

Editorial

50 Years of Bauchi State: From Foundation to Forward March A Golden Jubilee of Purpose and Progress

Fifty years in the life of a people is no small chapter in history. It is long enough to test resilience, to shape identity, and to prove whether the dreams of a generation can withstand time. As Bauchi State marks its Golden Jubilee,

the moment demands more than ceremony; it calls for reflection, gratitude, and renewed resolve.

Created on February 3, 1976, through the visionary state-creation exercise of Nigeria's former Head of State, Murtala Ramat

Mohammed, Bauchi began as an idea — an administrative space meant to bring governance closer to the people. Today, five decades later, that idea has matured into one of Northern Nigeria's most strategically important and promising states.

This anniversary is not merely about age. It is about achievement.

A Legacy of Leadership and Stability

From the pioneering days of military administration to the democratic era, successive leaders laid

foundations that kept the state united and functional. Early administrators built the core structures of governance. Civilian governments expanded education, health, and infrastructure.

Under the present administration of

Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, the state has witnessed a renewed emphasis on planning, investment, and long-term development. His government's medium- and long-term frameworks — including the 2033 Development Plan —

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Bauchi at 50: A Golden Journey of Heritage, Resilience and a Bold Economic Future

Ahmed Mohammed/Mijinyawa Ahmed

As Bauchi State marks half a century of existence, its story emerges as one of diversity, endurance and renewed ambition, a state rooted in history yet determined to chart a prosperous future driven by youth, agriculture and inclusive development.

On February 3, 2026, Bauchi State joined a distinguished group of Nigerian states celebrating 50 years of existence, a golden jubilee that invites reflection on the past, assessment of the present, and bold imagination of the future.

Created in 1976 by the late General Murtala Ramat Mohammed from the defunct North-Eastern State, Bauchi has evolved into one of Nigeria's most strategic and resource-rich states, both geographically and demographically.

Located in Nigeria's North-East geopolitical zone, Bauchi is bordered by Jigawa and Kano to the north, Yobe and Gombe to



the east, Taraba and Plateau to the south, and Kaduna to the west.

With a landmass of about 49,549 square kilometres, roughly 5.3 percent of Nigeria's total

land area, Bauchi is the fifth largest state in the country and one of its most populous, with an estimated population now exceeding 9.5 million people.

A Land of Ecological and Cultural Diversity

Bauchi's landscape is a striking blend of ecological zones. The southern part lies within

the West Sudanian savanna, while the north transitions into the semi-arid Sahelian savanna.

A small portion of the Jos Plateau extends into the south-west, adding a

montane character to parts of the state.

One of Bauchi's most defining natural assets is Yankari National Park, Nigeria's most famous wildlife reserve. Home to elephants, buffaloes, water buck, hippopotamuses, patas monkeys and some of the last remaining West African lions and leopards, Yankari remains both a conservation treasure and a tourism goldmine.

Its Wikki Warm Springs continues to attract visitors from within and outside Nigeria, symbolising Bauchi's untapped tourism potential.

Culturally, Bauchi State is a mosaic of ethnic groups that have coexisted for centuries. The Bolewa, Warji and Butawa dominate the central zone; Fulani, Kanuri and Karai-Karai inhabit the north; while the Zaar, Gwak, Jarawa, Dugurawa, Gerawa and others populate the south and surrounding areas.

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From Front Page

50 Years of Bauchi State: From Foundation to Forward March A Golden Jubilee of Purpose and Progress

demonstrate something rare in subnational governance: continuity beyond political cycles.

Such planning signals maturity. It tells investors, citizens, and development partners that Bauchi is not improvising its future, it is designing it.

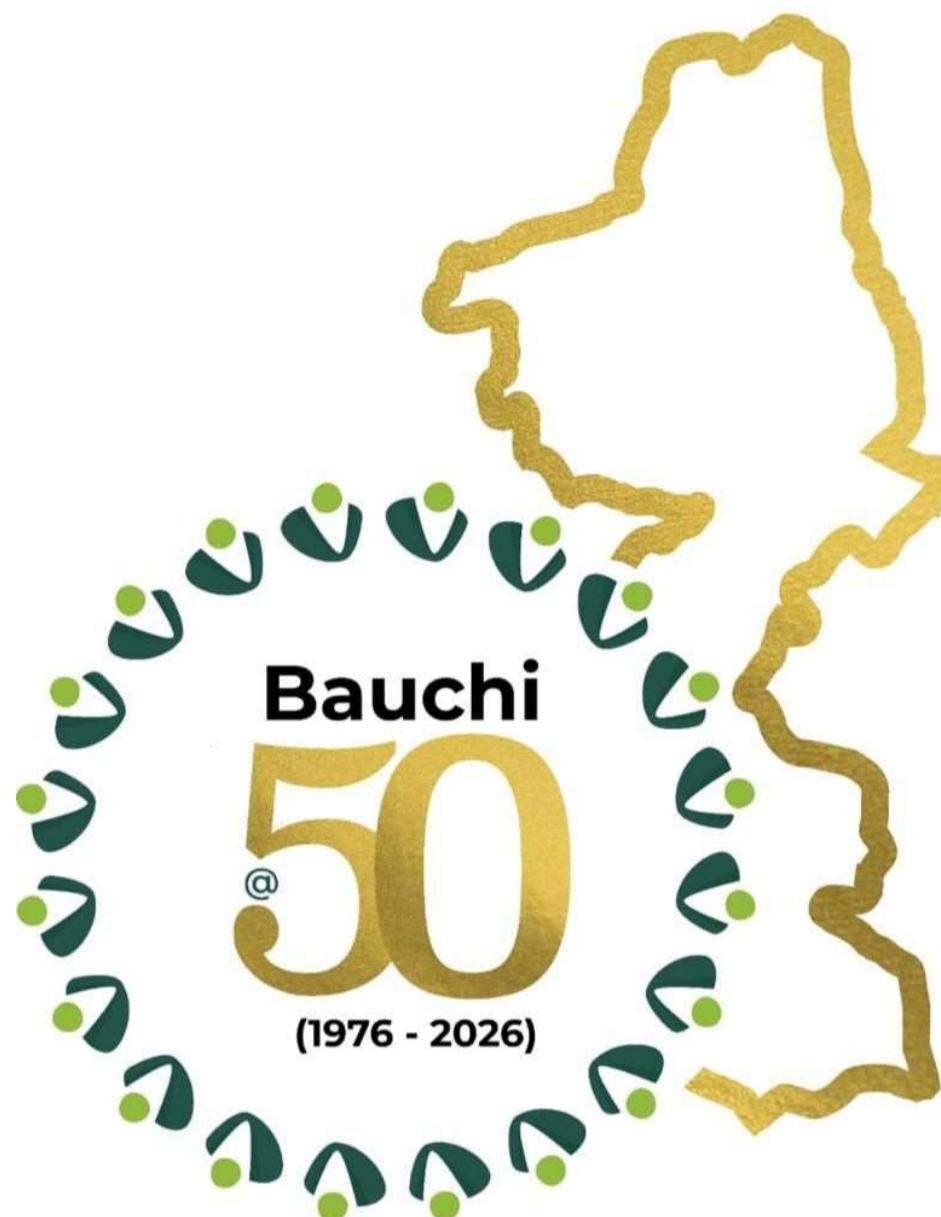
Agriculture: The Beating Heart of the Economy If Bauchi has a natural strength, it is agriculture. With over four million hectares of cultivable land, rich river systems, dams, and favourable rainfall patterns, the state remains one of Nigeria's great food baskets. Production has multiplied significantly in recent years, supporting millions of livelihoods.

Yet what stands out today is not just farming, but transformation — irrigation expansion, agro-processing value chains, livestock development, and commercial partnerships. The aim is clear: move from subsistence to agribusiness, from local markets to regional competitiveness.

Agriculture is no longer simply survival. It is strategy.

Human Capital: Investing in People

No state can rise above the quality of its people. Recent years have seen thousands of classrooms built and rehabilitated, teacher recruitment scaled up, and programmes targeting out-of-school children dramatically expanded. Healthcare has also received attention, with hundreds of primary health



centres strengthened and new general hospitals ensuring access across local governments.

The message is unmistakable: development is not only about roads and bridges; it is about minds and lives.

A healthier child.
An educated girl.
A skilled youth.

These are the true monuments of progress.

Tourism, Minerals and New Frontiers

Beyond farming, Bauchi's economy is diversifying.

The world-famous Yankari Game Reserve continues to anchor tourism. Solid minerals deposits remain vast and largely untapped. Recent hydrocarbon discoveries in

the Kolmani axis point to new industrial possibilities. If properly managed, these sectors could redefine Bauchi's revenue base and employment prospects for decades to come.

The opportunity is enormous. The responsibility is greater. Challenges Remain — But So Does Hope

An honest editorial must acknowledge that challenges persist: youth unemployment, environmental degradation, urban pressure, and the demands of a rapidly growing population. Yet what distinguishes Bauchi at 50 is not the absence of problems, but the presence of vision. The difference

between stagnation and progress lies in planning. Bauchi is planning.

The Next Fifty Years As citizens celebrate this Golden Jubilee, the real question is not what Bauchi has been, but what it can become.

If the past fifty years were about laying foundations, the next fifty must be about acceleration: From potential to productivity

From dependence to enterprise

From poverty to prosperity

The responsibility belongs to everyone: government, private sector, traditional institutions, youth, women, and civil society. Development is a shared duty.

For five decades, Bauchi has endured, adapted, and advanced. It has survived national upheavals, economic cycles, and social pressures. Today, it stands not merely as a state on the map, but as a community of resilient people determined to shape their destiny.

As this newspaper The Trumpeter, joins citizens in marking this historic milestone, we salute the pioneers who built the foundations, the leaders who strengthened them, and the young generation who will carry the torch forward.

Fifty years ago, Bauchi was created.

Today, Bauchi is rising.

Tomorrow, Bauchi must lead.

Long live Bauchi State.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Bauchi at 50: Gov. Bala Mohammed Hails Founding Fathers, Past Leaders

By Ahmed Mohammed Bauchi

Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed, has said that the successful take-off and sustained existence of Bauchi State since its creation in 1976 were made possible by the vision, courage, and sacrifices of the founding fathers.

The Governor stated this on Tuesday during a statewide broadcast to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the creation of Bauchi State, celebrated on 3rd February, 2026.

According to him, the pioneers laid a solid foundation of governance, unity, and development upon which the state continues to stand.

"We honour their legacy and pray that Almighty God grants eternal rest to those who have returned to our Creator," the Governor said.

Governor Bala Mohammed described the Golden Jubilee as a defining moment in the history of the state.

"Today, I speak to you with a heart filled with gratitude, pride, and responsibility as we mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of our dear state. This milestone calls for reflection on our journey, appreciation of our sacrifices, and renewed commitment to our collective future."

He recalled that on 3rd February, 1976, the late General Murtala Ramat Mohammed announced the creation of Bauchi State alongside six others from the defunct North-East State.

"He did not live long to witness the growth of the state he courageously brought into existence, having been assassinated ten days later. On this solemn occasion, we pray that Almighty God grants his soul eternal rest and rewards his courage and sacrifice," Bala added.

The Governor noted that Bauchi State's attainment of 50 years of existence, out of which Gombe State was created in 1996, is a profound cause for joy and thanksgiving.

Despite political, economic, and social challenges, he said the state has endured and recorded steady progress, describing its survival and growth over five decades as a remarkable achievement worthy of



celebration and reflection.

Governor Bala Mohammed also acknowledged the immense contributions of past military and civilian governors, beginning with Colonel Muhammad Bello Kaliel, the first military governor, and Alhaji Abubakar Tatari Ali, the first democratically elected governor.

He listed other former leaders of the state to include the late General Garba Duba, Major General Muhammad Sani Sami, Major General Chris Abutu Garuba, Major General Joshua Madaki, Colonel Abu Ali, Alhaji Dahiru Mohammed, Wing Commander James Yana Kalau, Navy Captain Adisa Raji, Colonel Theophilus Bambigboye, Wing Commander Adamu Mishelia, Alhaji Ahmed Adamu Mu'azu, Malam Isa Yuguda, and Barrister Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar.

According to the Governor, each administration contributed in its own way to the growth, stability, and continuity of Bauchi State. "We remain grateful to all of them, living and deceased, and pray that Almighty God rewards their service."

He said since its creation, Bauchi State has recorded notable progress in education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply, and security.

The Governor highlighted the establishment of schools, colleges, universities, polytechnics, primary healthcare centres,

and general hospitals across wards and local government areas, as well as improved road networks and sustained investment in agriculture.

He added that collaborative efforts with security agencies have helped to protect lives and property, thereby providing a foundation for sustained peace and development.

Governor Bala Mohammed stressed that these achievements were made possible through the sacrifices of leaders in the executive, legislature, and judiciary, as well as the dedication of civil servants, traditional and religious institutions, professionals, farmers, traders, women, youths, and the private sector.

According to him, "Bauchi State is a product of shared responsibility. While

we honour the past, this Golden Jubilee should challenge the present generation to work harder."

Governor Mohammed noted that Bauchi State is richly endowed with enormous potential, occupying a landmass of 49,549 square kilometres, representing about 5.3% of Nigeria's total land area.

The state is bordered by Kano and Jigawa to the North, Taraba and Plateau to the south, Gombe and Yobe to the east, and Kaduna to the west, making it a strategic gateway to the North-East and providing opportunities in agriculture, logistics, hospitality, and tourism.

He disclosed that Bauchi State has an estimated population of about 9.5 million, growing at an annual rate of 3.6 percent, driven largely by relative peace and

increased migration. Over half of the population, he said, is under the age of 15, providing a vast pool of human capital for future economic growth.

Governor Bala Mohammed described agriculture as the backbone of the state's economy, employing about 80 percent of the workforce.

The state, he said, has an estimated 4.2 million hectares of cultivable land, with only 1.8 million hectares currently under cultivation, and rainfall ranging from 700mm in the north to 1,300mm in the southwest.

