026, sponsored by U.S. Representatives Riley Moore and Chris Smith, seeks to sanction Fulani militias and Kwankwaso over alleged Christian persecution in Nigeria.

However, critics argue that Kwankwaso's inclusion followed his Twitter (X) exchange with Rep. Moore, rather than any proven role in religious violations.

Naming Kwankwaso among those accused of supporting Christian persecution without a shred of evidence simply because he challenged Rep. Moore's narrative online is witch-hunting and injustice.

The disagreement followed President Donald Trump's recent designation of Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern" over alleged violations of religious freedom.

In response, Kwankwaso issued a statement expressing concern over what he described as "heightened pronouncements" on Nigeria by the U.S. President, warning that such rhetoric could deepen divisions

rather than address the country's real security challenges.

"I have noted with increasing concern the heightened pronouncements on Nigeria by President Donald Trump. This follows his designation of Nigeria as a 'country of particular concern'," Kwankwaso said.

He stressed that Nigeria was a sovereign nation facing threats from outlaw groups that did not discriminate based on religion, ethnicity or politics.

"These threats come from terrorist and criminal networks whose victims are both Muslims and Christians. What Nigeria needs is support in technology, intelligence and operational capacity, not threats that polarise our people," he said.

Kwankwaso also urged unity among Nigerians and called on the Federal Government to strengthen diplomatic engagement with the United States through special envoys and permanent ambassadors.

"To my fellow countrymen, this is an important moment where we should emphasise unity of belonging over division. God bless Nigeria," he added.

In a swift reaction on X (formerly Twitter), Rep. Moore accused Kwankwaso of hypocrisy and linked him to alleged religious persecution in Northern Nigeria.

"Governor, do you care to comment on your own complicity in the death of

Christians? You instituted Sharia law. You signed the law that makes so-called blasphemy punishable by death," Moore wrote.

The U.S. lawmaker's post appeared to connect Kwankwaso's role in implementing Sharia law in Kano State during his tenure as governor to ongoing concerns about religious freedom in Nigeria.

The U.S. lawmaker's reaction shifted from policy debate to personal targeting. This is not accountability. It is retaliation for speaking back.

Linking Sharia law directly to what is happening today with Bandits, Boko Haram and ISWAP is misleading. Sharia law is part of Nigeria's constitutional federal structure. It is not genocide. Terrorism is. The real killers of Christians, Muslims and other faithfuls alike are Boko Haram, ISWAP, bandits, JNIM and Lakurawa, not Kwankwaso."

Based on records, Kano State, under Kwankwaso's leadership, confronted Boko Haram cells and prevented the group from establishing a foothold in the state during the peak of the insurgency.

Kano was the only state in the North-West that averted bloodshed by decisively confronting the Boko Haram cells and brought their activities to a standstill. At a time when Boko Haram was expanding across northern Nigeria, Kano shut down their recruitment networks, dismantled logistics cells

and prevented the sect from gaining territorial control. That record alone contradicts any claim that Kwankwaso enabled religious extremism.

Security Analyst, Bulama Bukarti, wrote "Truth be told, Kwankwaso is among the most moderate and pro-Nigeria politicians the country has ever produced. Naming him in the U.S. House bill as the sole individual to be sanctioned is not only unfair but plainly erroneous. His name should be withdrawn from the bill without delay.

"More broadly, this episode exposes the poor quality of the information underpinning the so-called "Christian genocide" narrative. Its proponents just generate and circulate unsubstantiated claims and then rely on those same claims as evidence," he said.

As off now, no evidence has ever been presented linking Kwankwaso to acts of Christian persecution. Kano under Kwankwaso did not witness any attacks on Christians.

Therefore, using foreign legislation to punish political figures for online disagreements sets a dangerous precedent. If foreign lawmakers can label Nigerian politicians as persecutors simply because of Twitter arguments, then this is no longer about human rights, it is about political intimidation. Such actions undermine Nigeria's sovereignty and fuel sectarian tension. Justice requires evidence. Not tweets. Not grudges. Not activism.

Ramadan: A call to righteous deeds, self-discovery

Subject to the sighting of the moon, the Muslim faithful, globally, will tomorrow commence the yearly Ramadan fasting for 29 or 30 days, as the fourth pillar of Islam. The month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the lunar calendar, is regarded as a unique month of spiritual examination and upliftment. Besides, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan carries a unique reward whose scale outweighs the reward of several other rites undertaken by Muslim faithful.

For many Muslims across Nigeria, it is ironic that the holy month is again coming on the heels of wanton and senseless killings of innocent Nigerians across religious divides. Often, the perpetrators who come from other countries and recruit vulnerable Nigerians into their midst are prompted by a self-serving extremist agenda that is patently not Islamic. The ethics of Ramadan require that leaders, especially Muslims, do everything possible to provide a congenial environment for all Nigerians, including fasting Muslims.

Indeed, every Muslim is aware that the ultimate gain of fasting during Ramadan is the attainment of piety (Taqwa) as enunciated in Qur'an 2V 183. The same reward awaits a conscious Muslim who professes and internalises basic articles of faith in addition to observing, faithfully, the fundamentals of Solah (prayer), Zakat (charity) and other conduct that promote socio-communal living among humanity.

The fact is that most of the rites, virtues and conduct listed in the Quran are reflected in the wholesomeness of fasting during Ramadan. For instance, the fundamental essence of fasting, as stated (in Qur'an 2V183), is to attain piety, which is interpreted to be the first pillar, bearing witness that none deserves to be worshipped except Allah (SWT). And in addition to observation of specific forms of solah (prayer) and overwhelming acts of charity (zakat) during Ramadan, the reward of performing lesser hajj during the holy month is equated to actually performing



the real hajj. It is a month of high social and communal value in which fasting, unlike in the other months, is mandatory on all healthy Muslims.

Indeed, for Muslims, the most important consideration in embarking on fasting, as is the case with other acts of devotion in Islam, is to seek nearness to Allah; to seek His pleasure and forgiveness. Thus, a Muslim who fasts conscientiously during Ramadan would ultimately attain a status of piety. When a Muslim observes fasting and other extra acts of worship like Nawafil, he becomes the beloved of Allah, such that He, the Almighty, becomes his tongue with which he talks. Thus, whatever he says becomes encoded with divine gravitas; his wishes become the wish of Allah. Thus, fasting during the month of Ramadan provides the opportunity to examine one's spiritual status.

A Muslim who forsakes the pleasure of food and drinks and embarks on this fasting, a Muslim who creates the conditions of hunger and thirst for himself/herself, simply in obeisance to Allah, is actually and indirectly sharpening his/her weapon of survival on the terrestrial earth, where survival has become simply difficult if not impossible.

Generally, the act of fasting is a condition of artificial or temporary scarcity and want. This is meant to awaken humanity to the value of the bounties of the Almighty, which human beings often take for granted. This inculcates in humans a spirit of gratitude and consequent devotion to the Almighty.

After fasting during the day, Muslims settle down at dusk to break the fast. The meal on their table should remind them of the perpetual scarcity and want in which some fellow human beings are presently steeped.

In other words, each morsel Muslims put in their mouth during this month should remind them of the life of penury and want that many Nigerians are going through. That reminder should also inculcate in Muslims the important ethic of moderation; that the real pleasure of Allah's bounties lies in moderation and restraint and not in overindulgence.

Fasting is like a school in which the Muslim is expected to receive training and skills in endurance, perseverance and tenacity. Fasting teaches the Muslim that he should not quit difficult situations; that the war is won not through resort to escapism. When Muslims fast and forsake the luxuries which Allah has endowed them with, they are indirectly affirming the slippery nature and essence of this world; that in-between life of prosperity and austerity is a distance which is as long as the movement of our eyelids. A Muslim who fasts is preparing for possible life changes; he is affirming that nothing in life is ever permanent.

Thus, fasting develops in the Muslim the ideals of courage, fortitude, and a fighting spirit to surmount the heavy odds in life with a tranquil mind. It sharpens the power of concentration and steels the willpower and resolve.

One of the challenges confronting Nigeria is that its leaders, many of whom are

Muslims, are more like dealers, with lax moral status. They have condemned the country to that abyss of bad governance and corruption. Ramadan comes every year with that opportunity for the leaders, particularly those who are Muslims, to conquer their hedonistic and libidinous excesses. It provides the servant with the mechanism to overcome anger; it seeks to imbue the faithful with self-control. Is it not true that the vigorous effort required to put up with hunger and thirst can well be extended to conquer other infirmities of human character that often lead to error and sin?

Moreover, fasting inculcates a spirit of tolerance, particularly in the face of unpleasant conditions and situations. Fasting helps a man become more tolerant despite his own discomfort. The Prophet says that when a Muslim who is fasting is abused, he should say: "I'm fasting". Thus, it instils in him the spirit of forgiveness towards others, as we all seek forgiveness of Allah for our iniquities.

Time management is another value derived from fasting during Ramadan. Islam expects its adherents to replicate this ideal of the strict schedules observed during Ramadan in wakeful moments. Ramadan reminds Muslims of the fact that everything in the cosmos is dated and timed; that to trifle with time is to trifle with human existence.

Above all, Ramadan comes with a lot of health benefits. It cleanses the body of impurities and fortifies the internal organs against what medics refer to as "radicals". It reenergizes the organs, sharpens the intellect and enhances the well-being of fasting Muslims.

Really, Ramadan is a journey of self-discovery and it is hoped that the Muslim faithful, and indeed, the nation, will emerge from the whole month of spiritual engagement with a deeper commitment to ensuring the welfare and security of all and sundry.

The Trumpeter News wishes all Muslim faithful a fulfilling and rewarding Ramadan fasting!

News

Insecurity: Three US military aircraft land in Borno



Three United States military aircraft have landed at the Nigerian Air Force base in Maiduguri, Borno State.

According to information shared by Sahel security expert, Brant Philip, on X on Saturday, six US Air Force cargo planes arrived in West Africa between February 6 and 14, 2026, as part of what he described as preparations for a possible US-backed offensive against the Islamic State West Africa Province, ISWAP, in Nigeria's northeast.

Philip stated that all six aircraft initially stopped in Accra, Ghana, before five proceeded to Nigerian Air Force bases.