Major crops include sorghum, millet, rice, maize, groundnuts, soya beans, cowpea, tomato, onion, cassava, hibiscus, and sesame, with annual agricultural output growing from 1.6 million metric tonnes in 2016 to about 6.4 million metric tonnes in 2021.

He also highlighted the state's vast water resources, including the Gongola and Jama'are Rivers, the Hadeja-Jama'are Basin, several fadama areas, and dams such as Gubi, Galala, and Waya, as well as Maladumba Lake, noting that only about 10 percent of these resources are currently utilized.

In addition, the Governor said Bauchi State has enormous livestock potential, with millions of cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry that remain under-harnessed.

He emphasised that the development of agro-food processing, large-scale commercial farming, pasture production, and livestock value chains remains key to unlocking the state's economic future.



News

Gov. Mohammed lauds armoured corps at NAAC WASA 2025, Reaffirms Support for Security

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Gov. Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State, has commended troops of the Nigerian Army Armoured Corps (NAAC) for their professionalism, resilience and unwavering commitment to national defence and the protection of lives and property.

This is contained in a statement signed by Maj. Adekunle Akinyele, Ag. Deputy Director of Army Public Relations, and made available to newsmen on Sunday in Bauchi.

The commendation was delivered on his behalf by the Senior Special Assistant on Security Matters, Mr Chiroma Siyi, during the West African Social Activities (WASA) 2025 celebration held on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

Mohammed stressed that security is a collective responsibility and underscored the importance of sustained civil-military cooperation.

He expressed profound appreciation for the sacrifices of officers and soldiers who continue to serve under challenging and often hazardous conditions, far away from their families.

According to him, the WASA tradition provides an avenue to reflect on the core military values of service, sacrifice and patriotism, while also celebrating Nigeria's



cultural diversity and national unity.

He urged troops to leverage the occasion to further strengthen cordial relations between the military and host communities, promoting harmony, tolerance and mutual understanding.

The gov also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to supporting lawful and constructive initiatives aimed at enhancing security, sustaining peace and driving development across the state.

He congratulated NAAC on the successful hosting of the event and wished participants a peaceful and memorable celebration.

Earlier, the Commander, Armoured Corps, Major Gen. Umar Abubakar, applauded officers and soldiers for their dedication to national security.

He noted that while many citizens celebrate with their families, several troops

remain deployed on demanding frontline operations.

The Commander highlighted key achievements recorded in 2025, including the successful hosting of the Combat Arms Training Week,

"Construction of 10 transit officers' flats, a 30-man soldiers' accommodation block, and end-of-year training exercises culminating in Exercise MUGUN BUGU.

"Reaffirmed his commitment to troop welfare, the commander listed interventions such as solar-powered boreholes, rehabilitation of sewage systems, enhanced medical services and upgrades at the NAOWA School," He said

The WASA 2025 event featured a ceremonial campfire, cultural performances and awards to outstanding soldiers, and was attended by senior security officers and members of host communities.

Cholera: WaterAid urges Bauchi to fix failing WASH facilities

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

WaterAid Nigeria has charged the Bauchi State Cholera Technical Working Group to prioritise the rehabilitation of dilapidated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in their budgetary provisions to ensure rapid and effective response to cholera and other water-borne disease outbreaks.

Mr Mashat Mallo, The State Team Lead of WaterAid, made the call at the end of the Cholera Technical Working Group meeting on Monday in Bauchi.

He stressed that over-dependence on donors was unsustainable and unacceptable.

Mallo noted that donors often channel funds through ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) specifically

for the maintenance and sustainability of WASH facilities.

He urged stakeholders to judiciously utilise such resources rather than waiting for fresh interventions.

"You need to review your WASH budgetary allocations and use existing donor-supported resources to fix broken facilities instead of waiting for funders to step in again," he said.

Mallo, represented by WaterAid's Business Development Officer, Kasim Alex Shuaibu,

expressed optimism over the inauguration of the technical working group, which resolved to meet monthly, while its steering committee would convene quarterly.

He added that inclusive collaboration with civil

society organisations, religious bodies and the media would strengthen efforts to curb cholera outbreaks in the state.

Earlier, the Bauchi State Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Sani Mohammed Dambam, said the government would adopt a preventive strategy, focusing on nine thematic areas.

"That includes disease surveillance, sustained use of oral cholera vaccines, leadership coordination, risk communication and community engagement," He said

Dr Dambam called on all stakeholders to intensify public sensitisation against unhygienic practices, especially during the first quarter of the year when cholera cases usually peak.

Bauchi 50th anniversary: Bauchi targets top-10 economies in Nigeria by 2033

By Ahmed Muhammad Bauchi

The Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed has explained that the State would be among the top 10 economies in Nigeria by 2033, saying that the state aspires to lead in the North East sub-region in the next 8 years.

Governor Bala explained the long-term ambition on Tuesday in a statewide broadcast to mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the state, adding that the projection was anchored on a 10-year development plan.

He said that long-term planning ensures continuity, policy consistency, and predictability of growth, even during government changes. He said that the State Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had extended its 2021-2025 plan into a 10-year development plan that goes beyond the current administration and extends beyond the end date of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Governor Bala said that: "The Bauchi State Development Plan 2033, which is the 10-year plan, aims to build upon the State Medium Term Plan 2025 by expanding its scope, particularly focusing on security and social inclusion. The plan prioritises issues such as women, young individuals, children, and vulnerable populations in Bauchi.

"It is essential to note that this 10-year plan does not duplicate existing plans but rather complements them to achieve the state's desired vision, considering governance, legislative, social, and policy reforms that strengthen its capacity to fulfill the vision.

"The Bauchi State Development Plan 2023-2033 is predicated on four pillars

that include: Coherent Policy Thrust for the Plan Realistic Macroeconomic Framework. Prioritised and Sequenced list of Programmes and Projects to drive annual budgets. Robust Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to Ensure the Plan is efficiently and effectively Implemented."

He said that: "In terms of vision, by the year 2033 Bauchi State seeks to become the leading economy in the North-East region and one of the top 10 most economically and socially developed states in the country. This vision of the state is meant to invent a better future for the people of the state by building a secure, prosperous and inclusive society, within the next 10 years and even beyond."

According to him, the State intends to achieve boundless opportunities for growth and development in Bauchi State through the active collaboration between developed human capital, efficient state governance, private sector and development partners.

He said that the State aims to use the vast human, natural and man-made resources of the state to create wealth and ensure the well-being of the people through structural transformation of the economy in an all-inclusive manner, by using a consultative and participatory process to achieve a better life for all Bauchi citizens.

"The focus of the Plan is such that the sectors are prioritised and grouped within the 12-clusters of our Administration's economic blueprint: Agriculture and Food Security, Education, Health, Infrastructure, Security of Lives and Property, Environment, Tourism, Information and Communications Technology, Housing, Private Sector, Regional Collaboration, and General Administration."



End of an Era: The Assassination of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi and What It Means for Libya's Fragile Future

By George Omagbemi Sylvester

"A Detailed, Context-Rich Analysis of the Death of Libya's Most Controversial Scion and Its Reverberations Across a Nation Still Wrestling with Turmoil."

In a dramatic and violent turn that once again underscores the instability that has plagued Libya since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of the late Libyan leader and a figure synonymous with both reformist aspirations and brutal repression, was assassinated in Zintan, western Libya. His death, confirmed by multiple Libyan sources including his lawyer, Khaled el-Zaydi, marks a profound moment in the North African country's turbulent post-uprising history.

According to local media reports and police investigations under way, four unidentified gunmen breached Gaddafi's residence, disabling surveillance cameras before executing the 53-year-old political figure. The attackers fled the scene, leaving behind questions about motive, perpetrator identity, and the broader implications for Libya's fragile political landscape.

To fully understand the gravity of this event, one must trace Saif al-Islam Gaddafi's life, not merely as the son of a dictator, but as a complex figure whose trajectory mirrored Libya's own fractious journey from autocracy to perpetual conflict.

From Heir Apparent to Controversial Power Broker.

Born into the sprawling and secretive family of Muammar Gaddafi, Saif al-Islam was long viewed as the regime's intellectual face. Educated at the London School of Economics, he spoke fluent English and presented himself abroad as a reformer committed to modernizing Libya's image and engaging more constructively with the international community. In the early 2000s, he played significant roles in negotiations that led Libya to relinquish its weapons of mass destruction program and in talks intended to compensate victims'



families from the Lockerbie bombing; moves that briefly recast Libya as a state emerging from isolation.

However, the veneer of reformism masked a deeper allegiance to his father's regime and its system of repression. When the Arab Spring reached Libya in 2011, Saif al-Islam chose family loyalty over reform, becoming one of the architects of the regime's harsh crackdown on dissent. His rhetoric toward protesters was ruthless and on several occasions he warned of "rivers of blood" if the uprising continued, words that sank his earlier moderate image and aligned him with the paternalistic and brutal tactics of Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

Fall, Capture and Political Resurrection.

When the uprising culminated in the capture and killing of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Saif al-Islam attempted to flee but was apprehended by militia fighters near the desert, then held in custody for years by anti-Gaddafi forces in Zintan. Liberia's courts later sentenced him to death in absentia for crimes linked to the violent suppression of protests, and the International Criminal Court

issued a warrant for his arrest on charges including crimes against humanity. Yet he remained in Zintan under militia protection until a controversial amnesty saw his release in 2017.

In a move that shocked many observers, Saif al-Islam emerged from relative obscurity to announce his candidacy for the Libyan presidency in 2021. His bid came amid collective frustrations over Libya's protracted transitional politics and years of failed elections. For some Libyans entrenched in conflict fatigue, his name carried residual clout and memories of the old regime's stability compared with the current chaos. For others, his candidacy symbolized the persistence of the very forces many had fought to overthrow. Ultimately, disagreements over electoral law and his criminal convictions saw Libya's planned polls collapse, leaving him unaffiliated with any real political power.

The Killing and Its Immediate Aftermath.

The assassination itself was not merely another act of violence in Libya's mosaic of militia rule and political fragmentation; it was a calculated hit that obliterated the last major figure with direct ties to Libya's erstwhile authoritarian era. Initial reports suggest that his residence was carefully targeted, security systems neutralized and the attackers escaped undetected—signs that the killing may have been orchestrated by well-organized actors with clear intent.

His political team's statement condemned the attack as a "brutal act" and demanded justice, a call echoed by figures across Libya's fractious political spectrum. Khaled al-Mishri, former head of Libya's Tripoli-based High State Council, called for an "urgent and transparent investigation" into the assassination, spotlighting the state's enduring inability to enforce the

rule of law.

A Country Still at War With Itself.

Libya today is a nation still fractured by the enduring legacies of colonial influence, civil war and competing centers of power. Human Rights Watch and other observers have documented persistent abuses by armed groups and a pervasive climate of impunity that has allowed political violence to flourish. The assassination of Saif al-Islam, in this context, reflects the deeper crisis of governance that has crippled Libya since 2011.

The broader implications extend beyond the death of one man. His assassination risks deepening rivalries among militia factions, reigniting old grievances, and destabilizing tentative diplomatic efforts aimed at national reconciliation. For many Libyans, the event is a grim reminder that political solutions remain elusive in a country where power is more often seized by force than negotiated through consensus.

Voices from the Region: Scholars and Experts Weigh In.

Professor Ali Abdallah, a renowned North African political analyst, emphasizes the symbolic weight of Gaddafi's death: "This assassination underscores the tragic circularity of Libya's conflict. The debate over Libya's future must transcend personalities and confront the structural fissures that have made peace and stability so elusive."

Meanwhile, Dr. Fatima El-Sindy, an expert on post-conflict transitions, argues that "The elimination of a figure like Saif al-Islam (controversial though he was) reinforces the dangerous reality that political power in Libya continues to be contested through violence. Without a functioning central authority and inclusive political framework, Libya remains trapped in an endless cycle of retaliation."

Looking Ahead: What Comes Next?

The assassination of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi closes a chapter in Libya's modern history but does little to open a new, peaceful one. Instead, it challenges Libyans and international stakeholders to confront the systemic failures that have perpetuated violence and political stagnation. Whether his death becomes a catalyst for renewed peace efforts or a spark for further conflict will depend on the actions of Libyan actors and regional partners in the days and months ahead.

In a nation where the past continually bleeds into the present, the killing of Saif al-Islam is not an endpoint, but a stark reminder of how far Libya still must go to achieve the stability that so many have long fought for.

(SaharaWeekly)



News

Defections do not assure APC Victory - Bala Na'allah

By Salihu Makera

Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah has said that recent defections to the All Progressives Congress (APC) do not automatically translate into electoral success for the party, insisting that performance and public trust remain the decisive factors ahead of future elections.

Senator Na'Allah, a founding member of the APC, made these remarks while he appeared on Channels Television's Sunrise Daily and reacted to the growing wave of defections from opposition parties into the ruling party across several states.

He said, while defections may attract attention, they do not by themselves determine the outcome of elections.

He noted that many of those defecting to the APC are influential political figures with strong structures and followership in their states, a development that often creates the impression of the party's growing strength. However, he stressed that such movements should not be mistaken for guaranteed electoral victory.

"It is not in all cases that defections determine the success of a political party," the senator said. "These defections are made by people who hold large authority in their various states. It is not in politics that defection would determine the success of a party. In Nigeria, you can conveniently say that while local people whom you believe are not satisfied by the APC are registering with the APC, it does not determine success in the coming election.



The APC still has to work and convince the people that it is working to position the country to a greater future."

Na'Allah explained that, despite the ongoing influx of politicians into the APC, the party must still earn Nigerians' confidence through good governance and tangible results. He emphasized that the ruling party has a responsibility to convince citizens that it is genuinely working to secure a better future for the country.

Reflecting on the formation of the APC, Na'Allah said the party was established with clear intentions to change the political direction of Nigeria at a time when the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was in power. He added that the APC's original vision was rooted in correcting what its founders believed was a flawed trajectory under the former ruling party.

"I am a founding member, and I can conveniently say that no party that had been formed and came had a better intention than the APC. When APC said, while PDP was the ruling party, we believed that the trajectory of the PDP. So, the APC still has to work and convince the people that it is working to position the country to a greater future."