Of the five that arrived in Nigeria, one C-17A aircraft landed at Kainji Airbase, while one C-130J-30 and three C-17A aircraft touched down at Maiduguri Airbase in Borno State.

Philip wrote: "Between February 6 and 14, six US Air Force cargo planes landed in West Africa, all of them stopping in Accra, Ghana first.

"Five of them landed later on in Nigerian Air Force bases, while the sixth aircraft only arrived today and will likely follow the route towards the northeast as well.

– 1x C-17A to Kainji Airbase

– 1x C-130J-30 to Maiduguri Airbase, Borno

– 3x C-17A to Maiduguri Airbase, Borno

"All of them left the respective bases on the same day they landed."

Maiduguri Airbase is believed to be the primary operational hub for any coordinated support to the Nigerian military in its fight against ISWAP, which currently maintains a presence in several rural areas of Borno State.

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal reported on February 10 that American and Nigerian officials disclosed plans for the United States to deploy about 200 troops to Nigeria.

Neither the Nigerian military nor US authorities have officially issued statements about the recent development.

However, he cautioned that Nigeria must retain full sovereignty over any cooperation.

"What would not be acceptable is humiliation—foreign troops operating without our consent or bombs being dropped on our territory without approval," he said.

He added that Nigerians bearing the brunt of terrorism, banditry and insurgency were more concerned about solutions than the method.

"If this partnership helps us stamp out terrorism and violent crime, then it is acceptable. People at the receiving end just want their lives back," he said.



Mustapha Lauds Creation of Huba, Other Adamawa Chiefdoms by Gov Fintiri

A former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, has commended the governor of Adamawa State, Hon. Ahmadu Fintiri, for creating new chiefdoms and emirates in the state, including Huba.

Mustapha, who made the commendation at the first anniversary of the creation of the Huba Chiefdom yesterday, said the governor's action demonstrated that at best, leaders must listen to their people's yearnings.

According to the former SGF, the historical roots of the Huba people are deep and firmly anchored within the socio-cultural landscape of present-day Adamawa State.

"Long before colonial administrative realignments altered traditional governance structures across the region, Huba society operated an organised system of authority, layered, cohesive and supported by established institutions of leadership and community coordination.

"Historical accounts and oral traditions alike point to a people whose political and administrative formation were structured and resilient. While subsequent colonial interventions disrupted that institutional trajectory, they did not extinguish its legitimacy in the consciousness of the people," he said.

Mustapha noted that the restoration and creation of the chiefdom must be understood not only as the creation of something new, but as the formal recognition of a heritage whose memory and identity endured across generations.

He said, "It is within this historical continuum that we must situate the actions of His Excellency, the Governor of Adamawa State, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, CON, whose leadership and statesmanship brought this aspiration to fruition.

"In undertaking a far-reaching review of traditional institutions across the state, and in approving the creation of new chiefdoms and emirates, including Huba, His Excellency demonstrated that governance, at its best, listens to the yearnings of the people and responds through lawful, consultative, and institution-strengthening processes.

"Your Excellency, what you did was not merely to create a chiefdom; you restored institutional dignity



and corrected a long historical imbalance. For this, we would like to place on record our profound appreciation and gratitude

"Permit me at this juncture to pay special tribute to the traditional head of the Huba people, His Royal Majesty, Tol Huba Dr. Alheri Bulus Nyako. Since his appointment and coronation, His Royal Majesty has provided calm, steady, and unifying leadership at a defining moment in the life of the chiefdom.

"The task of giving structure to a newly restored traditional institution is neither ceremonial nor symbolic; it demands wisdom, inclusiveness, and institutional foresight. I wish to commend His Royal Majesty for the dignity with which he has carried this responsibility, and for the stabilising influence he continues to provide within the Chiefdom and the wider traditional council framework of the state," he added

Mustapha also stated that the unveiling of the Hong Local Government Development Plan stood out as a defining highlight, signaling a forward-looking commitment to structured growth, infrastructure expansion, and community advancement.

"Alongside this, the cultural exhibitions, traditional processions, and community engagements woven into the celebration reflect the richness of Huba heritage. The honour conferred on His Excellency as Midala Huba, as well as the thanksgiving observances that bring people together in collective gratitude, underscore a celebration that is historical in memory, developmental in outlook, and unifying in spirit.

"Distinguished guests, anniversaries are also thresholds. They ask not only

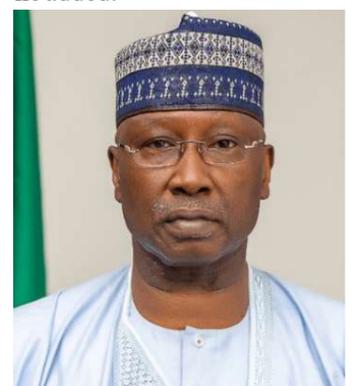
what has been achieved, but what must now be built. The creation of the Chiefdom has laid the institutional foundation; the responsibility before us is to consolidate unity, strengthen governance structures, mobilise community capital, and position the traditional institution as a constructive partner in the broader development trajectory of Adamawa state.

"I have every confidence that under the stewardship of His Royal Majesty, supported by district leadership, stakeholders, and the sons and daughters of Huba land at home and in the diaspora, this Chiefdom will grow in stature, relevance, and developmental impact.

"As Chairman of this occasion, and as one whose roots are firmly tied to this heritage, it is both an honour and a deeply satisfying moment to witness this milestone within our lifetime.

"Let me once again appreciate His Excellency the Governor, the Royal Fathers, members of the Traditional Councils, political and community leaders, and all guests whose presence underscores the significance of this historic anniversary.

"As we celebrate today, we must remain mindful that institutions endure not merely because they are created, but because they are nurtured, through unity of purpose, discipline of leadership, and fidelity to the collective good," he added.





Why is it every bomb blast Muslim extremist have a hand in it? – David Joseph

Yes, extremists exist but are not Islamic. They are condemned by Quran.

Yes, groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province etc. have committed atrocities. These groups were created, funded and operated by the America/western governments

But here is the uncomfortable truth Western critics and their Christian partners avoided the fact that:

Terrorism is not an Islamic monopoly. If violence committed by fake Muslims defines Islam, then by the same logic:

The Crusades define Christianity
The transatlantic slave trade defines Christian Europe
Colonial genocides define Western Christians civilization
The Ku Klux Klan defines Protestant Christian theology

Hiroshima and Iraq bombings define secular and state sponsored terrorism
But no serious person accepts that logic.

So why apply it only to Islam?
On "Extremism"
The Qur'an forbids: killing innocents (5:32), aggression (2:190), and corruption in the land (5:33)

American sponsored extremists, violated these principles. They paid and used fake Muslim actors and exploited religion, just as violent groups have done under Christian, Jewish, and secular banners.

Calling them "Islam" is intellectual western aggression against Islam. A ploy they have been using for the first 300 years through the Christian crusade against Muslims.

On Western Labeling

The phrase "Islamic terrorism" is deliberately used selectively.

When a Muslim defend themselves against western violence Islam is blamed.

When a white supremacist commits violence, they say is "Mental health."

When a Western state bombs civilian they without shame label the aggression "Foreign policy."

Standards must be equal.

On Freedom Fighters vs Terrorists
History shows western labels are political.

African National Congress was once called terrorist. Now it is a governing party in South Africa
Not every armed struggle is terrorism.
Terrorism is the targeting of civilians for fear. Islam forbids that.

The greatest victims of extremist violence are indeed Muslims. Entire Muslim-majority towns have been:
Destroyed
Displaced
Murdered

So, the idea that Islam benefits from terrorism is absurd. Extremists damage Islam's image, destabilize Muslim societies, and serve geopolitical agendas not religion.

Blaming over 2 billion Muslims for violent factions is not analysis, it is bigotry.

Criticize criminals. Criticize ideology where it genuinely promotes violence. But do not turn religion into a racialized stereotype. If collective blame is wrong for Christianity, it is wrong for Islam.

Justice requires fairness and consistency.

Christian misuse Job 39:5–8

Shan Van Rooyen your post is often used to stigmatize Arabs/Muslims, not to teach scripture.

What does Genesis 16:8–12 actually mean?
This passage is from Book of Genesis, describing Hagar and her unborn son Ishmael.

1. Context matters first
Hagar was an enslaved woman
She was abused and expelled by Sarah
She was pregnant, alone, and vulnerable
God intervenes to protect her and her child
So, the passage begins with divine compassion, not condemnation.

2. What does "God will multiply his descendants" mean?
"I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."
This is a blessing, not a curse.
It means:

- Ishmael's line will survive
- His descendants will be many

- God has not abandoned him
- This mirrors God's promises to Isaac later.

3. The controversial line: "a wild donkey of a man"
"He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him..."

Important clarification:
In ancient Near Eastern language, the wild donkey symbolized:

- Freedom
- Independence
- life outside imperial control

It does not mean "violent savage" in the modern racist sense.
Job 39:5–8 uses the same imagery positively for freedom.

4. "Living in hostility" — why?
This describes:

- constant conflict over survival
- marginalization
- life on the edges of

- settled empires
- It is descriptive, not prescriptive.
- God is not commanding violence; He is foretelling struggle due to circumstances.

5. What the passage does NOT say

It does NOT say:

- Ishmael is evil
- His descendants are cursed
- God hates his lineage

In fact, God:

- appears to Hagar directly (rare in Genesis)
- names Ishmael Himself
- blesses his future

6. How this verse is misused today
Many Christians wrongly use this passage to:

- label Arabs/Muslims as inherently violent
- justify prejudice or political hatred
- read modern conflicts back into ancient text

- That is bad theology and bad history.

7. Islamic perspective,
Islam rejects the idea that: any people are cursed by birth
prophets' children are inherently violent

In Islam:

- Ishmael is a prophet
- His descendants include righteous people
- Lineage does not determine morality

Simple meaning your post is trying to suggest:

"All future descendants of Ishmael are naturally hostile and violent."

That interpretation is:

- textually inaccurate
- historically dishonest
- ethically dangerous

Genesis 16 describes Ishmael's survival and struggle, not a divine curse; the passage blesses his descendants and is often misused to justify prejudice.