The senator's comments come amid a recent gale of defections into the APC by governors, lawmakers, and other high-profile politicians, a trend that has reshaped the political landscape and sparked debate about its implications for upcoming elections.

Na'Allah concluded that beyond defections, the APC must continue to engage Nigerians, address their concerns, and demonstrate capacity to deliver, noting that only this can position the party for success in future polls.

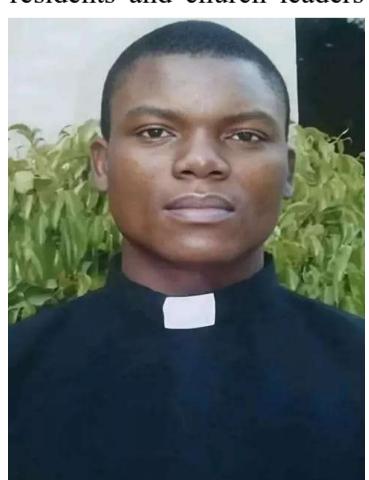
Catholic Priest Burn Alive in Taraba While on Peace Mission

Takum, Taraba State A Catholic priest, Rev. Fr. David Tanko, was brutally killed after his vehicle was set ablaze by armed attackers in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State, in what residents and church leaders

have described as a tragic blow to peace efforts in the region.

Rev. Fr. Tanko, who was ordained in 2008 for the Catholic Diocese of Jalingo, was attacked in Kufai Amadu community while travelling to a peace meeting aimed at reconciling the long-standing Tiv and Jukun communal conflict. According to eyewitness accounts, the assailants intercepted his vehicle, killed him, and set both his body and car on fire, leaving his remains burnt beyond recognition.

The killing sparked outrage and deep sorrow across Taraba State and beyond, particularly within the Christian community.



Local residents who witnessed the aftermath described the incident as horrific and heart-breaking, noting that the priest was widely known for his commitment to peace, dialogue, and community service.

This is a painful reminder of how insecurity has continued to claim innocent lives, a senior cleric in the diocese said. He died doing the work of peace.

The killing of Rev. Fr. David Tanko adds to growing concerns over the safety of clergy and peace advocates in Nigeria, particularly in regions affected by communal clashes and armed violence.

NECO Releases 2025 SSCE External Results*** Records 71.63% Pass Rate**

The National Examinations Council (NECO) has released the results of the 2025 Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) for external candidates, with 71.63 per cent of them achieving five credits and above, including English Language and Mathematics.

On examination malpractice, the NECO Registrar disclosed that 9,016 candidates were booked for various forms of malpractice, compared to 6,160 cases recorded in 2024, indicating an increase of 31.7 per cent.

Announcing the results on Tuesday, the Registrar and Chief Executive of NECO, Danlami Wushishi, disclosed that a total of 96,979 candidates registered for the examination nationwide.

Of this number, 51,823 candidates, representing 53.43 per cent, were males, while 45,156 candidates, representing 46.56 per cent, were females.

According to him, 95,160 candidates eventually sat for the examination, comprising 50,785 males (53.36 per cent) and 44,375 females (46.63 per cent).

Wushishi stated that 93,425 candidates sat for the English Language examination, out of which 73,167 candidates, representing 78.32 per cent, obtained credit passes and above. He added that 93,330 candidates sat for Mathematics, with 85,256 candidates, representing 91.35 per cent, securing credit passes and above.

He revealed that 68,166

candidates, representing 71.63 per cent, obtained five credits and above, including English Language and Mathematics. In addition, 82,082 candidates, representing 86.26 per cent, recorded five credits and above, irrespective of English Language and Mathematics.

On examination malpractice, the NECO Registrar disclosed that 9,016 candidates were booked for various forms of malpractice, compared to 6,160 cases recorded in 2024, indicating an increase of 31.7 per cent.

He also announced that some supervisors and centres were sanctioned for their involvement in malpractice. According to him, two supervisors from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and one each from Kano and Lagos States were recommended for appropriate sanctions.

Furthermore, four examination centres—two in Niger State, and one each in Yobe and Lagos States—were found culpable of whole-centre malpractice and have been recommended for de-recognition.

The NECO chief reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to maintaining the integrity and credibility of its examinations and warned stakeholders against engaging in practices that undermine the examination process.

PUBLIC NOTICE**BAUCHI GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

This is to inform the General Public that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Abuja for registration under part 'F' of the Companies Allied Matters Act 2020

The Trustees are:

1. Umar Saleh Alhaji (Chairman)
2. Adamu Aliyu (Secretary)
3. Aminu Mohammed Danmaliki
4. Umar Jibo

Aims & Objectives

1. To promote cultural, social and intellectual interaction amongst members of the forum, as well as promoting and protecting the collective interest of the Bauchi Division.
2. To promote and support the establishment of a strong Democratic and Social Economic Development.
3. To encourage the development of friendly relationship and cooperation among all members based on mutual respect and understanding.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

From Front Page

Bauchi at 50: A Golden Journey of Heritage, Resilience and a Bold Economic Future

This ethnic diversity is complemented by religious plurality, with Muslims constituting about 80 percent of the population, Christians around 15 percent, and adherents of traditional beliefs making up the rest.

Fifty Years of Endurance and Progress

Despite political transitions, economic fluctuations and security challenges, Bauchi's survival and steady growth over five decades stand as a testament to resilience.

Speaking during a statewide broadcast to mark the Golden Jubilee, Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed described the anniversary as "a defining moment in the history of our dear state."

According to him, the vision, courage and sacrifices of Bauchi's founding fathers laid the foundation upon which the state continues to stand.

He paid glowing tribute to past military and civilian administrators, from the first military governor, Colonel Muhammad Bello Kaliel, to the first civilian governor, Alhaji Abubakar Tari Ali, and successive leaders who contributed in diverse ways to the state's stability and growth.

"We honour their legacy and pray that Almighty God grants eternal rest to those who have returned to our Creator," the Governor said, stressing that Bauchi is a

product of shared responsibility involving government institutions, civil servants, traditional rulers, religious leaders, professional farmers, traders, women and youths.

Agriculture: The Backbone of the Economy

Agriculture remains the heartbeat of Bauchi's economy, employing about 80 percent of its workforce.

The state boasts an estimated 4.2 million hectares of cultivable land, yet only about 1.8 million hectares are currently under cultivation, a gap that presents enormous opportunity.

Major crops include sorghum, millet, rice, maize, groundnuts, soybeans, cowpea, tomato, onion, cassava, hibiscus and sesame. Between 2016 and 2021, Bauchi's agricultural output reportedly grew from 1.6 million metric tonnes to about 6.4 million metric tonnes, driven by improved farming practices and irrigation schemes.

The state is also endowed with vast water resources, including the Gongola and Jama'are rivers, the Hadejia-Jama'are Basin, multiple fadama areas, and dams such as Gubi, Galala and Waya.

However, only about 10 percent of these resources are currently utilized, a reality Governor Mohammed believes must change if Bauchi is to achieve food security and agro-industrial

transformation.

Livestock production presents another frontier. With millions of cattle, sheep, goats and poultry, Bauchi has the potential to become a major hub for livestock value chains, dairy production and agro-processing.

A Youthful Population, A Strategic Advantage

Perhaps Bauchi's most powerful asset is its people. Over half of the population is under the age of 15, creating one of the largest youth pools in Nigeria.

While this demographic reality poses challenges, Governor Bala Mohammed sees it as a strategic advantage.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Bauchi's unemployment rate stands at about 21 percent, largely driven by graduate unemployment.

The Governor believes this can be reversed through deliberate investment in skills development, entrepreneurship and youth-focused economic programmes.

Through initiatives such as the Kaura Economic Empowerment Programme (KEEP), mass employment of over 10,000 workers, and expanded skills acquisition schemes, the state government aims to transform its youthful population into a productive workforce.

Sports development has also been prioritised, with Bauchi positioning itself as

the "Mecca of Sports" in Northern Nigeria.

Infrastructure, Peace and Opportunity

Over the years, Bauchi has recorded significant progress in infrastructure development.

According to Governor Mohammed, more than 3,000 kilometres of urban and intra-state roads have been constructed, with an additional 1,000 kilometres delivered through the World Bank-supported Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP).

These roads have opened up rural communities, improved access to markets and strengthened economic integration.

The Governor also credited sustained collaboration with security agencies for maintaining relative peace in the state, noting that stability has attracted investment and boosted migration into Bauchi.

Bauchi 2033: A Bold Development Vision

Looking ahead, Governor Bala Mohammed unveiled an ambitious roadmap: to make Bauchi one of Nigeria's top 10 economies by 2033 and the leading economy in the North-East sub-region.

This vision is anchored on the Bauchi State Development Plan 2023–2033, a 10-year framework developed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The plan builds upon earlier medium-term strategies and aligns with post-SDG development priorities.

The plan rests on four pillars: coherent policy direction, a realistic macroeconomic framework, prioritised and sequenced programmes linked to annual budgets, and a robust monitoring and evaluation system.

It prioritises social inclusion, with special focus on women, youths, children and vulnerable groups, while clustering development efforts across 12 strategic sectors including agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, security, ICT, tourism and private sector development.

A Golden Jubilee, A Renewed Commitment

As Bauchi marks 50 years, the celebration is not merely about the past but a renewed call to action. "While we honour the past, this Golden Jubilee should challenge the present generation to work harder," Governor Mohammed declared.

From its rich cultural heritage and fertile lands to its youthful population and ambitious development agenda, Bauchi stands at a historic crossroads.

If its vast resources are effectively harnessed and its people fully empowered, the next 50 years could well define Bauchi as one of Nigeria's great development success stories.

DSS arranges Malami, son over alleged terrorism financing, firearms possession

Minister of Justice, during Buhari administration, Abubakar Malami, and son, Abdulaziz were on Tuesday arraigned in the Federal High Court, Abuja for allegedly abetting terrorism financing and unlawful possession of firearms.

When the matter was called, the prosecuting counsel, Mr Callistus Eze, told the court that the defendants were to be arraigned on a five-count charge bordering on abetting terrorism financing and illegal possession of firearms.

"My Lord before you is a five-count charge dated Feb. 2 and filed on Feb. 3.

Following their not guilty pleas, Eze prayed for a date for the trial to begin, and he also asked the court to remand them in DSS custody pending further proceedings.

For his part, counsel to the defendants, Mr Shuaibu Arua, SAN, made an oral application for the bail of his clients.

"We seek to make an oral application for the bail of the defendants.

"We know that it is the discretion of the court to grant bail, and given that they have been in DSS custody for two weeks and came here directly from the hospital, we seek to apply orally for the bail of the defendants," he said.

The trial judge, Justice Joyce Abdulmalik, in a short ruling, asked the lawyer to file a formal application for bail.

"This is a court of record, so I order counsel to file and serve a formal bail application," the judge said.

She adjourned the matter until Feb. 20 for the trial to begin.

The News Agency of Nigeria, (NAN) reports that the defendants are standing

trial in a five-count charge filed by the Federal Government.

According to the charge made FHC/ABJ/CR/63/2026, Malami is accused in count one of knowingly abetting terrorism financing while serving as attorney-general of the federation.

The prosecuting agency, the Department of State Services (DSS), alleged that sometime in November 2022, at the Federal Ministry of Justice, Malami refused to prosecute alleged terrorism financiers whose case files were brought to his office for prosecution.

The offence is said to be contrary to and punishable under Section 26(2) of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

In counts two to five, Malami and his son were jointly charged with engaging

in conduct preparatory to committing acts of terrorism and unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

The prosecution alleged that sometime in December 2025, at their residence in Gesse Phase II Area, Birnin Kebbi Local Government Area of Kebbi State, the defendants were found in possession of a Sturm Magnum firearm without licence.

The offences, the prosecution said were contrary to and punishable under Section 29 of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, as well as Sections 3 and 8(1) of the Firearms Act, 2004, punishable under Section 27(1) of the same Act.

"That you, Abubakar Malami and Abdulaziz Abubakar Malami, of Gesse Phase II Area, Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi State, adults, males, sometime in December 2025, in your residence at Gesse Phase II Area, Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, without licence, did have in your possession sixteen (16) Redstar AAA 5'20 five rounds of cartridges, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 8(1) of Firearms Act, 2004 and punishable under Section 27 (1) of the same Act." (NAN)

2025, in your residence at Gesse Phase II Area, Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, without licence, did have in your possession sixteen (16) Redstar AAA 5'20 five rounds of cartridges, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 8(1) of Firearms Act, 2004 and punishable under Section 27 (1) of the same Act." (NAN)

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News

Bauchi varsity matriculates 4,024 students, warns against social vices

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

The Sa'adu Zungur University, Bauchi State has matriculated 4,024 students for the 2025/2026 academic session,

Speaking at the occasion today at Yuli Campus Bauchi, The Vice-Chancellor of the university, Fatima Tahir, warned the students against cultism and other social vices.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bala Ma'aji Abdulhamid, Vice Chancellor said the ceremony was the fourth to be conducted under her administration since she assumed office.

She said that the matriculation formally qualified the students as bona fide members of the university community after taking the oath of allegiance.

"I therefore use this medium to congratulate the successful candidates for gaining admission in the 2025/2026 academic session. Out of 9,378 applicants shortlisted, only 4,024 were



admitted, while over 4,000 qualified candidates could not be accommodated."

The Vice-Chancellor assured parents and guardians that the university would continue to uphold academic integrity and protect the interests of their wards.

She warned that the institution had zero tolerance

for anti-social behaviours such as cultism, examination malpractice, sexual harassment, drug abuse, indecent dressing, truancy, vandalism and the sorting of lecturers by students.

"The university will not hesitate to take necessary disciplinary measures against any student found wanting.

The oath you have taken today is a commitment to abide by the laws, statutes and regulations of the university," she added.

Professor Fatima advised the students to be security-conscious and to report suspicious activities to the university authorities.

She commended the

Bauchi State Government under Governor Bala Mohammed for its support to education, as well as Shell Petroleum Development Company for constructing an ICT centre at the Gadau Campus and TETFund for building 48 female hostels at the Yuli Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor further urged host communities to intensify efforts in ensuring security, and explained that the institution had experienced security challenges in the previous session.

The breakdown of the newly admitted students showed that the Faculty of Science had the highest number with 935, followed by Social Sciences with 877, Management Sciences with 587, Basic Medical Sciences with 507, Education with 461, Agriculture with 335, Arts with 205, Law with 59 and Pharmaceutical Sciences with 58.

Out of the total number, 1,434 are female, while 2,590 are male.

Bauchi Governor wins Gas sector award

From Ahmad Muh'd, Bauchi & Usman Shehu Gungura

Bauchi State governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, has bagged the award of Governor of the year for the Oil and Gas sector by oil and Gas Forum, in recognition of his transformational leadership and commitment to good governance.

The award, under the category of Transformational Leadership and Good Governance awards spotlights Governor Bala's policies on inclusive development and efforts to improve the lives of Bauchi people.

Represented by the State Commissioner of Information and Communications Honourable Usman Shehu Usman Governor Bala described the honour as "a call

to do even more for the people of Bauchi State, to consolidate the gains we have made, and to sustain the values of service, accountability, and transformational leadership."

The Governor pledged that under his watch, Bauchi State will continue to implement sound policies that reflects best practices in the best interest of Bauchi and Nigeria as a whole.

In his good will message after he received the award on behalf of the Governor, the Commissioner Usman said "In Bauchi State, under Governor Bala Muhammad, efforts were made to introduce reforms that are vital to the national quest for institutional development, diversifying the economy and empowering our human resources.



Usman said the Governor has approved the establishment of Oil and gas Institute in the state which already, students have commenced skills training in various aspect of oil and Gas standing as the first of its kind in the country owned by a state government.

"Other key interventions by the government, include, governance delivery reforms,

infrastructure development, Health sector reforms, educational blueprint, youth and women strategic development road map"

He said "Good governance as being experienced in Bauchi state has started yielding good results. We are receiving development partners on a periodic basis, we are also, receiving investors with tangible commitments, and we are signing various human and

economic MoUs covering key sectors of national life".

Commissioner said the award, is a testament that, in Bauchi we are making good progress as being recognized by professional bodies."

He congratulated the forum, "for such a successful outing under the 3rd Edition. We commend your commitment and pray that; may you continue to wax stronger and stronger."





BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

STATE WIDE BROADCAST BY SENATOR BALA ABDULKADIR MOHAMMED CON. Fnipr (KAURAN DAULAR USMANIYYA) EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF BAUCHI STATE, ON THE OCASSION OF THE CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF BAUCHI STATE ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2026



- Fellow citizens of Bauchi State.
- In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Beneficent.

Today I speak to you with a heart filled with gratitude, pride, and responsibility as we mark the 50th Anniversary of the creation of our dear State. This Golden Jubilee is a defining moment in our history, one that calls for reflection on our journey, appreciation of our sacrifices, and renewed commitment to our collective future.

2. On the 3rd of February, 1976, the late General Murtala Ramat Mohammed, of blessed memory, announced the creation of Bauchi State alongside six others from the defunct North-East State. He did not live long to witness the growth of the states he courageously brought into existence, having been assassinated ten days later. On this solemn occasion, we pray that Almighty God grants his soul eternal rest and rewards his courage and sacrifice.

3. The attainment of fifty years of existence by Bauchi State out of which Gombe State was created in 1996—is a profound cause for joy and thanksgiving to Almighty God. Despite political, economic, and social challenges, Bauchi State has endured and progressed. Indeed, the survival and steady growth of a geopolitical entity for fifty years is a remarkable achievement worthy of celebration and reflection.

4. The take-off and sustained existence of Bauchi State since 1976 were made possible through the vision and sacrifice of our founding fathers. These patriots laid the solid foundations of governance, unity, and development upon which our State stands today. We honour their legacy and pray that Almighty God grants eternal rest to those who have returned to our Creator.

5. We also acknowledge the immense contributions of leaders who served Bauchi State as military and civilian Governors, beginning with Colonel Muhammad Bello Kaliel, the first military Governor, and Alhaji Abubakar Tatari Ali, the first democratically elected Governor.

6. Among the other Chief

Executives of the State were the late General Garba Duba, late Major General Muhammad Sani Sami, Major General Chris Abutu Garuba, late Major General Joshua Madaki, late Colonel Abu Ali, late Alhaji Dahiru Mohammed, Late Wing Commander James Yana Kalau, Navy Captain Adisa Raji, Colonel Theophilus Bamigboye, Wing Commander Adamu Mishelia, Alhaji Ahmed Adamu Mu'azu, Malam Isa Yuguda and Barrister Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar.

7. Each administration, in its own way, contributed to the growth, stability, and continuity of Bauchi State. We remain grateful to all of them, living and deceased, and pray that Almighty God rewards their service.

8- Since its creation, Bauchi State has recorded notable progress in education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply, and security. The establishment of schools and colleges, universities, polytechnics, primary healthcare facilities and general hospitals across wards and Local Government Areas, improved road networks, and sustained investment in agriculture reflect decades of collective effort and resilience, even in the face of significant challenges.

9- I must emphasize that our collective efforts in the area of security, collaborating with security agencies to protect the lives and property of the citizens, had provided the basis for our sustained peace and development.

10- These milestones would not have been possible without the sacrifices of leaders in the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary, as well as the dedication of civil servants, traditional and religious institutions, professionals, farmers, traders, women, youths, and the private sector. Bauchi State is, no doubt, a product of shared responsibility. While we honour the past, the present generation must take this Golden Jubilee as a challenge to work harder.

11- The State is no doubt blessed with abundant potentials upon which the present Government has focused much attention and which we must adequately harness. Bauchi State occupies a total land area of 49,549 square kilometres

representing about 5.3% of Nigeria's total land mass. The state is bordered by seven states, Kano and Jigawa to the north, Taraba, and Plateau to the south, Gombe and Yobe to the east and Kaduna to the west. It provides a gateway to the North-Eastern part of the country from other regions and vice-versa for those going from the North East into other regions. This provides huge opportunities for markets especially in agriculture, logistics, hospitality as well as tourism.

12- The State has a population estimated at about 9.5 million brought about by a steady growth since 2012 at the rate of 3.6 percent per annum and a very high of immigration because of the relative peace prevailing in the State. It is estimated that with the current growth rate, Bauchi population would almost double by 2023. Over half of the population is under the age of 15, and as the population continues to grow, the proportion under age 15 years will continue to increase. This provides a vast pool of human capital needed for the economic growth of the State.

13- Bauchi state has a predominantly agrarian economy, and agriculture is a primary source of livelihood for a large portion of its population. The sector stands as a pillar of its economic foundation, providing livelihoods for a significant portion of its population and contributing substantially to the state's overall well-being. The agriculture sector in the State has long served as the backbone of the region's economy, employing approximately 80% of the state's workforce in both food and cash crop production. It is the mainstay of the state's economy with an estimated 4.2 million hectares of cultivable land out of which only 1.8 million hectares is currently utilized and has a rainfall regime that ranges from 700mm in the extreme north to about 1,300mm in the South-West of the state. The rain fed season varies from 95 days in the extreme north to about 175 days in the south. These are the major climatic factors influencing cropping pattern and other farming practices.

14- The predominant crops being cultivated during the rain fed season are Sorghum, Millet, Rice, Maize, Groundnuts, Soya beans, Cowpea, Tomato, Onion, Sweet potato, Cassava, Hibiscus, Sesame seeds etc. The State annual agricultural

production output had grown from 1.6 million metric tonnes in 2016 to an estimated 6.4 million metric tonnes in 2021 and improving while the combined estimated annual domestic demand on all the crops is estimated at over 8.6 million metric tonnes.

15- To support irrigation and all year-farming cycle various rivers, lakes and other water bodies abound in the State. The Gongola River crosses Bauchi state in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area in the south and in Kirfi and Alkaleri Local Government Areas in the eastern part of the state, while the Jama'are River cuts across a number of Local Government Areas in the northern part of the State. Furthermore, a substantial part of the Hadeja-Jama'are River basin lies in Bauchi State, which along with various fadama (floodplain) areas in the state provide suitable land for agricultural activities.

16- These are further supported by the number of dams meant for irrigation and other purposes. These include the Gubi, Galala and waya dams. There also lakes such as the Maladumba Lake in Misau Local Government Area that further provide the necessary conditions to support Agriculture. In spite of all these, it is estimated that only about 10% of the water resources in the state is developed and utilized for commercial agriculture.

17. In addition, the enormous population of livestock estimated at over 2 million heads of cattle, 3.8 million heads of sheep, 5.6 million goats and 8 million poultry have also not been optimally harnessed to improve the economy of the state. The potentials in the sector include the development of Priority Value Chains in Agro-Food Processing; Large Scale Commercial Agricultural Production; and Pasture Production among others.

18- In the solid minerals sector, nature has endowed Bauchi State with high deposit of untapped minerals. Recent studies have shown that there are over 60 varieties of minerals in the state. The sector though presently dominated by artisanal miners has various categories of mineral resources in the State including:
* METALIC comprising Lead/Zinc, Cassiterite, Tantalites,

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Iron Ore, Bismuth, Rutile etc

* INDUSTRIAL such as Kaolin, Limestone, Gypsum, Clay, Quarz, Silica sand, Graphite etc

* GEMSTONES like Beryl, and tourmaline etc; and

* EVAPORITES such as Salt and Brine etc

19- The State is also blessed with substantial Hydrocarbon deposits. Exploration activities have commenced in earnest following the commercial discovery of oil and gas in the Kolmani Area of Alkaleri Local Government. Over 6 oil wells have so far been rigged. Huge prospects for the establishment of industries abound through forward and backward linkages around the sectors.

20- Though the economy of Bauchi had shrunk considerably in the 1990s due to global economic downturn as a result of which major industries such as Bauchi Meat Factory, Galambi Cattle Ranch, Gubi Dairy Company Limited, Arewa Ceramics and Zarandah Hotels among others became moribund, it is the cardinal objective of the present administration to attract private, brownfield investment in order to resuscitate these industries either through partnership or outright divestment.

21- In the area of Tourism, Bauchi State is endowed with great tourism potentials and leisure and recreational sites that are investment friendly. Based on this unique natural endowment, Bauchi State is tagged as "Pearl of Tourism" and "Home of Peace and Hospitality". Key eco-tourism attractions include:

* Wildlife Parks including the premier Yankari Games Reserve

* Sites and Monuments; and

* Cultural Festivals

22- Other Sectors with Opportunities and huge potentials include Renewable Energy as well as Urban and Rural Development which focuses on Sustainable Environment and Physical Infrastructure development in:

❖ Waste Management Facilities;

❖ Flood Control, Erosion Management & Deforestation;

❖ Modern Markets;

❖ Transportation & Traffic Management;

❖ Security Infrastructure &

❖ Mass Housing

23- I must note here that our efforts towards attracting the required investments are yielding required and encouraging results. The Bauchi State Economic & Investment Summit held in October 2025 had generated investment

pipelines of over 5.2 billion US Dollars for which the required follow-up is being done. Arrangements for the establishment of a Cement Company has reached advanced stage while a partnership with Chinese investors has led to the establishment of a joint ventures mining company here in Bauchi.

24- In the area of human capital, statistics as at 2019/2020 had revealed a teacher/student ratio of 1:80; a total enrolment of only 2,376 pupils/students for Special Needs Education; an eligible number of out-of-school children of 1.3million comprised mainly of the less privileged such as Almajirai (street beggars) and children who live in the rural areas. There were further concerns that more children were at risk of dropping out before ending primary education with the most affected being girls, traumatized children affected by insurgency, Orphans, and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), children with disabilities, and pastoral nomads.

25- Key among the challenges responsible included inadequate infrastructure and facilities such as classrooms, staff accommodation, laboratories and other teaching Aids etc; teacher shortage with direct bearing to the high pupils/students:teacher ratio; and Low integration of Tsangaya Schools, Special Needs and Vocational Education schools into the formal education system.

26- Some of the key efforts made by Government over the last 6 years include:

* Implementation of the Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) programme with the support of the World Bank and other government and donor efforts including UNICEF which had improved the out-of-school children situation.

* An additional reduction had further been achieved through the government's efforts to expand enrolment drive programmes for girls; enrolment and retention in nomadic education schools; and the incremental integration of Tsangaya schools into formal education with a reduced figure of about 500,000 for out of school children as at 2025.

* Massive investments by government resulting in the construction of over 8,000 additional classrooms, renovation of existing school infrastructure, provision of teaching aids and the employment of additional teachers.

* The implementation of the World-Bank supported AGILE project for which a number of schools are currently being rehabilitated and improved upon.

BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

27- In healthcare delivery, the picture in the health sector was similarly gloomy at the inception of the present Government in 2019. The maternal mortality rate prevailing at 593.8 per every 100,000 live births was one of the highest while Infant mortality rate at 81 and under-five mortality rate at 161 for every 1,000 were also alarming. These were attributed to:

* Inequalities in the distribution of health care resources and access to services especially between urban and rural areas,

* Poor and inadequate human resources for health and infrastructural deterioration in healthcare facilities.

* Dearth of critical infrastructure including roads that opens up the rural community and provides accessibility to school and health facilities, water supply etc.

28- These challenges had driven the present government to convene a health summit in 2019 to find solutions to some of the lingering problems which required concerted government efforts over the past 6 years. The successes achieved include, but are not limited to:

* Increase in the number of health care facilities with over 1,163 Primary Healthcare facilities in the 323 wards across the State; a total of 32 secondary healthcare facilities, 27 of which are public including 3 new General Hospitals constructed by Government ensuring that each Local Government has a General Hospital.

* Massive expansion of the routine outreach immunization programme by supporting 958 Primary Healthcare facilities to conduct immunization annually through a four-part Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) basket-funding established by the Government in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Aliko Dangote Foundation and UNICEF.

* Establishment of a Drug Revolving Fund (DRF) to cover General Hospitals for the supply of essential drugs.