Borno Police Order Full Probe into Death of Vigilante Member After Patrol Incident

Alkali Muhammad Musa, Maiduguri

The Nigerian Police Force has announced a full-scale investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Abdul Hadi, a member of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN), following a confrontation with a joint security patrol team in Maiduguri.

According to a statement released by the Borno State Police Command, the incident began on 4 February 2026, when personnel of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) and the multi-agency Social Vices Unit were conducting a routine patrol in the Kaleri area of Maiduguri. During the operation, officers intercepted a man identified as Abba Hussani, who was allegedly found in possession of a sharp knife and a customized axe.

As officers attempted to arrest Hussani, Abdul Hadi — said to be a resident of Kaleri and a member of the local vigilante network — reportedly fired at one of the patrol vehicles in what



authorities described as an attempt to obstruct the arrest. The bullet allegedly pierced the bonnet of a white patrol Hilux belonging to the Nigerian Immigration Service, which was part of the joint team, after which Hadi fled the scene.

Following consultations between the police and VGN leadership, Hadi surrendered at the RRS-Social Vices Unit

office on 6 February. During questioning, police say he admitted to discharging his firearm at the patrol vehicle. He was transferred to Tandari Custodial Centre for what officials described as “safe keeping.”

However, on 9 February, the story took an unexpected turn — the “catch” that has now drawn public attention. While in custody, Hadi

reportedly developed sudden and “unnatural” health complications. He was rushed to a medical facility for urgent treatment but was later pronounced dead.

His death — coming just three days after surrendering and admitting to the shooting — has fueled speculation and public concern, prompting the Command to emphasize transparency.

Commissioner of Police, CP Naziru Abdulmajid, directed a “detailed and transparent investigation” into every stage of the incident, including the actions of personnel on duty at the detention center. The Command further stated that the Nigeria Police Force does not condone unlawful use of force, promising that anyone found culpable will face the full weight of the law.

In the meantime, residents have been urged to remain calm and avoid circulating unverified claims that could inflame tensions in the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Nahum Kenneth Daso, who issued the release, reiterated the Command's commitment to professionalism and accountability.

As the investigation unfolds, the public waits for answers — particularly about what truly transpired between the moment Abdul Hadi reported himself and the sudden complications that led to his death.

Dangote Salt Rewards 50 Outstanding Customers with Trucks, Cash Gifts

By Salihu Makera

NASCON Allied Industries Plc, also known as Dangote Salt, has rewarded 50 outstanding customers with Trucks and cash gifts worth billions of naira, for their loyalty and commitment in selling of its various products.

The lucky Distributors and customers were honoured at the seasoning giant's 2025 Customers Dinner and Awards Night attended by Africa's foremost industrialist and President of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, and Vice President, Olakunle Alake.

NASCON Allied Industries Plc, a subsidiary of Dangote Industries Limited, is a Nigerian company and manufacturer of Refined Salt and Dangote Classic Seasonings.

Speaking at the event, Thursday in Abuja, The group President, Mr. Aliko Dangote said the Customer Awards Night publicly acknowledges the company's core value of Customer Service and aligns

with its vision of being a world-class consumer goods company.

The President also commended the company's Board chairman, management and staff for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and consistent contributions to the organization's growth and sustained market leadership.

He noted that their commitment to excellence, operational efficiency, and strong work ethic has continued to strengthen the company's reputation and drive its long-term success.

He said: “Recognizing customers is not just good relationship management - it is good business. It sends a clear message to our people that customer service is truly one of our core values. Looking ahead, we will continue to invest in brand equity, supply chain efficiency, sustainability, and digital capabilities. But these investments only create value when they are aligned with customer realities. Your

continued engagement and feedback remain critical.”

In his speech, Board Chairman of NASCON Allied Industries Plc and Dangote Group's Vice President, Olakunle Alake said: “As a quoted company, we are accountable to shareholders, regulators and the investing public. But the confidence of the market is ultimately rooted in the market performance, and market performance depends on customers who believe in our brands.”

The Board Chairman said from the Board's perspective, “customer service is not just a core value, it is a strategic asset.”

Mr. Alake described the Awards as a celebration of partnership, adding that success cannot be built in isolation.

The newly appointed Group Executive Director of the Dangote Refinery and Petrochemicals, Fatima Aliko Dangote, expressed her appreciation to customers for their enduring loyalty and

continued trust in the brand.

She said this steadfast support has been a cornerstone of the company's growth and success.

She said: “Each of you has demonstrated outstanding commitment to our brands, whether through sustained volume growth, market expansion, execution excellence, or long-standing loyalty. Your success is inseparable from our own.”

Speaking at the event, Mariya Aliko Dangote, recently appointed Group Executive Director, Commercial (Cement and Foods) at Dangote Industries Limited, noted that each of the award recipients has demonstrated exceptional loyalty and outstanding commitment to the company's brands.

She said true success is built from the market and feedback from customers.

The Managing Director of NASCON Allied Industries Plc, Aderemi Saka, stated that the central message of the

awards night was to celebrate and appreciate the company's customers, noting that the organization's success is closely tied to the growth and prosperity of its customers.

Speaking on behalf of the awardees, Ali Balarabe, commended the Board, management, and staff of the company for their exceptional service and dedication.

Mr. Balarabe, who was rewarded with a 20-tonnage truck and cash credit expressed appreciation for the recognition, noting that it reflects the company's commitment to excellence.

Balarabe further pledged to sustain his loyalty and continued support, promising to remain a steadfast and devoted customer in the years ahead.

Other customers who received truckload awards and cash credits include Alhaji Ibrahim Achida, Muabsa Integrated Services, Fanisau Enterprises, Idris Saleh Nigeria Limited, Sani Adamu Trader, and GIA Global Concept, among others.

What Is Thallium Sulphate and Why El-Rufai's Letter to Ribadu Raises Concerns?



Thallium sulphate with a chemical formula named Tl_2SO_4 is a highly toxic chemical compound that has long been recognised by scientists and regulators as extremely dangerous to human health and the environment.

It is this notoriety that formed the basis of the concerns raised by former Kaduna State governor, Nasir El-Rufai, in his recent letter to Nigeria's security authorities, demanding explanations on the rationale and purpose of procuring such dangerous chemical.

Findings by LEADERSHIP revealed that Thallium sulphate is an odourless, colourless crystalline powder, sometimes appearing as white prisms. It dissolves easily in water and is chemically stable under normal conditions, although it can break down when heated, releasing toxic fumes. Because of its properties, it was historically used as a rodenticide and insecticide in several countries.

However, due to its extreme toxicity, many countries have banned or

severely restricted its use. In the United States and several other jurisdictions, it is no longer approved for use as a pesticide.

Thallium sulphate is classified as an extremely poisonous substance. Even very small amounts can be fatal to humans. It can enter the body through ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact. Medical literature describes it as a slow-acting but cumulative poison, meaning its effects may worsen over time as it builds up in the body.

Exposure has been linked to severe health effects, including gastrointestinal distress, nerve damage, hair loss, fatigue, convulsions, and in severe cases, coma or death. Because of these risks, thallium compounds are typically subject to strict controls, specialised handling, and close regulatory oversight.

In his letter to the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, El-Rufai said opposition figures had information suggesting that about 10 kilograms of thallium sulphate was procured by the Office of the

National Security Adviser (ONSA) from Poland. He stressed that, given the compound's extreme toxicity and tight global regulation, such a procurement raises legitimate public-safety and accountability questions.

"I am writing as a concerned citizen to seek clarification and reassurance... Given that thallium salts are highly toxic and tightly controlled substances, I believe it is important – for public safety, democratic accountability and for maintaining public trust – to confirm the following details," he wrote.

He specifically asked for clarity on the purpose of the chemical, how it would be stored, whether proper authorisation was obtained, and what regulatory oversight exists, including coordination with agencies such as National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC).

El-Rufai argued that openness about such procurement would help reassure the public and strengthen trust in national institutions, especially at a time of heightened political tension and debate over national security practices.

Another concern is the ongoing fight between the former Kaduna State governor and his once-upon-a-time ally, who is the current NSA. El-Rufai has, at different times, accused Ribadu of betrayal, political scheming, and witch-hunting, all allegations the latter has denied. Culled from Leadership

Taraba police reaffirms commitment to merit based promotions



The Taraba State Police Command has reaffirmed its commitment to merit-based promotion and continuous capacity development for officers, in line with the vision of the Force.

This assurance was given on Tuesday in Jalingo during the decoration of officers recently promoted from the rank of Inspector to Assistant Superintendent of Police, ASP.

The State Commissioner of Police, Betty Enekpen Isokpan Otimenyin, stated that the initiative reflects the resolve of the police leadership to motivate personnel and enhance effective policing and quality service delivery to the public.

Speaking through the Deputy Commissioner of Police, State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, Nandiyak Tissing, the commissioner congratulated the newly promoted officers, describing their elevation as a recognition of their dedication, discipline, and commitment to duty.

She emphasized that promotion comes with greater responsibility and urged the

officers to demonstrate professionalism, integrity, and exemplary leadership in carrying out their duties.

The commissioner noted that the promotions align with the vision of the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, to strengthen institutional capacity and uphold high standards within the Force.

The newly promoted officers were further encouraged to uphold the core values of the Force, respect the rule of law, and remain steadfast in protecting lives and property while maintaining peace and security across Taraba State.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, ASP Seth Edom expressed appreciation to the Inspector-General of Police for his leadership and commitment to officers' welfare.

He also commended the Police Service Commission for approving the promotions and assured that the officers would justify the confidence placed in them through renewed dedication, professionalism, and loyalty to duty.

How Tinubu revived Buhari's \$2.3bn Siemens power deal – Envoy

Germany's Deputy Head of Mission in Nigeria, Mr. Johannes Lehne, has said that the \$2.3 billion Siemens power deal between Nigeria and Germany remained largely dormant until it was revived by the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Lehne disclosed on Wednesday while speaking on the second day of the Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) in Lagos, themed "Celebrating a Decade of Energy, Oil, and Gas Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa."

According to the German

envoy, the bilateral partnership in the power sector had stalled for years before gaining renewed momentum under the current administration.

The Siemens deal, originally conceived under former President Muhammadu Buhari, was structured as a government-to-government framework between Nigeria and Germany to overhaul Nigeria's electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, enhance grid stability, and gradually increase available power capacity.