* Establishment of the Bauchi State Health Contributory Management Agency to mobilize financial resources for providing predictable, sustainable, mandatory, equitable access to quality health care services through public and private facilities with financial risk protection for all residents.

* Establishment of Bauchi State Health Trust Fund (BHETFUND) to mobilize financial resources for the delivery of public health care services; managing emergency health issues; and conducting health needs assessment.

29- Within the Environmental Sector, natural and man-induced climatic changes had constituted a barrier to the state's capacity to reach its optimum potentials. With about 41% of the land degraded and 63% deforested, the prevalence of extreme weather events such as flooding and windstorm had also been devastating in many parts of the state causing enormous loss of lives and damage of properties. The continuous cultivation of land, overgrazing due to population pressure and poor investment in land improvement had rendered a wholesome of arable land unproductive, making farmers and herders economically vulnerable.

30- These situations coupled with incessant droughts over the last three decades have increased the poverty level in the state. Women, children and the aged bear this burden disproportionately.

31- Key measures taken by Government to address the problems include the Implementation of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL), a six-year World Bank supported strategic project that prioritizes actions to address environmental challenges and improve livelihood of benefiting communities within the components including Dryland Management and Community Resilience. Numerous Earth-Dams, and water points along our cattle routes have been built across the 20 LGAs.

32- In terms of humanitarian efforts, the peaceful nature of the State had contributed to the influx of a massive number of immigrants from the neighbouring crises-torn states estimated at over 1.5 million arising from insurgency, religious and ethnic clashes among other reasons. The State's policy of accommodation and integration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) into the host communities had exerted a lot of pressure on the existing homes available and the limited basic social services such as schools, healthcare facilities, water supply schemes etc. The need for the provision of additional services in the form social housing for the displaced, schools, health facilities, water supply and other social services had become paramount.

33- The State also has a vast population of youths that are talented, able and ready to be transformed into a formidable workforce with the potential to propel the economic fortunes of the State. The State has, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, an

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unemployment rate of 21% mainly made up of graduates in various fields, entrepreneurs and others with key interests in youth export program that could be developed through empowerment and skills development schemes. Additional opportunities are further availed in sports development with the niche the State had created as the "Mecca of Sports" in Northern Nigeria.

34- The Government considers the gainful engagement of such youths as a panacea to mitigate youth restiveness and reduce crime levels in the State. We have, in a bid to address some of the challenges, been involved in the employment of 10,000 workers into the State service to reduce redundancy/unemployment the imminent gaps within the system as well as the promotion of various skills and entrepreneurial development programmes across sectors.

35- In the overall, we have over the last six years of our administration, implemented a programme of action that had improved the stock of critical infrastructural needed to leap-frog the economy of the state to a path of growth and executed projects and programmes that had impacted on the lives of our citizens. Specifically, we have expanded on the network of roads in the State to open up the hugely productive but hitherto inaccessible agrarian and huge endowed rural areas to wider markets while at the same time providing access to the communities to basic social services required. Over 3,000 kilometres of urban and intra-state roads have been provided while an additional 1,000 kms have been constructed under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) of the World Bank which will connect the hard to reach areas of the state.

36- We have been driven to this success path leveraging on a very clear vision we had crafted for the State that had guided the development of the State Medium Term Plan 2021 – 2025 to align with the overall national development agenda.

37- In order to build up on these successes, it has become imperative for us to leverage on the potentials that God almighty has bestowed on us in agriculture, livestock, mineral resources, oil and gas, renewable energy sources and the large human capital base among others in order to grow the economy and create a path of sustainable development and prosperity for the State and by extension, the country at large.

BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

38- But the future demands planning beyond election cycles. By the year 2033, the world is expected to undergo significant advancements in various fields such as technology, infrastructure, agriculture, finance, tourism, medicine, social integration, communications, and travel.

39- However, despite the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) having already passed their 2030 deadline then, nations, sub-nationalities and communities that do not plan for the long term or fail to effectively implement such plans may face severe poverty and isolation in a changing world.

40- Global cooperation may increase, but countries might become more focused on addressing their internal issues rather than helping others. Therefore, it is essential for nations and sub-national entities to create and execute strategies to achieve the aspirations of their people, as we have done through our strategic development plan, emphasizing sectors like agriculture, health, education, tourism, private sector, SDGs, infrastructure, the environment, and tourism to foster economic growth and infrastructure development for a prosperous society.

41- It has also become crucial to implement a series of medium-term plans within the framework of longer-term horizons (such as 10 or 20 years) to achieve sustainable gains in social welfare. Long-term planning is more effective, especially during periods of rapid structural change, as it helps avoid cyclical behavior associated with shorter-term plans.

42- Furthermore, long-term planning ensures continuity, policy consistency, and predictability of growth, even during government changes. Bauchi State Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recognizes this and had extended its 2021-2025 plan into a 10-year development plan that goes beyond the current regime and extends beyond the end date of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

43- The Bauchi State Development Plan 2033, which is the 10-year plan, aims to build upon the State Medium Term Plan 2025 by expanding its scope, particularly focusing on security and social inclusion. The plan prioritizes issues such as women, young individuals, children, and vulnerable populations in Bauchi.

44- It is essential to note that this 10-year plan does not duplicate existing plans but rather complements them to achieve the state's desired vision, considering governance, legislative, social, and policy reforms that strengthen its capacity to fulfill the vision.

45- The Bauchi State Development Plan 2023-2033 is predicated on four pillars that include:

- * Coherent Policy Thrust for the Plan
- * Realistic Macroeconomic Framework.
- * Prioritised and Sequenced list of Programmes and Projects to drive annual budgets.
- * Robust Implementation and M&E Framework to Ensure the Plan is efficiently and effectively Implemented.

46- In terms of vision, by the year 2033 Bauchi State seeks to become the leading economy in the North-East region and one of the top 10 most economically and socially developed states in the country. This vision of the state is meant to invent a better future for the people of the state by building a secure, prosperous and inclusive society, within the next 10 years and even beyond.

47- We intend to achieve boundless opportunities for growth and development in Bauchi State through the active collaboration between developed human capital, efficient state governance, private sector and development partners. In line with the above mission, the State aims to use the vast human, natural and man-made resources of the state to create wealth and ensure the well-being of the people through structural transformation of the economy in an all-inclusive manner, by using a consultative and participatory process to achieve a better life for all Bauchi citizens.

48- The focus of the Plan is such that the sectors are prioritized and grouped within the 12-clusters of our Administration's economic blueprint: Agriculture and Food Security, Education, Health, Infrastructure, Security of Lives and Property, Environment, Tourism, Information and Communications Technology, Housing, Private Sector, Regional Collaboration, and General Administration.

49- The planning process is guided by government priorities and community input. Implementation involves investing in key sectors, with a focus on funding strategies. Monitoring and evaluation are crucial for budget programming. Our planning and budgeting process

reflect a systems approach.

50- It is therefore important that as we look into the achievements of the past 50 years, we must also look into the future with optimism guided by a planned, organized and systematic arrangement as manifested in our Perspective Plan.

51- As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, a programme of events under the theme "Honouring the Past, Building the Future" have been carefully designed to reflect our faith, culture, heritage, and shared aspirations. These include:

- * Special Juma'at Prayers and Interdenominational Church Service
- * Commemorative Anniversary Tree Planting Exercise at the Golden Jubilee Unity Park.
- * Anniversary Public Lecture and Panel Discussion to share insights into our trajectory of development and the vision for the future;
- * Mini-Durbar and Cultural Displays; and
- * Gala Night and Awards Presentation as a practical demonstration of appreciation and gratitude to the founding fathers and other leaders who in one way or the other contributed to bringing Bauchi State to where it is today.

52- These activities underscore that this anniversary is not a partisan celebration, but a solemn moment of reflection on the journey so far and the journey ahead.

53- I therefore call on all citizens of Bauchi State to emulate the sacrifice, discipline, and commitment of our founding fathers. The progress of Bauchi State in the 21st Century will be determined by the quality of our leadership and the sense of responsibility of our citizens. As a Government, we remain committed to building solid foundations that will outlive all of us, in line with our Economic Blueprint "My Bauchi Project" and our Development Agenda as encapsulated in our Development Plan.

54- I thank all those who have sent congratulatory messages and those who have taken time out of their busy schedules to join us in celebrating this historic milestone.

55- I congratulate us all on this historic occasion of the 50th anniversary of the creation of our dear State. Long live Bauchi State. Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Compiled and Released by the office of the Special Adviser, Media and Publicity to the Governor

Issues

Africa is splitting in two in slow motion, and geologists have found the crack where a new ocean is being born

Africa, the second-largest continent in the world, is undergoing a significant and gradual transformation that could shape its future geography for millions of years. The East African Rift, a geological feature running from the Red Sea down to Mozambique, is slowly pulling the continent apart. Over millions of years, this rift is expected to split Africa into two separate landmasses, potentially giving birth to a new ocean. While this may seem like a distant event, the geological processes are already underway. In this article, we explore the science behind Africa's slow split, the potential impacts on geography, ecosystems, and society, and what the future holds for the continent.

The East African Rift: A Slow Geological Transformation

The East African Rift is a vast fault system that stretches across eastern Africa. This system extends from the northern Red Sea, through Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, and toward Mozambique in the south. It is one of the most active rift zones on Earth, where the Earth's tectonic plates are gradually pulling apart. The process, known as rifting, is caused by the tension between the plates as they slowly drift apart.

The African continent is made up of two primary tectonic plates: the Nubian Plate, which forms the bulk of the continent, and the Somali Plate, which includes the Horn of Africa. The rift system divides these two plates, and over time, the tension between them causes the land to crack, creating deep valleys and geological features, including volcanoes and fault lines. This ongoing geological activity is slowly pulling East Africa away from the rest of the continent.

What's Causing the Split?

The Earth's outer shell, the lithosphere, is divided into several large tectonic plates that float on the semi-fluid mantle beneath. These plates move very slowly—often just a few millimeters each year—but over millions of years, their movement has profound effects on the Earth's surface. In East Africa, the Nubian and Somali plates are slowly pulling apart due to tectonic forces beneath the Earth's crust.

As the plates drift apart, they create fissures, cracks, and deep



valleys. The East African Rift is an example of an active continental rift, where the tectonic plates are being stretched, thinned, and pulled apart. This stretching and cracking of the crust is what eventually leads to the formation of a new ocean—a process that could take tens of millions of years.

How Did the Rift Begin?

The East African Rift didn't form overnight. Geological evidence suggests that the rifting process began around 25 to 30 million years ago. As the tectonic plates in the region started to stretch, the Earth's crust began to crack. This long process of rifting was further intensified by volcanic activity, which created the massive volcanoes and deep valleys that characterize the region today, such as the Great Rift Valley.

Over time, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and the gradual sinking of land have deepened the rift and caused the land to sink in some areas while rising in others. The East African Rift is not just a single crack; it's a complex system of fault lines and volcanic activity, which makes the region one of the most geologically active places on Earth.

A New Ocean on the Horizon?

As the rift continues to widen, scientists predict that it will eventually lead to the formation of a new ocean. Seawater from the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden will eventually flood into the rift, forming a new body of water that will split East Africa from the rest of the continent. This process is gradual and will take millions of years to complete. However, it will

completely reshape the geography of the continent.

The new ocean would likely begin as a narrow sea and gradually expand over time. While this process is happening slowly, it could eventually create two separate landmasses: one that includes much of the African continent and another that includes the islands of the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

How Long Will It Take?

The rifting process is incredibly slow, and it will take tens of millions of years for the rift to fully separate the continent. Experts predict that the rift will become a narrow sea or a series of smaller seas before eventually connecting to larger bodies of water. Although we may not live to witness this dramatic transformation, scientists are closely monitoring the area to understand the dynamics of plate tectonics and the formation of new oceans.

As the rift deepens and widens, the land along the rift will sink, and eventually, seawater will flow into the fissure. The result could be the birth of a new ocean that divides East Africa from the rest of the continent, creating a completely new coastline and changing the geography of the region.

Potential Impacts on Africa's Future

The formation of a new ocean in East Africa raises several important questions for the future of the continent. As the geological process unfolds, it will have far-reaching consequences for Africa's ecosystems, economy, and human society.

New Coastlines and Ecosystems

When the new ocean finally forms, it will create new coastlines along East Africa. As seawater moves into the rift, it will transform the surrounding ecosystems, possibly creating new marine life while disrupting existing terrestrial habitats. The formation of this ocean will alter the landscape of the region and may bring new challenges to agriculture, wildlife conservation, and human settlement.

The creation of new coastlines could also bring new opportunities. East African nations that are currently

landlocked, like Ethiopia, could gain access to maritime trade routes, which would boost economic growth and global connectivity.

Changes to Climate and Environment

The creation of a new ocean would significantly alter the climate of East Africa. Oceans have a cooling effect on nearby land, and the formation of a large body of water between East Africa and the rest of the continent could alter weather patterns. The region might experience changes in rainfall, with some areas becoming wetter and others drier. This shift in climate could impact agriculture, biodiversity, and human livelihoods.

As the land continues to sink and move apart, new lakes, rivers, and valleys will likely form. These environmental changes will take place over millions of years, but they will ultimately reshape the entire region.

Impact on Human Populations

The splitting of Africa will have long-term effects on human populations in East Africa. The formation of new coastlines could lead to population displacement, especially in areas prone to flooding. Coastal cities and communities may need to adapt to rising sea levels and changing environmental conditions.

The shift in geography could also lead to the development of new trade routes, opening up new opportunities for economic growth and international exchange. However, it will also require significant adaptation in terms of infrastructure, agriculture, and social structures.

The Role of Scientists in Understanding the Rift

Studying the East African Rift is crucial for understanding how continents split and how new oceans form. Scientists use a combination of geological fieldwork, satellite data, and GPS monitoring to track the movement of tectonic plates and analyze the effects of rifting. These advanced technologies have provided real-time data on the rift's expansion, helping researchers predict future seismic and volcanic activity in the region.

Conclusion: Africa's Ongoing Evolution

The slow split of Africa is a fascinating and ongoing geological phenomenon that will continue to unfold over millions of years. While the immediate effects of the rift may not be visible, the long-term impact on Africa's geography, ecosystems, and economy will be profound. As scientists continue to study the East African Rift, we gain valuable insights into the Earth's dynamic nature and the ever-changing forces that shape our planet. While we may never see the new ocean form, the process reminds us that the Earth is constantly evolving, and Africa's future will look radically different in the distant future.



Behold! Wind of Change in Borno's Third-tier Governance

By Dauda Iliya, Maiduguri

A phenomenal wind of change is blowing across third-tier governance in Borno State, with the inauguration of the state's 27 newly elected local government council chairmen, Thursday, January 29, as launchpad.

In a strategic shift in grassroots governance, named: Zulum's New Formula, about sixty percent of the council chiefs are all under the age fifty, a historic departure from the dominant paradigm of majority above-sixty, and already aging-out, politicians holding the third-tier governance fort.

Most striking, however, is the fact that Governor Zulum has ensured fifteen percent of the chairmen are in their thirties—a novel and unprecedented development.

Moreover, over sixty percent of them hold bachelor's or postgraduate degrees, combining knowledge, education and leadership, a pacesetting accomplishment in the annals of local government administration, at least in Northern Nigeria.

This novel grassroots governance approach has already produced results: several chairmen have prepared strategic blueprints aligned with the Governor's 25-year development framework and 10-year strategic transformation plan.

The new chairmen were elected on 13th December 2025, in the third local government poll conducted under Governor Babagana Umara Zulum's administration within six and a half years.

The election fulfilled the provision of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), which mandates that local government areas be governed by elected officials—a principle recently reaffirmed by the Supreme Court.

Apart from the striking age shift, majority of these grassroots-governance new breeds were sieved from backgrounds in administration, political appointment, academia, business and, most strikingly, practical farming.



Zulum's New Formula is advised by the fact that the youth form the largest demographic group in Borno State, as is incontrovertibly the case in all states of the country, and have played a significant role in promoting the state's peace and stability.

To, therefore, integrate them into governance, Governor Zulum has entrenched the trend of appointing many young people to political and public offices.

The newly inaugurated local council leadership is also gender-inclusive, with a considerable number of women elected as councillors and further opportunities emerging for women in both elective and appointive roles.

Prior to the inauguration, Governor Zulum submitted an executive communication to the House of Assembly seeking to amend the Local Government Administration Law 2000, extending chairmen's tenure from two to three years. This responds to popular demand and allows greater time to initiate and deliver development projects.

As he administered the oath of

office on them, that historic Thursday, Zulum whose message was delivered by the acting Governor, Hon. Umar Usman Kadafur, charged them to be above board in the conduct of local governance and develop their local government areas in fulfillment of their respective realities and according to existing and emerging imperatives.

His aim is to put to shame, all doubting Thomases and pessimists about his pacesetting novel grassroots governance formula.

"As you take your oaths of Allegiance and Office, you have not just won an election, but you have accepted a covenant with the people of Borno State," Zulum. He pointed out to the local council helmsmen, "You have volunteered to bear the weight of their hopes, their struggles and their aspirations for a better life at the grassroots, the very foundation of our society."

The governor emphasized that their stewardship comes at a pivotal moment in the history of the state, and described them as the primary engines for the implementation of his 25-Year Development Plan and the immediate

drivers of his 10-Year Strategic Transformation Initiative.

"Your success at the local level is the critical foundation for the Borno of our collective vision, a State of sustained peace, shared prosperity and renewed hope," he charged.

Zulum underscored to them his profound passion for, and commitment to, his novel grassroots governance formula.

The resources you steward are the lifeline of our communities. You must be guardians of every Naira, aligning every project and programme with the pillars of our 10-Year Strategy. Focus on essentials that directly improve lives, security and dignity of our people. No vanity projects. Furthermore, I direct your immediate attention to the welfare of Local Government staff. Timely payment of salaries and entitlements is non-negotiable. In the same vein, all workers must report to their duty posts promptly. Productivity and discipline must be restored.

As he bade them farewell in their torture's grassroots governance voyage, he charged:

"The path ahead is steep, but the destination is worth the climb. You are the critical keystone for our long-term plan to transform Borno state. The legacy you leave begins today, with your integrity, your humility and your unwavering commitment to service. I have faith that you will be the leaders Borno State needs."

Zulum, on one hand, and the massive assemblage of well-wishers, Doubting Thomases and pessimists, all on the other, watched the newly inaugurated local council helmsmen as they set their respective ships sailing across the turbulent sea of grassroots governance on a voyage to justify, or otherwise, the governor's novel grassroots governance formula.

Whatever happens, a desirable wind of change is blowing across Borno State's grassroots governance, purposefully for the lasting good of a state rising from the ruins of terror.

Experts urge Bauchi farmers to embrace ginger cultivation

By Mijinyawa Kaigama

Dr. Rashida Bala of the Department of Crop Production, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), said findings from recent research and field trials have confirmed that Bauchi State possesses the right soil and climatic conditions for profitable ginger cultivation.

Dr Bala made the confirmation in an interview with newsmen on Tuesday in Bauchi.

She explained that the decision to focus on ginger followed extensive experiments conducted within the state, adding that the results exceeded expectations.

According to her, ginger has traditionally been associated with a particular state, but practical trials in Bauchi have clearly disproved that

notion.

"We went beyond research papers. We planted ginger here, harvested it, and the yield was impressive.

"Among all the crops we tested, ginger proved to be one of the most profitable," she said.

The expert noted that ginger is relatively easy to manage and offers higher economic returns compared to many conventional crops cultivated by local farmers.

She therefore urged farmers to diversify their production systems instead of relying solely on inherited farming practices, stressing that ginger enjoys strong demand both locally and internationally.

Dr Rashida acknowledged that ginger can be affected by pests and diseases such as nematodes, leaf-

eating insects, and fungal infections, especially during extended dry seasons or when land rotation is ignored.

She explained that these challenges can be effectively controlled through the use of healthy seed rhizomes, proper crop rotation, and good field management.

Bala also noted that ginger naturally suppresses weeds due to its dense growth pattern.

She revealed that several farmers have already committed to commercial ginger production, expressing optimism that success stories would emerge by the end of the 2026 farming season.

Dr. Rashida also called on young people to embrace agriculture as a viable business, describing it as a reliable pathway to wealth creation when practiced professionally.



National News

Yakubu Gets Hero's Welcome in Bauchi After he regain his freedom

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

Bauchi State Commissioner of Finance Dr Yakubu Adamu has received a hero's welcome Thursday on his return to Bauchi after he was granted bail by the Federal High Court in Abuja on alleged terrorism financing case currently before the court.

A mammoth crowd besieged the Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa International Airport to receive the Commissioner and his entourage.

The supporters, who converged from different parts of Bauchi State, received the commissioner with prayers and chants, expressing confidence in his innocence and solidarity as the legal proceedings continue.

Due to the large crowd that received him, the commissioner's convoy moved at a snail pace from the airport to the city. The enthusiastic crowd sang and danced as they joined the Adamu's convoy to the city.

Some of the supporters, who spoke to newsmen, described the court's decision to grant bail as a positive development and urged the public to remain calm and allow the judicial process to take its course.



Addressing the gathering later at his family residence, Dr. Yakubu Adamu expressed appreciation to the people of Bauchi State and others for their prayers and support throughout the period of the trial.

He called on his supporters to remain law-abiding and to continue to respect constituted authorities.

The commissioner also urged residents of the state to continue to support the administration of Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed

in its efforts to fast-track development across the state.

You would recalled that A federal high court in Abuja has ordered the Bauchi State commissioner for finance, Yakubu Adamu, and three other defendants to report weekly to the Department of State Services (DSS) until the conclusion of their ongoing trial on charges of terrorism financing and money laundering.

Justice Mohammed Umar issued the directive as part of stringent conditions attached

to the N100m bail granted to the defendants. In his ruling, the judge said the accused had placed sufficient materials before the court to justify the exercise of judicial discretion in their favour.

Each defendant was ordered to produce two sureties, who must be a permanent secretary and a director in the civil service, and to deposit their international passports with the court registry. Justice Umar adjourned the matter until 26 February for the commencement of trial.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting the defendants on 10 counts bordering on terrorism financing and money laundering. Standing trial alongside Adamu are Balarabe Ilelah, Aminu Bose and Kabiru Mohammed, all described by the prosecution as senior civil servants in Bauchi State.

The defendants had earlier been denied bail in December by Justice Emeka Nwite, who was sitting as a vacation judge. At the time, Nwite ruled that the allegations against them were too serious to warrant their release, citing concerns over national security and public safety.

Following the reassignment of the case after the court's vacation, the defendants were re-arraigned before Justice Umar on 16 January and pleaded not guilty to all charges. Arguments on their renewed bail application were heard and reserved for ruling on 21 January.

In urging the court to grant bail, defence counsel Chris Uche, a senior advocate of

Nigeria, told the court that new and additional facts had emerged since the earlier refusal. He argued that Bello Bodejo, president of Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore and named in nine of the 10 counts, had never been convicted of any terrorism-related offence.

Uche said that although Bodejo had previously been charged by the federal government in a separate case, the charge was withdrawn and dismissed by the court on 29 May 2024. He also contended that there was no proscription order in the federal government's official gazette designating Bodejo or his organisation as a terrorist entity, as required under section 48(1) of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022.

According to the defence, the absence of such designation weakened the prosecution's case and justified the grant of bail. Uche further relied on provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, urging the court to exercise its discretion in favour of the defendants.

Adamu, a former branch manager of Polaris Bank in Bauchi state, and the other accused were first arraigned on 31 December 2025. On 5 January 2026, Justice Nwite refused their bail application and ordered their remand at the Kuje correctional centre, fixing 13 January for trial. The case file was later returned to the chief judge for reassignment after the end of the court's vacation.

The charge, marked FHC/ABJ/CR/705/2025, was filed on 30 December 2025 by EFCC counsel Samuel Chime. In one of the counts, the defendants and two others said to be at large are accused of conspiring between January and May 2024 to provide \$2.3m in cash for the benefit of Bello Bodejo and persons associated with him.

The funds were allegedly approved by the Bauchi state government and used, in whole or in part, to finance a terrorist group, an offence said to be contrary to section 26(1) and punishable under section 21(2)(a) of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022.

The case remains pending before the Federal High Court, while Dr. Yakubu Adamu is expected to continue to comply with the bail conditions.

Zamfara Exco Approves ₦3.6 Billion for the Upgrade and Re-Equipping of Zamfara State AM Radio Station

By Usman Shehu Gungura

The Zamfara State Executive Council (EXCO), chaired by the Executive Governor of Zamfara State, His Excellency, Dr. Dauda Lawal, has approved the sum of ₦3.6 billion for the upgrade and re-equipping of the Zamfara State AM Radio Station.

The approval was granted during the State Executive Council meeting held at the Government House, Gusau, as part of the present administration's commitment to revitalizing state-owned media institutions and strengthening effective information dissemination to the public.

In a press statement signed and issued to journalists by the State Commissioner of Information and Culture, Muhammad Mahmud Dantawasa, said the project, which involves the supply of modern broadcasting equipment, was awarded to ECALPEMOS Technologies,

a reputable firm with proven expertise in broadcast technology.

According to him, the approval of the project is 90 days, within which the contractor is expected to complete the supply and installation of the equipment aimed at enhancing operational capacity, signal coverage, and overall broadcast quality of the AM radio station.

He said the Council noted that the upgrade would significantly improve public access to timely, accurate, and

reliable information, particularly for rural communities, while also supporting government policies, public enlightenment, and socio-economic development across the state.

The statement informed that, Governor Dauda Lawal reaffirmed his administration's resolve to reposition the media as a critical partner in governance, transparency, and citizens' engagement, assuring that all approved projects would be executed in line with due process and global best practices.



Felicitations

*Golden Jubilee of Legacy, Unity, Peace,
Stability and Sustainable Progress*



**Hon. Aminu Mohammed Danmaliki
(Dan Malikin Bauchi)
Managing Director**

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Signed:
**Hon. Aminu Mohammed Danmaliki
(Dan Malikin Bauchi)
Managing Director**

On behalf of the Board of Directors Management and Staff of Bauchi Printing and Publishing Company. (BPPC) Publishers of Trumpeter/Kakaki Newspapers the Managing Director Alhaji Aminu Muhammad Danmaliki (Dan Malikin Bauchi) heartily felicitate with the Government and the people of Bauchi State on the historic celebration of 50 years of statehood anniversary (1976-2026).

This Historic Golden Jubilee stands as a symbol of five decades of shared heritage, resilience, and collective advancement.,

The Golden Jubilee reflects Unity, Peace and Stability across the 20 local government areas of the State, united in purpose and destiny.

The Golden Jubilee signifies achievement, excellence, and optimism for the future, while green represents fertility, agriculture, vitality, sustainable economic fortunes and hope in the enduring pillars of Bauchi State's prosperity.

In five decades Bauchi State has witnessed remarkable strides in infrastructural development, investment and urban renewal projects that has strengthened connectivity between rural and urban communities, stimulated economic activities, improved public safety, and enhanced the overall quality of life of citizens.

As Bauchi State marks this Golden Jubilee, it celebrates not only the journey of the past 50 years but also a renewed commitment to unity, resilience, and sustainable progress for generations yet unborn.

We congratulate The Executive Governor of Bauchi State His Excellency, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Muhammad, CON, Fnipr (Kauran Daular Usmaniyya), whose purposeful leadership continues to shape a future anchored on development, inclusion, and good governance.

Happy 50th Anniversary, Bauchi State.

Northeast News

Bauchi Governor Leads Tree-Planting Exercise to Mark Bauchi @ 50

By Usman Shehu Gungura, Bauchi

Governor Bala Mohammed on Tuesday led a symbolic tree-planting exercise at the Eagle Sino Park in Bauchi, where 50 trees were planted to commemorate the 50 years of Bauchi State.

Speaking during the exercise, the Governor said the initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly efforts aimed at combating climate change and promoting a healthier, more sustainable environment. He noted that beyond its environmental benefits, the exercise serves as a reminder of collective responsibility to protect the ecosystem for future generations.