Under the agreement, Siemens outlined phased

targets to raise Nigeria's power supply to 7,000 megawatts by 2021 and 11,000 megawatts by 2023, with a long-term ambition of reaching 25,000 megawatts by 2025, from an average supply of about 4,000 megawatts at the time.

However, Lehne noted that the initiative failed to gain meaningful traction for reasons that were never officially disclosed.

"The strange thing was that this partnership was dormant until the beginning of President Tinubu's time, when it was actually revived," he said.

"We are in the power

sector. We have a Presidential Power Initiative with President Tinubu for the reactivation of the Nigerian transmission system and electricity access for everybody."

Lehne further disclosed that beyond the Presidential Power Initiative (PPI), Germany has expanded its energy cooperation with Nigeria through an Energy Support Programme, drawing from Germany's experience in energy transition and diversification.

He explained that between 2021 and 2024, Germany significantly increased investments in renewable

energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal power, as part of efforts to reduce dependence on hydrocarbons and cut carbon emissions.

Despite the global push toward renewables, the envoy argued that what many countries describe as an "energy transition" is often more accurately an "energy addition", involving a broader mix of energy sources rather than a complete shift away from fossil fuels.

"There is no real energy transition; there is energy addition and a different mix of energy sources, which every country should consider to have the right energy policy," he added.

News

Account for N3trn public funds – SERAP drags CBN to court

A lawsuit has been filed by the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project, SERAP, against the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, over its alleged failure to account for N3 trillion in public funds, including over N629 billion reportedly paid to “unknown beneficiaries” under the Anchor Borrowers' Programme.

This was disclosed in a statement issued on Sunday by SERAP Deputy Director, Kolawole Oluwadare.

The suit, numbered FHC/ABJ/CS/250/2026, was filed last week at the Federal High Court in Abuja.

SERAP stated that this lawsuit followed grave allegations contained in the latest annual report by the Auditor-General of the Federation, which was published on 9 September 2025.

It further stated that it wants the court to compel CBN to account for the missing funds as well as explanations on how the money is spent.

The plaintiffs argued that the alleged violations constitute a breach of public trust and contravene the provisions of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended), the CBN Act, and



established anti-corruption standards.

The statement issued by SERAP on its official handle read, “We've sued @cenbank over failure to account for and explain the whereabouts of the missing or diverted N3 trillion of public funds, including the over N629 billion paid to 'unknown beneficiaries' as part of the Anchor Borrowers' Programme.

“The lawsuit followed the grave allegations contained in the latest annual report by the Auditor-General of the Federation, which was published on 9 September 2025.

“In the suit number FHC/ABJ/CS/250/2026 filed last week at the Federal High Court in Abuja, we are seeking an order of mandamus to direct and compel the CBN to account for and explain the whereabouts of the missing or diverted N3 trillion of public

funds, including detailed reports of how exactly the funds were spent.

“These grim allegations by the Auditor-General suggest grave violations of the public trust, the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 [as amended], the CBN Act, and anti-corruption standards.

“These grave violations also reflect a failure of CBN accountability more generally and are directly linked to the institution's persistent failure to comply with its Act and to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability.

“Nigerians have the right to know the whereabouts of the missing or diverted public funds. Granting the reliefs sought would advance the right of Nigerians to restitution, compensation and guarantee of non-repetition”.

El-Rufai accuses NSA Ribadu of acquiring 'dangerous toxic chemicals' from Poland

Former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai, has accused the Office of the National Security Adviser, ONSA, under Nuhu Ribadu of procuring thallium sulphate, a highly toxic chemical compound, and has demanded urgent clarification over the alleged transaction.

El-Rufai made the allegation on Sunday in a post on X, where he shared a copy of a letter addressed to the Office of the National Security Adviser in Abuja.

“As part of my duty as a citizen, I wrote to the NSA to seek clarification on reports about the importation by his office of thallium sulphate, a very dangerous toxin. It's a matter of concern if anyone brings in any poison, more so an odourless, colourless one,” El-Rufai wrote on X.

In the letter, he said information available to opposition political leaders indicated that the ONSA had reportedly procured approximately 10 kilograms of thallium sulphate from a supplier in Poland.

Describing thallium salts as highly toxic and tightly controlled substances, El-Rufai said public safety, democratic accountability and trust in national institutions required immediate clarification.

He requested details on the intended purpose and end-use of the chemical, the identity of the supplier, and whether the importation was carried out under an existing chemical or defence permit.

El-Rufai also sought clarification on the total quantity and specific form or concentration procured, as well as storage and security

arrangements upon arrival.

The former governor further asked about regulatory oversight and coordination with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC, and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, NCDC, including whether public-health risk assessments or hazard-mitigation plans had been developed.

“I am writing as a concerned citizen to seek clarification and reassurance regarding information available to the political opposition leadership about a procurement of approximately 10 kilograms of Thallium Sulphate by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), reportedly from a supplier in Poland,” parts of the letter read.

Plateau Govt cries out over imminent collapse of five FG bridges

The Plateau State Government has raised the alarm over what it described as the imminent collapse of five Federal Government bridges located in the southern part of the state.

Commissioner for Works, Joshua Ubandoma Laven, who raised the concern during an inspection tour of the affected bridges alongside other top government officials on Saturday, said the deteriorating condition of the facilities has put residents of the affected communities at risk.

He said there is a potential for the southern zone to be cut off from other areas.

The affected bridges include the Longvel Bridge along the Shendam-Yelwa Ibi Road in Shendam Local Government Area; Kufai Yelwa Bridge on the Yelwa-Garkawa Road in Shendam LGA, Bakwai Bridge along the Langtang-Zamko-Garkawa Road in Langtang North LGA, and the Bailey bridges along the Langtang-Wase Road in Langtang North LGA.

Others are the Jarmai Bridge along the Dengi-Bashar Road in Kanam LGA and the Bauchi Road Bridge in Jos North LGA.

While calling on the Federal Government to carry out urgent emergency intervention on the bridges, Laven explained that the Longvel Bridge which was constructed several decades ago, has suffered extensive structural damage due to repeated flooding over the years.

The works commissioner recalled that in 2012, severe flooding undermined the bridge's foundation and approach, prompting the federal government to

construct a relief culvert to address the damage.

He however lamented that subsequent flooding between 2014 and 2018 further weakened the structure, leading to the failure of the retaining wall and approach embankment which had undermined the foundation of a second relief box culvert, causing it to sink and resulting in noticeable subsidence at the bridge approach.

“The bridge has outlived its serviceable age and the best solution is complete demolition and reconstruction to guarantee safe connectivity,” Laven told journalists.

He said the collapse of the Longvel Bridge, which is a strategic route linking Plateau with Nasarawa, Taraba, and other neighboring states, would severely disrupt interstate movement and economic activities.

“We are appealing to the Federal Government to act swiftly to rescue the people of southern Plateau and other Nigerians who rely on these routes. This is beyond the capacity of the state government.

“As you can see, we are faced with an emergency in Plateau. These bridges require urgent intervention. If any of these bridges collapse, commuters will be completely cut off, and several local government areas will lose access,” he said.

Laven further warned that with the rainy season approaching, the situation could worsen if immediate action is not taken, and called on the Federal Government to deploy an emergency response team and provide funds for urgent rehabilitation before the rains intensify between March and April.



13 Journalists a driver Covering NEDC Projects Commissioning Injured in a Road Crash in Bauchi

By Usman Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

No fewer than 14 journalists from various media organisations were involved in a ghastly motor accident on Friday, February 6, 2026, in convoy covering the commissioning of projects by the North East Development Commission (NEDC) in Bauchi State.

The journalists were part of the NEDC delegation led by the Minister of State for Regional Development, Alhaji Uba Maigari Ahmadu, during the handover of completed projects to the Bauchi State Government.

The accident occurred along the Yashi-Yelwan Duguri Road in Alkaleri Local Government Area, shortly after the delegation commissioned a Government Secondary School (GSS) project in Yelwan Duguri, the hometown of Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Muhammad.

The victims numbering 13 Journalists and the driver sustained serious injuries and were initially rushed to the Yelwan Duguri Cottage Hospital for emergency attention.

The victims under the directive of the state Governor Bala Mohammed were immediately transferred to Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Bauchi, for specialised medical care.

Those injured are a reporter from the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the Guardian Correspondent in Bauchi, The Nation, and the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), others include cameramen and reporters of Channels TV, Arise TV, AIT, two reporters from Bauchi Radio Corporation (BRC) BATV, an online media reporter; and the vehicle's driver.

Bauchi State Deputy Governor, Mohammed Auwal Jatau, led the Minister, NEDC

management, and board members on a sympathy visit to the injured journalists at the hospital. He directed that they be moved to ATBUTH to ensure they received advanced medical attention.

Rescue efforts were carried out by some journalists in the other bus, NEDC officials, and other sympathisers who assisted in evacuating the victims from the accident scene.

Meanwhile, Governor Bala Abdulkadir Muhammad has expressed sympathy to the injured journalists, their families, colleagues, and media organisations.

The governor's message was conveyed in a statement issued on Friday by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mukhtar Gidado Jarman Alkaleri.

According to the statement, the Bauchi State Government was deeply concerned about the incident and acknowledged the risks and sacrifices journalists often make in the course of their professional duties.

"We are profoundly concerned by this unfortunate incident and acknowledge the dedication and sacrifices journalists make in the discharge of their professional responsibilities," the statement read.

Gidado noted that although the accident was severe, no life was lost, adding that some of the victims sustained fractures and bodily injuries but were responding positively to treatment based on medical reports.

The governor assured that the state government was closely monitoring the situation and working with hospital authorities to ensure the injured journalists receive the best possible care until full recovery.

He concluded by praying for their speedy healing and strength during the recovery period.



NEDC built model firefighting station for ATBU

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

The North East Development Commission (NEDC) has built a magnificent modern fire station, and donated brand new firefighting truck, a functional borehole and offices to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi

The fire station also has a modern fire fighting vehicle, offices for staff and a borehole for water refill which is to operate 24 hours.