Governor Bala Mohammed described the Golden Jubilee as a period of reflection, calling on citizens to come together with renewed commitment to move Bauchi State forward in unity, peace, and sustainable development.

He further announced the renaming of Eagle Sino Park



to "Bauchi Golden Jubilee Park," adding that the state government plans to establish more parks across Bauchi with similar environmental and social objectives.

While highlighting his development strides, governor Mohammed explained that the state has recorded tremendous progress in agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, water supply and security.

He stressed that sustained peace and collaboration with security agencies remain central to development.

He unfolded that recent

investment efforts are yielding result, as the 2025 Bauchi State economic and investment summit generated over 5.2 billion dollars in investment commitment, alongside progress in cement production, mining and oil exploration in Kolmani.

The event ended with the ceremonial planting of the trees, each named after past and present leaders of Bauchi State, symbolizing continuity, legacy, and shared responsibility in building a greener and more prosperous future for the state.

Stakeholders advocate STEAM policies to tackle GBV, promote inclusion in Bauchi

By Ahmed Ahmed

Stakeholders in Bauchi State have called for the effective implementation of policies that strengthen digital learning and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education as a strategy to curb gender-based violence (GBV), advance disability inclusion and enhance women's economic empowerment across communities in the state.

The call was made on Monday in Bauchi at a High-Level Advocacy and Partnership Forum themed "Institutionalizing STEAM for GBV Prevention, Disability Inclusion and Women's Economic Empowerment."

The forum was organised by the Girl Child Values Support Initiative (GCVSI) with support from the French Embassy Fund (FEF) and CSOs Progress Partners.

Speaking at the event, the Gender Desk Officer of the Bauchi State Ministry of Education, Ms. Mary Ishaya, stressed the need for deliberate policy implementation to strengthen STEAM education in schools.

She called for the



provision of well-equipped science facilities, the integration of GBV education into school curricula, participatory budgeting and empowerment programmes that would enable girls and women to thrive economically.

Also speaking, Ms. Sylvia Abah, Gender Desk Officer of the Bauchi State Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APWDs), emphasised the importance of adequate funding and sustained awareness campaigns to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in education and economic opportunities.

She noted that inclusive policies would help reduce vulnerability to violence and social exclusion.

On his part, the Director of Science, Technical and Vocational Education, Mr.

Bashir Aliyu, expressed the ministry's support for the initiative, describing the project as a significant step towards reducing GBV and promoting skills development among young people in the state.

Representing civil society organisations, Ms. Abigail Hardor underscored the need for intensified advocacy and awareness creation, particularly in rural communities where GBV remains prevalent. She stressed the importance of challenging harmful norms and cultural practices that impede gender equality and inclusion.

Participants agreed that institutionalizing STEAM education remains critical to building safer, more inclusive and economically empowered communities in Bauchi State.

Diezani spent £140,000 on luxury furniture in single day, UK prosecutors tell court

British prosecutors have told the Southwark Crown Court in London that Diezani Alison-Madueke, Nigeria's former minister of petroleum resources, spent £140,000 on luxury furniture and decorative art in one day while allegedly receiving inducements from oil industry figures.

Alison-Madueke is on trial alongside oil executive Olatimbo Ayinde and her brother, Doye Agama, on five counts relating to the alleged acceptance of bribes. All three defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors said the former minister made the purchases at a high-end antiques store in London, acquiring bespoke lighting, premium furniture and decorative artworks. The items were allegedly paid for through intermediaries, rather than directly by Alison-Madueke.

According to the prosecution, the spending formed part of a broader pattern in which the former minister allegedly enjoyed a lavish lifestyle funded by individuals seeking influence over Nigeria's oil sector.

Alexandra Healy, prosecuting, told the jury that

Two serving police officers arrested for armed robbery

The Benue State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of two serving police officers over an alleged armed robbery and the recovery of a stolen vehicle and arms.

Sources at the command said its surveillance patrol team, acting on credible intelligence, intercepted a red Toyota Corolla (2010 model) with Registration Number NEG-35-AE, earlier reported stolen at gunpoint in Akwanga and being driven towards Keffi.

According to the police, the suspects forced their way through a police barrier at Angwan Lambu but were trailed and eventually apprehended at a military

Alison-Madueke "lived a life of luxury in London," which, she said, was facilitated by business figures interested in securing oil contracts in Nigeria. She added that the alleged bribes were provided in the form of expensive goods and access to high-value properties, rather than cash payments.

During earlier proceedings on January 27, the court was told that the former minister allegedly received luxury items and the use of prime real estate as inducements while in office.

Channels Television reported that the public gallery was filled with supporters from the Ijaw community in Nigeria, several of whom travelled to London to observe the trial.

The defence has rejected the prosecution's claims. On January 29, Jonathan Laidlaw, counsel to Alison-Madueke, told the court that his client had no real authority over the award of oil contracts during her tenure as minister.

Laidlaw argued that Alison-Madueke acted merely as a "rubber stamp" for recommendations made by relevant agencies and officials, insisting that she neither influenced contract awards nor accepted bribes.

checkpoint near Uke.

"On their arrest, the following exhibits were recovered: one AK-47 rifle with breech number, three magazines loaded with 16 rounds of live ammunition, one black face mask, three mobile phones and other personal belongings," the command said.

The suspects were later identified as Sgt. Shedrack Abednego attached to the STS (FID), Abuja, and Sgt. John Ayuba attached to the CP Crack Squad, FCT Command.

The sources said investigation was ongoing to determine the full extent of their involvement and possible links to other criminal activities.



Gov Uba Sani commissions longest road in 20 years

By Salihu Makera

Governor Uba Sani has commissioned the longest road that has been constructed in the last two decades, cutting across three local governments and linking more than 76 farming communities, in Kaduna State.

He said that the road which stretches from Igabi, to Kajuru and Chikun local governments, includes a 130-metre bridge over River Kaduna which serves several rural communities.

The Governor said that the 35 kilometre asphaltic road linking Gadan Gayan through Gwaraji to Kujama Junction, will transform mobility, agriculture and rural economies in those communities.

Speaking at the commissioning on Monday, he described the project as a historic milestone in the state's infrastructure development, adding that it reflects his administration's inclusive and people-centred development model.

Governor Sani recalled that when the project was flagged off in January 2024, his administration had pledged



to deliver a durable and efficient transport corridor.

The Governor maintained that "through disciplined planning, professional execution, and collective commitment, that promise has been fulfilled."

He explained that the road provides alternative route that reduces reliance on the often-congested Kaduna metropolis, thereby cutting travel time and transportation costs for commuters and

traders.

"Emergency services will be able to respond faster, schoolchildren will reach their classrooms with greater ease, and families will enjoy improved access to healthcare, markets, and social services," he noted.

The Governor also emphasized the road's agricultural importance, stressing that agriculture remains the leading contributor to Kaduna State's

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.

"By traversing agriculturally productive rural communities across three local government areas, this road directly links farms to markets, aggregation centres, processing facilities, and urban consumption hubs," he said, adding that it would reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen agricultural value chains."

Governor Sani said early

Onitsha traders comply with Soludo's order, market reopens on Monday Situation at Onitsha

Traders at the Onitsha Main Market on Monday complied with Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's directive, reopening for business to curb the longstanding Monday sit-at-home order.

Soludo had earlier shut the market during a visit, faulting market leaders for defying government instructions to open for commercial activities.

"The real enemy is the fear-enforced Monday sit-at-home," Soludo said, describing it as a non-state mandate strangling business and normalising weekly shutdowns.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that some stalls remained locked, while other traders loitered or cautiously attended to customers.

Some traders described the atmosphere as tense, citing lingering fear in spite of the official reopening of the market.

Others said they were present only to observe developments, noting safety concerns as their reason for not trading.

NAN observed that major roads in Onitsha, Ogbunu and Nnewi were largely deserted, with only a few vehicles in sight.

At Ochanga Market, the situation differed, as traders neither opened stalls nor displayed wares for commercial activities.

The reopening excited many traders and residents, who praised Soludo for what they described as a bold intervention.

A trader, Mr Oke Akachukwu, said: "Opening on Mondays gives us more trading days and better chances to increase sales."

NAN observed heavy security presence across the market, with personnel patrolling as more traders gradually resumed operations. NAN



Media urged to champion fight against anaemia as Nigeria's women, children bear brunt

By Mijinyawa Kaigama

Nigeria is grappling with a silent but severe public health crisis as millions of women and children continue to suffer from anaemia, a largely preventable and treatable condition driven by micronutrient deficiencies.

Stakeholders have called on the media to play a stronger advocacy role in pushing for sustainable solutions and holding authorities accountable.

This call was made at a three-day high-level media capacity-building workshop organised by Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN), themed "Media as Catalysts for an Anaemia-Free Nigeria."

Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of CS-SUNN, Mr. Sunday Okoronkwo, said women and children bear the heaviest burden of anaemia, yet often lack the voice to demand action. He stressed that the persistence of the crisis is not due to lack of solutions, but poor prioritisation of prevention.

"Anaemia continues to quietly endanger the lives of millions of Nigerian women

and children, despite being one of the most preventable nutrition challenges," Okoronkwo said.

He noted that timely interventions such as improved nutrition, access to quality antenatal care, and the scale-up of Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) could significantly reduce maternal and child deaths.

He also expressed concern over frequent stock-outs of life-saving commodities such as MMS and Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) in primary healthcare centres, describing the situation as unacceptable.

According to the 2023-2024 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), over 60 per cent of children under five and 58 per cent of pregnant women in Nigeria are anaemic.

Speaking on the national nutrition situation, Helen Achimugu, representing the Director of Nutrition at the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, described the situation as "hidden hunger" that weakens health and productivity.

She disclosed that out of

an estimated 35 million children under five, about 24 million are anaemic, 14 million stunted, and 3 million wasted.

She added that maternal anaemia increases risks of complications, mortality, and poor birth outcomes, while food insecurity continues to worsen the crisis.

On interventions, Achimugu highlighted ongoing government efforts, including vitamin A supplementation, food fortification, and the introduction of MMS for pregnant women, with millions of doses already distributed.

On the role of the media, Dr. Geoffrey Njoku of CS-SUNN urged journalists to humanise data by linking statistics to real-life stories, noting that storytelling can drive awareness, influence policy, and save lives.

Also speaking, CS-SUNN's Communications and Campaign Manager, Mr. Peter Olushola, said the training aims to equip journalists to track government commitments, spotlight service gaps, and sustain public attention on anaemia prevention, particularly MMS scale-up.

ARE WE SAFE? Citizens cried out

By Hammawa Liman Pariya

The onus of every independent state is the protection of lives and property for her citizens. government and people are systems that live in an inter related and interwoven relationship, none can exist without the other. Thus, safety is as important as life itself.

Nigeria is a country that is blessed with both human and natural resources, the endowment that makes her the giant of Africa, like every other nations of the world Nigeria is facing a lot of challenges including insecurity. As a giant of Africa that is playing a pivotal role in peace keeping mission in African countries like Buma, Dafur Liberia Sierra Leone, Gambia, Sudan, and recently in Benin Republic it's expected that maintaining our internal security shall not be an international issue. But what an irony with all our security might's the country is

bedevelling with serious security challenge.

Then what is safety? It means to secure, protect or taking a measure against any danger to life and property. thus it is the duty of the state to protect her citizens, no excuse on this.

For over a decade now Nigeria, more especially in the northern region the security of lives and property is at stake. Banditry, kidnapping, farmers harder clashes, inter communal land dispute, insurgency and Boko Haram left citizens sleeping with one eye.

Recently, school children were abducted in Katsina and Niger states though government have secured their release harm free as reported in various Media outfits but for how long can these be continued? In a related development on December 25th 2025 residents in Maiduguri have witnessed a mosque bomb blast an incidence that killed a number of people while several others sustain various Injuries,

still on 28 December 2025 Pindiga village in Akko LGA of Gombe state was attacked, two people were killed including a pregnant woman while a number of others abducted. Today traveling from one state to another become a journey of uncertainty take Zamfara high way bombing by bandits as a testament, though an on the spot intervention by security Agents foil abduction. Kudos to our ever gallant soldiers

The recent attack on bandit's hideout in Sokoto and Kwara by President Donald Trump was given different interpretation by different groups as to why a foreign body should launch an attack on an independent state? A situation that draw tension and fear to citizens until when in a press release issued by the Minister of foreign affairs affirming that Nigerian Government is aware of the American action. All the same president Bola Ahmad Tinubu should not surrender our territorial integrity

to foreign Bodies as our security agencies if given the matching order are equal to the task.

What is the way forward?

Security is everyone business (government and the people)

: Government at all levels should put hand on deck and declare security a matter of particular concern

: Law enforcement agent be supported not only with equipment but public moral support

: Rehabilitation of repentance

: Government should provide more job opportunities to youths

Conclusively therefore it is the responsibility of government to ensuring the safety of lives and property by all means be it internal or by a helping hand from others with a condition of not crossing the boundary lines.

Hope accidental bombing or a missed target missile would not be recorded to avoid crying for humanitarian aid.

Kogi's Bloated Cabinet: A Prescription for Urgent Fiscal Surgery

By Abiodun Akerejola

If governance is a vehicle for development, then Kogi State is currently driving a heavy-duty truck with a leaking fuel tank. The fuel is our scarce resources, and the leak is the oversized, inefficient machinery of government we insist on maintaining.

For years, we have treated political appointments as the primary industry of the state. We create ministries not because there is work to be done, but because there are loyalists to be settled. But as the economic clouds gather over Nigeria, and with the fluctuating fortunes of the Naira making every Kobo count, the era of "Job for the Boys" must unceremoniously end.

A deep dive into the 2024 Budget Implementation Reports and the 2023 Audited Financial Statements reveals a sobering truth: Kogi State is over-governed and under-served. We are spending billions on the administration of government—buying vehicles, fueling generators, and paying aides—while the actual function of government—building schools, equipping hospitals, and fixing roads—scrambles for the crumbs.