Commissioning and handing over the facilities to the ATBU Management, the Minister of State, Ministry of Regional Development, Uba Maigari Ahmadu, thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who, through his magnanimity has continued to support all of the Development Commissions under the Ministry of Regional Development, which has in turn enabled us to get this magnificent edifice that we are in."

The Minister said that, "Before handing over, I want to most sincerely thank members of the University community and also use the opportunity to implore them to own this project and all other projects undertaken and delivered by the North-East Development Commission as their projects."

"Because in doing that, government gets the reassurance that monies are not wasted and the beneficiary community truly appreciates the effort of government and the valuable efforts of the Development Commissions."

"Having said that, it is my



honor and singular privilege to on behalf of all of us, the Ministry, the Commission, and the house of Representatives Committee on the North-East Development Commission, to in the name of God Almighty and to the service and benefit of humanity commission this edifice in the name of God Almighty and the service of humanity and all of us"

The Managing Director /CEO of NEDC, Mohammed Goni Alkali said the project was necessitated by the need to save life and property in the case of any fire disaster within the University Community.

He advised the Management of the University to own the facilities and maintain them in other to achieve the set objectives of the project.

In his address while receiving the project, the Vice Chancellor, ATBU, Professor Ibrahim Hassan Garba, represented by the University Librarian, Dr Dauda Adamu Bakum, said that, "this station is more than an infrastructure; it is a beacon of security equipped with modern firefighting tools and a rapid-

response vehicle, it will safeguard our laboratories, hostels, lecture halls, and the over 23,000 souls who call ATBU home."

"This momentous occasion marks not just the unveiling of a building but the forging of a vital shield for our beloved university, the neighboring communities, and the Bauchi State as a whole."

He said, "This fire station, with other equipment indeed, stands as a testament to your commitment to safety, resilience, and the sustainable development of our North East region. We are eternally grateful, and may Allah bless you and the entire NEDC family abundantly."

"In an era of growing risks from industrial accidents in our engineering workshops to natural hazards in our expansive campus, the fire service station ensures that ATBU remains a fortress of knowledge, not vulnerability."

He said that, "ATBU is committed to integrating this facility into our emergency protocols, training programs, and outreach initiatives, extending its benefits beyond our gates to our neighboring communities."

Customs intercepts 4 live pangolins in Ogun

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Ogun 1 Area Command, Idiroko, says it intercepted four live Pangolins, an endangered species, along the Yemoamota-Abule-Igboora axis of the state.

The Deputy Superintendent of NCS, Chado Zakari, also the Command's Spokesperson, disclosed this in a statement made available to newsmen on Saturday in Ota.

Zakari explained that the seizure underscored the service's unwavering commitment to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

(CITES).

According to him, at about 3.00 a.m. on Thursday, a patrol team acting on credible intelligence intercepted a motorcycle in the Yemoamota-Abule-Igboora, and Ebute Igboora axis of the command.

Zakari said that prioritising the animals' welfare after the seizure, the Command officially transferred the pangolins to the Wildlife Conservation Centre on Feb. 13, 2026.

He said that the handover was conducted by Assistant Comptroller Tajjudeen Bello, (Acting Deputy Comptroller for Administration), on behalf of the Acting Customs Area Comptroller, Oladapo Afeni.

The area comptroller noted that the officers acted with remarkable courage and professionalism throughout the covert operations.

The comptroller reiterated the command's commitment to be steadfast in its vigilance against trans-border crime, and to collaboration with its partners to eliminate the illegal trade in endangered species.

Afeni issued a stern warning to smugglers and traffickers of endangered wildlife, urging them to desist from the act.

He emphasised that the command remained 'battle-ready' and fully equipped to track down and apprehend anyone undermining the law. (NAN)

Opinion

Islamisation or Christianisation of Nigeria? The Difficult Questions No One Wants to Answer

By Mohammed Bello Doka

For years, Nigerians have been told to fear Islamisation. As 2027 approaches, that fear has been weaponised again, with loud demands that Nigeria must have a Christian Vice President because President Bola Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima are Muslims. The claim is that Nigeria is under threat of Islamic domination.

The facts tell a radically different story.

THE GOVERNORS: WHERE REAL POWER RESIDES

Nigeria's most powerful sub-national office is the governorship. On this score, the picture is unmistakable.

Southern Nigeria has 17 states. All 17 are governed by Christians. There is not a single Muslim governor in the South.

South-West (6 states):

Lagos — Babajide Sanwo-Olu (Christian)

Ogun — * * Dapo Abiodun (Christian)

Oyo — Seyi Makinde (Christian)

Osun — Ademola Adeleke (Christian)

Ondo — Lucky Aiyedatiwa (Christian)

Ekiti — Biodun Oyebanji (Christian)

South-South (6 states):

Rivers — Siminalayi Fubara (Christian)

Akwa Ibom — Umo Eno (Christian)

Delta — Sheriff Oborevwori (Christian)

Bayelsa — Douye Diri (Christian)

Cross River — Bassey Otu (Christian)

Edo — Godwin Obaseki (Christian)

South-East (5 states):

Abia — Alex Otti (Christian)

Anambra — Chukwuma Soludo (Christian)

Imo — Hope Uzodinma (Christian)

Enugu — Peter Mbah (Christian)

Ebonyi — Francis Nwifuru (Christian)

Zero Muslim governors. Seventeen Christian governors.

THE NORTH: CHRISTIANS STILL GOVERN

Out of 19 Northern states, three are governed by Christians:

Benue — Hyacinth Alia (Christian, Catholic priest)

Plateau — Caleb Mutfwang (Christian)

Taraba — Agbu Kefas (Christian)

Christians govern in both North and South. Muslims govern only in the North.

DEPUTY GOVERNORS: EVEN THE 'BALANCE' IS ONE-SIDED

According to Adejare Ibrahim, only two deputy governors in the South-West are Muslims. The remaining four are Christians. He further states that all deputy governors in the South-East and South-South are Christians.

That leaves Southern Nigeria with 17 Christian governors, at most two Muslim deputies, and 15 Christian deputies.

FEDERAL POWER: WHO CONTROLS THE STATE?

At the centre, Christians hold some of the most powerful institutions of the Nigerian state:

Senate President — Godswill Akpabio (Akwa Ibom, Catholic)

Secretary to the Government of the Federation — George Akume (Benue, Catholic)

Chief Justice of Nigeria — Kudirat Kekere-Ekun (Lagos)

Head of Service — Didi Walson-Jack (Rivers, Anglican)

Minister of the FCT — Nyesom Wike (Rivers, Anglican)

Minister of Aviation — Festus Keyamo (Delta)

Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria — Olayemi Cardoso (Lagos)

Chairman, EFCC — Ola Olukoyede (Ekiti)

Chief of Naval Staff — Emmanuel Ogalla (Anambra)

EVERYDAY NIGERIA: A CHRISTIAN-CODED STATE

This is not symbolism. This is institutional control.

Nigeria shuts down on Sundays, not Fridays. Christmas, Easter, and Good Friday anchor the national calendar.

Lawyers dress in traditions rooted in Christian Europe.

School calendars, graduations, and ceremonies follow Christian cycles.

Churches dominate city skylines.

Christian prayers open national events.

These are not features of an Islamised country.

THE 2027 DEMAND AND THE FINAL CONTRADICTION

Christians now demand a Christian Vice President in 2027 for "balance". If that happens, then the project has reached its logical end: the presidency, the vice presidency, the South, most

federal institutions, and the national culture all aligned to Christianity.

And what of Muslims under President Bola Tinubu? How many prominent Muslim leaders sit at the heart of his cabinet and power structure? Very few — almost negligible.

Critics have long questioned whether Tinubu even understands Islam beyond convenience. He has been publicly criticised for struggling at Islamic functions with the Shahada and Surah Al-Fātiḥah, basic recitations that even a three-year-old Muslim child learns early. This is not whispered gossip; it is an open point of discussion among Muslims who feel abandoned by a president they are told represents them.

THE CONCLUSION NO ONE WANTS TO FACE

The evidence on the ground points not to Islamisation, but to an active, advancing Christianisation of Nigeria — politically, institutionally, and culturally. Adejare Ibrahim warned of this trajectory in Yorubaland, describing a coordinated push he termed Redeemisation. What he described regionally now mirrors a national pattern.

So the real question is no longer who is Islamising Nigeria.

The real question is who benefits from pretending that a country this thoroughly Christian-dominated is under Islamic threat — and who is fooling whom.

Mohammed Bello Doka can be reached via bellodoka82@gmail.com

CS-SUNN raises alarm over malnutrition crisis, calls for immediate action in Adamawa

By Umar Dankano, Yola

A Coalition of Civil Society Organizations under the auspice 'Civil Society-Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria'(CS-SUNN) has charged the Adamawa state government to as a matter of utmost urgency jack up budgetary allocation to address children nutrition challenges bedeviling the state.

Stakeholders including; activists, media practitioners and experts from MDA's arrived at this position at a one-day state-level engagement organized by the Coalition in Yola weekend pointing out that, despite the state's abundant natural wealth, lies "a deepening nutrition crisis threatening its next generation".

Sharing the findings of the coalition over the disturbing situation in the state, the

chairman, of the steering committee comrade Sodangi Adam Chindo said that nutrition concerns if unaddressed will erode decades of progress and stunt the state's future prosperity.

He lamented that the state's nutrition indicators based on data obtained from the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, NDHS.2023 have revealed that the nutrition crisis has worsened significantly over the last five years, showing a dangerous reversal despite national and global efforts to improve child health.

Chindo decried that, with stunting at 48.6%, wasting at 7% and underweight at 32.5% alongside widespread household food insecurity undermined child survival learning outcomes, workforce productivity and long-term economic growth.

"Investing in nutrition is therefore not optional but a smart economic strategy as global and national evidence consistently shows that malnutrition weakens human capital and suppresses earnings". Chindo highlighted.

He added that the Coalition is urging the Adamawa state government to extend maternity leave from three to six months



across public sector and to encourage adoption in the private sector to enable exclusive breastfeeding and improve child survival.

Also Speaking, Ibrahim Bello, Adamawa State Coordinator of the Coalition (CS-SUNN) advocated for more funding for the child nutrition concerns noting that the Coalition has earlier

engaged critical stakeholders from mainstreaming MDAs and that fruitful deliberations were reached.

Bello declared that the interface gave the stakeholders a platform to acknowledged the counterpart funding for 2024/2025 in the state while the gap became obvious calling on the state government to ensure

improved child nutrition funds either through legislative or administrative approval.

He declared that, investing in nutrition today will save lives, strengthen human capital, and transform Adamawa in to a nutrition-secure and share economically resilient state urging civil society and NGO's to sustain advocacy for more awareness and engage policy makers and monitor service delivery and budgets.

"We are advocating for improved child nutrition funds (CNF) and extension of three months paid maternity leave to six months period which will all female civil servants to exclusively breastfeed their children and to have renewed energy to contribute whenever they resume work". Bello emphasized.

However, an official of the state Ministry of Budget, Economic and planning who was present at the dialogue and pleaded anonymity confirmed that the state government is working assiduously towards achieving those fundamental concerns.

Stakeholders urge sustained supply of micronutrient supplements to tackle anaemia in pregnancy

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Health and nutrition stakeholders have renewed calls for sustained government and donor support to combat anaemia among pregnant women, describing the continued availability of Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) as critical to improving maternal and child health outcomes in Nigeria.

Speaking during an engagement with health workers and the media, Ms Dabis Mwalike, 'Civil Society-Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria'(CS-SUNN) said anaemia remains widespread among pregnant women but noted that advocacy for MMS is already yielding positive results in facilities where the supplements are accessible.

She explained that MMS contains a broad mix of essential vitamins and minerals helps reduce cases of low birth weight while strengthening the overall health of mothers and newborns.

According to her, women

attending antenatal care in several facilities are already receiving the supplements, a development she described as encouraging.

"MMS has come to stay," she said, urging governments, partners and donors to sustain the supply of the commodities to prevent avoidable maternal and infant health complications.

Also speaking, media advocate Elizabeth Kah underscored the crucial role of journalists in promoting awareness about MMS and ensuring accountability in the health system. She noted that many pregnancy-related complications including fatigue, dizziness, blood loss at delivery and low birth weight are closely linked to untreated anaemia.

Kah said consistent media coverage could help educate women on the importance of taking MMS throughout pregnancy while also drawing attention to stock-out situations in health facilities.

"The media must continue to create awareness and hold

authorities accountable so that pregnant women do not lose access to life-saving supplements," she said, adding that storytelling from beneficiaries could further strengthen public understanding and acceptance.

At the primary healthcare level, service providers report fluctuating antenatal attendance and emerging supply concerns.

The Facility-in-Charge of PHC Kofar Ran, Hauwa Yohanna Adamu, said the centre receives between 70 and 160 women on clinic days, depending on booking schedules and revisit appointments.

She disclosed that while MMS had previously been distributed to clients, the facility is currently experiencing stock shortages for newly registered pregnant women.

In the interim, health workers provide iron and folic acid supplements alongside dietary counselling to help

women maintain healthy blood levels.

Adamu estimated that anaemia affects roughly 30 per cent of pregnant women attending the facility, though the rate had declined during periods when MMS was readily available.

She noted that MMS is often easier for women to tolerate compared with other supplements, leading to better compliance and improved outcomes.

Beyond supplementation, she advised expectant mothers to prioritise balanced nutrition using locally available foods such as leafy vegetables, beans and moringa, which can

support blood production and fetal development.

Stakeholders agree that ensuring uninterrupted access to MMS combined with sustained public awareness and nutrition education could significantly reduce preventable maternal and newborn health risks across the country.

They warn, however, that without coordinated action to address supply gaps and strengthen community education, progress in reducing anaemia during pregnancy may stall, placing vulnerable mothers and infants at continued risk.



Health

Experts, Researchers and Policymakers Chart a More Sustainable Path for Kidney Care in Nigeria

By Alkali Muhammad Musa

..... **Borno Government Reaffirms Commitment to Kidney Care**
 **Institutional Leaders Pledge Continued Support**

The 38th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of the Nigerian Association of Nephrology (NAN) convened leading experts, researchers and policymakers to review the state of kidney health in Nigeria and outline a stronger, more sustainable framework for kidney care nationwide.

The conference, held at the Bola Ahmed Tinubu Auditorium of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), placed emphasis on practical solutions, long-term planning and collaborative action aimed at strengthening resilience across the country's kidney-care system. Participants examined growing renal-health challenges and identified strategic opportunities to expand access to lifesaving services, especially in resource-constrained settings.

Delivering the keynote lecture titled "Kidney Health in a Resource-Limited Environment: Addressing Challenges and Building Resilience," Prof. Aminu K. Bello highlighted persistent structural and systemic barriers affecting kidney care in Nigeria. He identified limited diagnostic capacity, late detection of kidney dysfunction, inadequate preventive strategies, financial barriers, and a shortage of specialized renal-care professionals as key contributors to the rising burden of kidney disease.

Prof. Bello emphasized that meaningful progress requires coordinated support from governments, health institutions, development partners and communities, stressing that kidney health cannot rely on treatment alone—it must be driven by prevention, research, and early detection.



Chairman of the Nigerian Association of Nephrology, Professor Olugbenga Awobusuyi, reiterated the purpose of the annual gathering: to serve as a platform for doctors, nurses, technicians and other kidney-care professionals to exchange ideas on emerging trends, best practices and research findings. He noted that the conference also provides opportunities for stronger collaboration between practitioners and the public through engagements with government representatives, media stakeholders and health-system administrators.

Prof. Awobusuyi expressed concern over the country's renal-care infrastructure, revealing that only 890 dialysis machines are functional across 125 health institutions providing dialysis nationwide. He further noted that approximately 11% of Nigerians—about one in every ten people—live with chronic kidney disease, calling for urgent national attention and strengthened investment in prevention, treatment and research.

..... **Borno Government**

Reaffirms Commitment to Kidney Care

Declaring the conference open on behalf of Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, the Borno State Commissioner for Health, Professor Baba Mallam Gana, described the event as timely for the Northeast, where kidney-related conditions have become increasingly common. He identified several contributing factors including prolonged dehydration, misuse of medications, environmental risks, rising non-communicable diseases and limited access to specialized kidney services in rural communities.

Prof. Gana outlined the major strides taken by the Borno State Government to enhance kidney-care services, emphasizing both service expansion and financial protection for vulnerable families. He announced that the state provided free dialysis for more than 3,000 kidney patients in the past year, representing one of the most comprehensive renal-support programs in the country. He added that the government also spent over ₦1 billion to support free kidney transplants for Borno indigenes needing advanced care.

The Commissioner noted that Governor Zulum has directed the Ministry of Health to build on and surpass previous achievements, with plans to deploy additional dialysis centres, strengthen diagnostic capacity, and scale up renal services across the state. He added that the state is investing heavily in infrastructure, including:

A new Teaching Hospital currently underway

Two newly established Colleges of Nursing

Upgraded General Hospitals elevated to Specialist status

Solar-powered kidney-care support units funded through a ₦1 billion donation

Improved rural healthcare networks to enhance accessibility

Prof. Gana stressed that treatment alone is insufficient without strong public awareness and preventive actions. He urged residents to adopt healthier lifestyles, stay hydrated, use medications responsibly and seek early medical evaluation when symptoms occur. Prevention, he said, remains the most cost-effective and sustainable approach in reducing the burden of kidney disease.

.....Institutional Leaders Pledge Continued Support

Representing the Chief Medical Director of UMTH, Deputy CMAC (Clinical) Professor Farouk Buba reaffirmed the hospital's commitment to supporting nephrologists and strengthening renal services. He highlighted that UMTH has already taken the lead in the region through its successful kidney-transplant program and other notable advancements in specialized care.

Similarly, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the University of Maiduguri, Professor Baba Gana Bako, emphasized the institution's dedication to advancing research, clinical practice and community-based services. He noted that the university's contributions extend beyond kidney disease to other critical health emergencies affecting the region.

Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Professor Ibrahim Ummate, stated that the conference will equip participants with important insights on preventing kidney diseases, improving clinical management, expanding research and fostering partnerships with government and development stakeholders. He disclosed that at the end of the conference, the Association will initiate advocacy and media campaigns to help reduce the rising prevalence of kidney cases across Nigeria.



How Israel 'evaporated' hundreds in Gaza with high temperature bombs

Israel has "evaporated" and incinerated hundreds of Palestinians in Gaza during its genocidal campaign on the enclave through the use of thermal and thermobaric weapons, leaving no identifiable remains to bury, an investigation published on Monday has found.

The Israeli military used weapons described as vacuum or aerosol bombs, capable of generating temperatures exceeding 3,500 degrees Celsius, the Al Jazeera investigation found.

Of the more than 72,000 Palestinians reported killed since October 2023, 2,845 are believed to have been "evaporated" by thermal weapons, leaving behind only blood spray or scattered fragments of tissue, according to the investigation.

The findings were said to have been corroborated by Civil Defence teams in Gaza. A spokesperson for Gaza's Civil Defence said the data is based on field investigations and extensive searches for biological traces on the walls of homes following Israeli strikes.

The report details how certain chemical compositions in munitions can generate extreme heat capable of incinerating human bodies within seconds. Thermobaric weapons work by dispersing a cloud of fuel that ignites, creating an intense fireball and a vacuum effect.

Military experts cited in the investigation said that metals such as aluminium, magnesium and titanium are often added to explosive mixtures to significantly increase temperature.

The investigation also points to the use of TNT combined with aluminium powder in US-manufactured bombs, including the MK 84, which it says can generate intense heat upon detonation.

The findings come as Israel faces continued accusations of war crimes in Gaza, including forced displacement, restrictions on food and emergency aid, and attacks on civilian infrastructure such as hospitals.

Legal experts quoted in the report argue that the alleged use of thermobaric or high-temperature munitions in densely populated civilian areas could raise questions not only about Israel's conduct but also about the role of supplier states. The investigation names US-manufactured weapons, including the MK 84, GBU 39 and BLU 109, as being linked to incidents involving severe incineration.

Under international humanitarian law, the use of weapons that cannot distinguish between civilians and combatants may constitute violations of the laws of war.

The report also raises questions about accountability, noting that the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The allegations come as at least 591 Palestinians have reportedly been killed since a ceasefire was agreed in October. Israeli forces have also continued demolishing buildings in Gaza following the truce.

Since the start of the war, Palestinian officials and rights groups have accused Israel of preventing families from burying their loved ones with dignity, whether by withholding bodies, targeting mourners, or leaving victims' remains fragmented beyond recognition. (Aljazeera).



Africa must have permanent seat at UN Security Council – Guterres

"This is 2026 — not 1946. Whenever decisions about Africa and the world are on the table, Africa must be at the table."

The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has declared the exclusion of Africa from permanent membership of the Security Council "indefensible", urging urgent reform of global power structures.

This is contained in a statement on Saturday by the Communication Section of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Addressing the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Mr Guterres said, "2026 cannot operate on a 1946 governance model".

According to him, the absence of permanent African seats in the Security Council is indefensible.

"This is 2026 — not 1946. Whenever decisions about Africa and the world are on the table, Africa must be at the table," he added.

He praised the African Union as "a flagship for multilateralism" in a fractured world marked by division and mistrust.

The Secretary-General thanked the African Group at the UN for "unwavering, decisive support" on justice, equality and reform initiatives.

"Your solidarity has not only strengthened our efforts, it has moved me deeply," he said.

Highlighting cooperation, he cited joint peace and



development frameworks and the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2719 on AU-led peace operations funding.

He regretted the Security Council's failure to agree on predictable financing for the AU mission in Somalia.

"If the Mission of the AU in Somalia did not warrant global support, what would?" he asked.

Turning to Sudan, he demanded an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to inclusive, Sudanese-led political talks.

He called for an immediate ceasefire and respect for territorial integrity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

He warned that developing nations face a staggering four trillion-dollar annual financing gap for Sustainable Development Goals.

"Africa is losing more to debt service or illicit financial flows than it receives in aid each year," he said.

He urged reform of the global financial architecture to give African nations "a meaningful voice and real

participation".

On climate, he warned the planet will overshoot the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit, making rapid emissions cuts essential.

The G20, responsible for nearly 80 per cent of emissions, must deliver "major reductions this decade", he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that in spite of vast solar potential, Africa receives only two per cent of global clean energy investment.

"After contributing almost nothing to the crisis, Africa faces faster-than-average warming," Mr Guterres said.

He demanded triple adaptation finance and faster capitalisation of the Loss and Damage.

"No more exploitation. No more plundering. The people of Africa must benefit from the resources of Africa," he said.

Dismissing suggestions of a farewell, he pledged Africa would remain the UN's "priority number one" until the end of his mandate.

"Wherever I will be, whatever I will be doing, there will be Africa always," he said. (NAN)

South Korean official expelled for suggesting 'importing women' to boost birth rate

A South Korean official was expelled from his political party for suggesting the country "import" Vietnamese and Sri Lankan women to boost the declining birth rate.

Kim Hee Soo, the governor of the southern Jindo county in South Jeolla province, was facing an uproar after his televised remarks last week triggered a diplomatic protest from Vietnam. Mr Kim was addressing a town hall meeting when he spoke about measures to address the country's declining birth rate.

He said South Korea could "import young unmarried

women" from places like Sri Lanka or Vietnam to be married off to "young men in rural areas".

The Vietnamese embassy in Seoul issued a statement to condemn Mr Kim's remarks, saying that his words were "not simply a matter of expression but a matter of values and attitudes towards migrant women and minority groups". Many people in the country called him out for his comments, deeming them "inappropriate".

Mr Kim issued an apology, saying he "sincerely bows his head in apology" to the Vietnamese and Sri Lankan people for the use of terms

such as "import" that "undermines human dignity", local media reported.

Mr Kim belonged to the Democratic Party, which voted unanimously to expel him from his position, a party spokesperson said on Monday.

The town hall meeting was convened to discuss a potential merger of nine cities and counties in the province with Gwangju Metropolitan City. Gwangju is South Korea's sixth-largest metropolis.

South Korea has one of the lowest birth rates in the world and has injected billions of dollars into measures to boost its declining birth rate and maintain population stability.

News Extra

I WAS A CHRISTIAN UNTIL... — Paul POGBA'S WIFE

* REVEALS WHY SHE CONVERTED TO ISLAM

Zulay Pogba has opened up on and her faith and explained why she left Christianity after marrying Paul Pogba.

Zulay Pogba, the wife of French footballer Paul Pogba, has opened up about her personal journey of faith. The Bolivian-born interior designer and mother of three shared that she converted to Islam seven years ago, having previously identified as a Christian.

Her candid disclosures have sparked widespread interest, shedding light on the intimate aspects of her life with the World Cup-winning midfielder.

Zulay, who boasts more than 1.3 million followers on Instagram, used the platform to engage directly with her fans, answering queries about her background, family, and spiritual beliefs ahead of the Ramadan season.

Journey to Conversion

Zulay's conversion story is deeply intertwined with her marriage to Paul, who is a practising Muslim. She explained that after tying the knot, she began exploring Islam more thoroughly.

In a revealing Q&A on her Instagram Stories on Monday, February 9, the 32-year-old shared:

"I converted to Islam 7 years ago, I was a Christian before. After Paul and I got married, I started reading and learning about the religion. I decided to convert after my first son was born," she said in response to a



follower's question.

The revelation highlights the transformative power of personal relationships and family life.

Zulay, originally from Bolivia and raised in a Christian household, described her shift in faith as a deliberate and informed choice. Such conversions are not uncommon in

interfaith marriages, where partners often seek common ground in spiritual matters to foster unity within the family.

Paul Pogba himself has been vocal about his Islamic faith in the past, crediting it for providing guidance amid the pressures of professional football. He has spoken about

performing Umrah pilgrimages and observing Ramadan.

This is not the first time a partner of a high-profile footballer has changed their religion during or due to a relationship.

It will be recalled that Jordan Ozuna converted to Islam during her relationship with Karim Benzema, with whom she shares a son.

Jordan Ozuna officially announced her conversion to Islam in late June and early July 2023. In an extensive interview with ELLE Spain, she revealed that the conversion ceremony took place at a mosque in Madrid.

Ozuna described the experience as deeply emotional, stating she "cried like a little girl!" while the Quran was being recited. She noted that while she performed extensive research on the religion herself, the decision was a significant "proof of love" following her move to Saudi Arabia with Benzema and the birth of their son.

Zulay's view on Ramadan

As the Islamic holy month of Ramadan approaches, Zulay expressed enthusiasm about her preparations, viewing it as an opportunity for spiritual growth.

"I am already preparing, calling it the perfect time to strengthen my connection with Allah," she shared. Emphasising the essence of sincere devotion, she added, "Allah knows your heart, and that's what matters most."

Ramadan, observed by Muslims worldwide, involves fasting from dawn until sunset, increased prayer, and acts of charity.

Zulay's Q&A session extended beyond faith, touching on her professional endeavours and family routines. As an interior designer, she often shares glimpses of her work on Instagram, blending aesthetics with personal snippets of her life.

The couple, who split their time between homes in Europe and the Middle East, have faced challenges, including Paul's doping ban from football. Amid such trials, Zulay's emphasis on faith suggests it serves as a pillar of strength for their family.

Paul Pogba, currently at A.S Monaco gained prominence during his stints at Manchester United and Juventus. He won the FIFA World Cup with France in 2018, cementing his status as one of football's elite.

The couple's relationship, which began in 2017, culminated in marriage two years later, and they now share three young sons: Labile Shakur, Keyaan Zaahid, and their youngest, born in 2023.



NBESS 2026: Bauchi Tops Medals Table, as Gov. Bala Describes sports as Agent for National Development

The second edition of the National Basic education school sports ended in Bauchi on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa stadium with a final Football match between the defending champion Taraba State and Nasarawa state. At the end of the 20 minutes game Nasarawa state beat Taraba state 3 -- 0 to emerge Football champion of the 2026 edition, after keen contest by 26 states of federation. While Bauchi Female Football team defeated Gombe state counterpart 3 -- 1 through spot kicks after goalless draw during the 20 minutes regulation time.

On the overall games competed for by the 26 states across the country, the host state Bauchi top the medal table in both male and female categories with 19 Gold, 21 silver and 14 bronze medals to emerge winner of the 2026 edition of the competition. Delta state is second position with 53 medals and third position went to Kaduna state with 23 Medals

Declaring the Competition closed, Governor Bala Mohammed, commended the organizers of this important events that drew brilliant and intelligent pupils from across 26 states of the federation to Bauchi state. "I must appreciate the confidence and opportunity accorded to Bauchi state to host this historic National school pupils' games that attracted over 1000 athletes and officials to the city of sports in



Nigeria" Governor Bala said.

Governor Bala Mohammed who was represented at the closing ceremony by the State Commissioner of Education, Dr Lawal Muhammad Rimi Zayam, explained that the annual event will continue to unite young Nigerians from diverse cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds under sportsmanship, believing that sports is a unifying factor and agent of National development.

He congratulated the winners, all participating states, FCT and particularly UBEC for successful, peaceful and hitch free competition.

The Executive Secretary UBEC, Dr Aisha Garba in her speech, said, the 10 days sporting activities has showcased team work, discipline, talents, determination, sportsmanship and unity among young pupils across the country.

Dr. Aisha spoke through the zonal Director, Abdullahi

Shehu Jarma, who thanked and appreciated Bauchi state Government, NASSOF, SUBEB chairmen and other stakeholders for their support towards the development of education sports in all the schools, stressing that such events will keep producing and nurturing future champions that will later take over from the present Nigeria hero athletes.

She called on all schools across the federation to take sports as an essential part of education to build healthier, united and brighter children in the society.

In his remarks, the President, National SUBEB sports officer's forum NASSOF, Mr Ipede Joseph, commended Bauchi state Government, SUBEB and all the states for the successful hosting of the second edition of BESS games in Bauchi. He announced that the 3rd edition of the school's sports games will take place in Asaba, Delta State Nigeria.

Ahmed Musa in Discussions to Straighten FC Kaysar's attacking line

Former Super Eagles skipper Ahmed Musa is reportedly edging closer to a transfer to Kazakhstan, where he may reunite with fellow Nigerian international Victor Moses.

Reports suggested that FC Kaysar has initiated talks with the experienced forward as the club looks to bolster its squad ahead of the new season.

The potential move is expected to see Musa link up with Moses, who is already playing his trade in the Central Asian country.

Musa, a former captain of the Nigeria national football team, remains one of Nigeria's most decorated attackers, having represented the



country at several FIFA World Cups and Africa Cup of Nations tournaments.

His experience and leadership qualities are seen as valuable assets that could strengthen FC Kaysar's

attacking line.

Discussions between both parties are believed to be ongoing, with more details likely to emerge in the coming days if an agreement is reached.

THE TRUMPSPORTS

With
Usman Abbas Shehu



Nigerian, UK-based Investor, sports philanthropist Tasks SWAN to use Sports As Tool to make Nigeria Better

Sports has been described as the best tool that can be used to make Nigeria better, hence sports writers have been tasked to do all within their powers to contribute meaningfully to the country's development by positively educating the masses.

A United Kingdom-based renowned philanthropist, Mr. Moses Ted Andishu, gave the charge, at the weekend, when he was decorated as a National Patron of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), in Kaduna.

Saying, "As journalists, use your noble profession to educate the public on the importance of sports, especially with the challenges we're facing in Nigeria today.

Moses Andishu emphasised that in sports, all are united, only focusing on the teams or athletes they are supporting.

"You know, sports have no religion, it has no race, it has no language. Let me say our players, we've got players in Germany, they don't speak German. We have two teams, they've got black players and white players.

"You support your team, I support my team, you're not supporting black or white players, you just support your team.

"So sports is so uniting that we don't explore sports in the best way, as much as we should," he stressed.

He thanked SWAN for finding him worthy to be one of its national patrons, assuring that he would contribute his quota in making the association greater.

According to him, sports is a big thing for him, although based in the UK, he is still involved in grassroots sports there and in Nigeria.

He however, tasked SWAN to always guide him on what to do, since he is now part of the association.

"Guide me, I do not work alone. If there are certain areas that you think I've erred, there are a few of you that I know that can say, 'you do it this way, that might be the right way. And I always give my honest opinion and advice, whether it's taken or not, you

know, I am always a phone call and email away," he said.

He added, "Every issue that I have, I can deal with to the best of my ability. As I said, that is my life. My life is of service. I love sports."

In his remarks at the ceremony, SWAN President, Isaiah Kemje Benjamin who led some national and states executive in decorating Mr. Moses Andishu as national patron, said that the investiture ought to have been done since October last year during the association's 60th anniversary celebration in Abuja.

He informed the new patron that membership of the association goes beyond Nigeria, across the diaspora.

Some of the national officers who accompanied the SWAN President on the investiture were the Secretary General, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, Ex Officio North West, Idris Malikawa, Special Adviser Media to the President, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, Special Adviser Logistics Joshua Friday, Kaduna State Chairman, Shehu Abdullahi, as well as others.

The Man Moses Ted Andishu

Exuding with track record of philanthropy and vast knowledge in sports and other economic spheres, Moses Ted Andishu is a Patron of Conglomerate of Sports establishments, serving as feeders to football clubs in England.

Born in Kaduna where he had his early education, Moses is the founder and Chairman of the board, Moses Andishu Foundation.

He annually sponsors YSFON U-17 Boys football championship in North West, Nigeria as well as bankrolls Inter Secondary Schools Rugby Championship.

He is a prominent recipient of the black entrepreneur and extraordinary categories at the BE Mogul awards, which recognises success among black business owners.

Years back, Moses Andishu set up his company, Tedmoses, based in the United Kingdom. He is also Managing Director Freivan Support Services UK.

Zulum flags off Ramadan palliative for 300,000 households in Borno's 27 LGAs

Alkali Muhammad Musa, Maiduguri



Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has launched the distribution of Ramadan palliatives to 300,000 households across all 27 local government areas of the state.

The intervention is designed to cushion the economic burden on vulnerable residents during the holy month of Ramadan.

Each beneficiary will receive one bag of rice, one bag of millet and 10 kg of sugar.

Speaking at Ramat Square, the venue for the distribution exercise on Tuesday, Zulum urged the committee tasked with the exercise to adhere to the highest standards of transparency and fairness.

He said, "To the committee in charge of this distribution, let transparency be your watchword. Let fairness be your guide. These items are not for sale. They are not for your friends or family members who do not need them."

"They are for the widow, the orphan, the internally displaced, the farmer whose fields have not fully recovered, and the daily wage earner struggling to make ends meet. Any officer found diverting these items will face the full wrath of the law."

The governor also noted that the distribution would be extended to Christian residents who are coincidentally observing the Lent period, which overlaps with the Muslim



fasting season this year. This gesture will also touch the non-Muslims who are also fasting the lent which falls within the month of Ramadan," Zulum ordered.

Zulum's administration had consistently supported Christian communities in the state, particularly during festive seasons.

Each year, the governor approves the distribution of food items to Christian faithful celebrating Christmas and free transport for non-indigenous Christians who wish to travel to other parts of the country to celebrate their holidays with family and loved ones.

In their remarks, the senator representing Borno Central, Barrister Kaka Shehu Lawan and the Secretary to the Borno State Government, Bukar Tijani, commended Governor Zulum for supporting the vulnerable in their most critical moment.

In his welcome address, the Director-General of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Ali Abdullahi Isa, reiterated the agency's readiness to ensure hitch-free distribution.

The ceremony was attended by members of the House of Representatives, Engr Bukar Talba and Abdulkadir Rahis, the speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly, Abdkarim Lawan and principal officers of the House, the Acting Chief of Staff, Dr Babagana Mustapha Mallumbe, among many other senior government officials.

From Front Page

Why US Military Personnel landed in Bauchi – DHQ

bandits operating in the northwest.

The Nigerian government denies any systematic persecution of Christians, saying it is targeting terrorists and other armed groups that attack and kill both Christians and Muslims.

US Africa Command, the US military command responsible for operations in Africa, said it was helping Nigeria in its campaign against several extremist groups, including Boko Haram and Islamic State's West Africa Province.

JIBWIS leader urges FG to clarify US-Nigeria military ties

The National Leader of Jama'atu Izalati Bid'ah Wa Ikamatis Sunnah (Jibwis), Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau, has called on the federal government to come clean on agreements reached with the United States regarding the deployment of American soldiers in Nigeria.

Speaking in an interview with BBC Hausa, Bala Lau said the US, being a global power with vast intelligence networks, should verify information about Nigeria carefully rather than relying on politicised narratives.

"Even the US knows very well that Muslims are at the receiving end of this terror. Muslims are being killed more than any other group. Our hope is to see the end of these carnages," he said.

The cleric cautioned against politicizing the issue, insisting that claims of genocide against Christians do not reflect realities on the ground.

He suggested that such narratives may be driven by political agendas.

He further dismissed insinuations that Muslim leaders have been silent, noting that both the Sultan of Sokoto and JIBWIS leaders have consistently countered the genocide narrative.

Bala Lau emphasised that the protection of citizens remains the responsibility of the Nigerian government, not foreign powers, and urged transparency in disclosing the terms of any military cooperation with the US.

Similarly, people in

Bauchi State are sceptical to know the where about of the American soldiers in their State.

Their arrival came when it was reported that kidnapers have abducted four members of the family of the Chief Imam of Jama'atu Izalati Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS) in Digare town, Imam Abubakar Muhammad Digare, in Alkali local government area of Bauchi State.

and on that last Monday night Suspected bandits on Monday night reportedly abducted a councillor, Hon. Dan Musa Garin Kwairi, alongside his two wives in Futuk community, Gwana District of Alkali Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

The victims were reportedly taken from their residence in Futuk-west constituency, which Hon. Garin Kwairi represents in the local council.

The first attacked of Imam Family occurred around 10:34 p.m. on Saturday night when residents were about to go to bed. The gunmen stormed the area, firing several gunshots before invading the Imam's residence.

Hon. Buba Jauro, the councillor representing Digare Ward, confirmed the incident in a telephone interview with our correspondent.

"Yesterday around 10:34 p.m., we heard a gunshot, then another shortly after. We thought it was security personnel responding to the insecurity in the area," he

said.

"About five minutes later, we heard six more gunshots. That was when we realised something was wrong and asked people who were still outside to disperse and return home. Before we entered our houses, we heard another four gunshots."

Jauro explained that the gunmen targeted the residence of the Chief Imam, who reportedly escaped before the attackers could gain access to his room.

He said, the attackers initially abducted three of the Imam's wives but later released two. They eventually left with one wife, the Imam's son, and two other children believed to be his nieces.

Residents described the incident as chaotic, saying the attackers operated swiftly and fled the community shortly after abducting the victims. Several women and children were reportedly among those taken during the raid.

He said that one of the Imam's mobile phones, which had been left charging in the house, was taken by the attackers.

The councillor said that although security personnel were stationed in the town, residents remained in panic following the attack. He added that, as of the time of filing this report, the kidnapers had not contacted the family to demand ransom.

Police Public Relations Officer PPRO of the Bauchi State Police Command, SP Nafiu

Abubakar, confirmed the two incidents to Trumpeter Reporters, He said effort are being made to rescue the abducted victims"

PPRO said, "The Police received a report on 15th February, 2026, at about 0941hrs, regarding a kidnapping incident that occurred on 14th February, 2026, at 2230hrs in Anguwan Madaki, Degare village of Alkali LGA.

"The complainant reported that unknown gunmen broke into his residence and abducted four female family members: Rukayya Junaidu (19), Nafisa Zubairu (19), Safiya Imam Lata (18), and Maryam Dadalliya (30)."

He added that the kidnappers also stole two black Tecno phones, according to the complainant, Alh. Jinaidu Muhammad.

According to him, a joint rescue operation involving police, army, and vigilante groups successfully rescued two individuals including Lawiza Abubakar (35) and Musa Abdullahi (10) unhurt.

He said the State's Commissioner of Police, CP Sani-Omolori Aliyu, assured the public that Police and the operatives of other sister agencies were working diligently to locate and rescue the remaining abducted persons and apprehend the perpetrators.

Effort by Trumpeter Reporters to contact Army Public Relations Officer failed some senior military officers contacted declined comment over the arrival of American soldiers in Bauchi and the Defence statement is silent on the duration of the American soldiers stay in Bauchi or Nigeria