The solution is not rocket science; it is political will. It is time to take a scalpel to the State Executive Council. We must scrap the deadweight, merge the duplicates, and strengthen the engines of growth.

The "Do-Nothing" Ministries Must Go

Let us be objective. Why, in 2026, does Kogi State have a Ministry of Information and Communications? The days when the government needed a massive bureaucracy to distribute press releases are over. The



Governor has a vibrant media team; the infrastructure of communication is now private-sector led. This ministry has become a shell, consuming overheads but delivering zero capital value. It should be scrapped immediately and replaced with a lean Bureau of Strategic Communications in the Governor's Office.

Similarly, the Ministry of Special Duties is a relic of an era of slush funds. It lacks a clear statutory mandate and often serves as a drainpipe for undefined political errands. In a state where rural clinics lack drugs, maintaining a ministry for "Special Duties" is a fiscal crime. Scrap it.

The Case for Mergers: Efficiency Over Titles

We must also confront the "Silo Syndrome." Why do we have a

Ministry of Commerce, a Ministry of Solid Minerals, and a Ministry of Culture & Tourism operating as islands? An investor looking to build a cement factory or a resort is the same client. They need a one-stop-shop, not a tour of three different secretariats.

I propose the creation of a super-ministry: the Ministry of Trade, Investment & Wealth Creation. By merging these three entities, we save the cost of two Commissioners, two Permanent Secretaries, and countless aides. We create a powerful, unified front that signals to the world that Kogi is ready for serious business, not bureaucratic hurdles.

The same logic applies to the social sector. The Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Youth & Sports are functionally identical in their "empowerment" mandates. Separating them only leads to a

duplication of efforts—and contracts. Merge them into a Ministry of Social Development & Family Affairs. Let us have one robust strategy for our vulnerable populations, not scattered, ineffective interventions.

The LG Question

Furthermore, the Ministry of Local Government & Chieftaincy Affairs has long outlived its usefulness as a standalone ministry. It has become little more than a clearinghouse for LG funds, often accused of stifling the very tier of government it is meant to nurture. It should be downgraded to a Directorate under the Deputy Governor's Office, which is constitutionally empowered to handle boundary and chieftaincy issues.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Courage

I am under no illusion that this proposal will be popular among the political elite. Retracting titles and shrinking cabinets is a surefire way to lose "friends." However, true leadership is not about winning a popularity contest; it is about securing the future.

By moving from a sprawling 18-ministry structure to a lean, efficiency-driven 10-ministry model, the Governor can free up hundreds of millions of Naira annually. This is money that can be channeled directly to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education—the true pillars of human capital development.

The verdict is clear. The current structure is not viable. It is too heavy, too slow, and too expensive. The people of Kogi State do not need more Commissioners; they need more commissioners who work. It is time to cut the fat and feed the muscle.

Abiodun Akerejola is a Public Affairs Analyst and Fiscal Transparency Expert.

Why Waziri of Ningi Resigns his position as Chairman King makers

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

Ningi is one of the 20 emirates in Bauchi State Council of Emirs His Royal Highness the Emir of Ningi, Alhaji Haruna Yunusa Mohammed Danyaya, is one of the First-class Emirs and one of the most respected Emirs in Bauchi State.

The Waziri of Ningi, Ambassador Shua'ibu Adamu Ningi, recently sent a letter of his resignation to His Royal Highness the Emir of Ningi,

Waziri who is a Senior Councillor and the Chairman of the Council of King Makers in Ningi Emirate, Ambassador. In his letter informed the Emir of his intention to resign from his position as Wazirin Ningi

Shua'ibu who was a former NNPP gubernatorial candidate, resigned, in a letter dated January 26, 2026, which a copy was obtained by our correspondent,

After he obtained the letter he contacted senior officials in Ningi Emir's Palace who confirmed that the letter was genuine and that His Majesty had received the letter.

They said "The Wazirin Ningi, senior councillor and chairman of kingmakers of the Ningi Emirate Council, Amb. Shuaibu Ahmed Adamu, resigned from his position, citing alleged political interference in the affairs of the Emirate by the Bauchi State Government".

In the resignation letter Waziri said his decision followed recent developments which, according to him, undermined the sanctity and tradition of the Emirate.

He specifically accused the Bauchi State Government of issuing a directive aimed at downgrading his traditional role and stripping him of his position as chairman of the kingmakers.

"It is with heavy heart and a profound sense of duty that I formally tender my resignation from the esteemed position as Wazirin Ningi, Senior Councilor and Chairman of Kingmakers of the Ningi Emirate Council with effect from January 26, 2026," the letter read in part.

He said that for almost four years, he had served the Emirate with dedication, integrity and deep respect for tradition, both under the late Emir, Alhaji Yunusa Muhammad Danyaya, and the current Emir.

"For nearly four years, I have had the distinct honour of serving this revered institution, a responsibility I have carried with the utmost dedication, integrity, and reverence for our heritage.

My position as Chairman of the Kingmakers, in particular, has been a role I deeply cherished.

"I was privileged to successfully discharged this responsibility guided by the fear of Allah, respect for our sacred traditions and unwavering principles that have sustained our traditional institution for generations, serving the late Emir, His Royal

Highness Alhaji Yunusa Muhammad Danyaya, of blessed memory and continuing diligently under Your Royal Highness with the same commitment and dedication,"

He expressed gratitude to the Bauchi State Government, the Emirate Council and the people of Ningi for the confidence reposed in him, but said recent actions made it impossible for him to continue in office without compromising his principles.

Shua'ibu said that, "This decision to resign has not been made lightly. Recent developments have made it impossible for me to continue in this role without compromising the very principles I have sworn to uphold. I am deeply pained by the evident political influence that has permeated the sanctity of our Emirate."

He alleged that "the directive seeking to alter his traditional role was neither the outcome of traditional consensus nor administrative necessity, but the result of external political lobbying involving individuals close to the highest levels of the state government".

Shua'ibu alleged that Governor Bala Mohammed hastily approved the changes and instructed the Emir to recommend them.

"To accept this diminished position would be to tacitly endorse the continued politicization of our sacred traditions. It would also imply my consent to a precedent where external pressures can override our traditional institution's time-honoured processes and established governance structures, where the whim of transient political office holders continues to override the established traditional governance structures of our ancestors, a compromise I am unwilling to make,"

He stressed that traditional institutions must remain insulated from political pressures, noting that the leadership of kingmakers should be guided by tradition, merit and collective consensus, not political influence.

Ambassador Ahmed prayed for peace and prosperity in the Ningi Emirate and its people.

Copies of his resignation letter

were sent to the Governor of Bauchi State and the Chairman, Local Government Service Commission, Bauchi State.

All efforts by our correspondent to get the reaction from the Bauchi State Local Government Service Commission were in vain as they refused to comment.

History shows that, The title of Wazirin Ningi was previously suspended from the Ningi Emirate for 62 years, that is since 1961 the stool becomes vacant until it was later reinstated and appointed Ambassador Shua'ibu Adamu as the fourth Wazirin Ningi.

The retired Waziri presided over the election of the current Emir of Ningi, Alhaji Haruna Yunusa Muhammad Danyaya. The late Emir of Ningi, Alhaji Yunusa Muhammad Danyaya, appointed Ambassador Shua'ibu Adamu as the fourth Wazirin Ningi. He was appointed because of his experience, service to the community and his contributions to the Ningi Emirate.

Brief History of the Ningi Emirate

The Ningi Kingdom is one of the 20 existing emirates in Bauchi State, located in Northeastern Nigeria. There are many tribes in the emirate prominent among them are the Ningawa, Fa'awa, Fulani, Butawa, Sirawa and others. The majority of the population of the emirate are Muslim, with Christians and traditionalists, and the customs of the emirates are as laid down by religions.

There are three historical sites in the emirate including the old town of Ningi, the old mosque in Duwo and the battlefield in Tifi where the battle between the Emir of Kano Alu and the Emir of Ningi Usman Danyaya took place. The Ningi Emirate was founded in the 18th century by some Islamic scholars under the leadership of a scholar called Mallam Hamza. History shows that Mallam Hamza migrated from Kano with about 40 other scholars because he refused to accept the payment of a sum called the development fund (Haraji) that the Kano Emirate under the leadership of the Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Bello, had made them pay to the Emirate.

When he left Kano, he first settled in a town called Mara in the Lame town of Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State in 1827.

In another story, Mallam Hamza moved from Kano and first settled in a town called Ciru Basha in the land of the Emir of Burra, later moving to a town called Duwa. Mallam Hamza used his religious knowledge to attract the attention of the Butawa, Warjawa, Kudawa and Sirawa tribes who made allegiance and paid him Jizya. Being under his rule, the Emirates of Zazzau, Bauchi and Kano saw him as a threat to them. This led to his being attacked and killed but his people remained United in peace. When they met, they chose Ahmadu to be their king in 1850.

King Ahmadu rule for five years until 1855, when he died. After him was Emir Abubakar Dan Maje was appointed. He had a strong army and was called Dan Maje Mai Tagwayen Masu Dan Maje Mai Tabaryar Mashi. As Dan Maje continued to fight against the invasion of tribes, the situation grew so bad that the Bauchi Emirate felt that something should be done to prevent Dan Maje from invading Bauchi, so the King of Bauchi Ibrahim established a town called Kafin Madaki as ask Madaki of Bauchi not to fight Dan Maje but to watch whenever he made any attempt to attack Bauchi he shall report. Dan Maje ruled for 15 years, and died in 1870. After his death, Emir Haruna Karami succeeded him, who ruled for four years, and when he died, Abubakar Gajigi succeeded him, who also ruled for four years.

When he died, Usman Danyaya took over. Two years later, the Europeans arrived. When he heard that the Europeans had arrived, he migrated to the village of Sama in Burra, where he ordered his subjects to use an arrow to shoot him to death. After he died, Sarki Mamuda Haruna was appointed under European rule as the Chief in charge of the lands of Ningi, Ari, Warji and Burra, where he ruled for three years. In 1905, these four chiefdoms were divided and Mamuda became the Emir of Ningi. In the same year, he was deposed and Mallam Musa was appointed. Mamuda was again appointed king in 1908, where he ruled for seven years and was deposed again and taken to Ilori in 1915.

Emir Abdu was appointed from 1915 to 1922, when he died, Emir Zakari Shekara was appointed, who ruled for one year. After his death, Emir Adamu Danyaya was appointed, who reigned for 32 years, died in 1955, and Emir Haruna S Datti II was appointed, who ruled for two years until 1957. After his death, Emir Abdullahi Adamu was appointed, who also ruled for four years, died in 1961. Then Emir Ibrahim Gurama was appointed, who ruled from 1963 to 1977. Then Emir Muhammadu Yunusa Danyaya was appointed to take over, he reigned for 47 years and died in 2025, and his eldest son Alhaji Haruna Yunusa Muhammadu Danyaya III was appointed as Emir of Ningi.



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9 x 3 Cols	130,000	9,750	139,750	125,000	9,375	134,375	ROP Strip Colour	100,000	75,000	107,500	
8 x 5 Cols	170,000	12,750	182,750	165,000	12,375	177,375	Front Earpiece	200,000	15,000	215,000	
8 x 4 Cols	140,000	100,500	155,000	135,000	10,125	145,125	Back Page Earpiece	150,000	11,250	161,250	
8 x 3 Cols	120,000	9,000	129,000	100,000	7,500	107,500	Front Page Cover	6,000,000	NEGOTIABLE		
7 x 5 Cols	135,000	10,125	145,125	120,000	9,000	129,000	Wrap Around	10,000,000	NEGOTIABLE		
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6 x 5 Cols	130,000	9,750	139,750	85,000	6,375	91,375	CLASSIFIED	3 x 2 Cols	15,000.00	1,125.00	
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6 x 3 Cols	115,000	8,625	123,625	70,000	5,250	75,250	Change of Name	Per Word	100	NIL	
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MSF boosts Bauchi's response to child malnutrition, vaccine-preventable diseases

By Mijinyawa Ahmed



The Bauchi State Government, in collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, has intensified efforts to combat child malnutrition and respond to disease outbreaks across the state.

The Chairman of the Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Board, Dr. Rilwan Muhammad, disclosed this while briefing journalists in Bauchi on recent updates and achievements in the state's primary healthcare sector.

He said Bauchi records high levels of child stunting caused by chronic malnutrition, a development that prompted the state government to invite MSF for support.

According to him, MSF established a 350-bed malnutrition treatment centre in Ganjuwa Local Government Area, where children with severe acute malnutrition and their caregivers receive free medical care, feeding, and other essential services.

He noted that during peak malnutrition periods, particularly between April and July, the facility becomes overstretched as patients are referred from primary healthcare centres within Bauchi and neighbouring states such as Jigawa and Plateau.

"At peak periods, we receive between 100 children daily, compared to 70-80 during regular periods. This increase led to the expansion of bed capacity from 250 to

350," Muhammad said.

He added that MSF currently provides free medical services to about 2,000 children aged between one month and 15 years every month, including treatment for severe acute malnutrition and related complications.

Services at the MSF isolation centre include three free meals daily for children and caregivers, essential drugs, laboratory investigations, sanitary supplies, and Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF).

He also commended MSF for supporting diphtheria vaccination exercises in December 2025 and January 2026, with another round expected soon.

To improve access to healthcare in hard-to-reach areas, MSF has introduced the Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) approach in eight villages in Ganjuwa LGA, training community health workers to diagnose and treat malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea within communities.

The organisation has also introduced the Para-MUAC strategy, empowering parents and caregivers to detect early signs of malnutrition using simple screening tools.

On immunisation, Muhammad revealed that Bauchi recorded about 95 per cent coverage during the measles-rubella vaccination campaign conducted in October 2025, attributing the success to early sensitisation, proper planning, and strong community engagement.



Man to die by hanging in Bauchi for killing a motor cycle rider

From Ahmad Muhd, Bauchi

Bauchi State High Court number four Presided over by Justice Aliyu Baba Usman has sentenced. A man called Mamuda Zakariyau to die by hanging for killing a motor cycle rider, when he attempted to steal his bike.

Delivering his Judgement today in Bauchi, Justice Aliyu said "For the offence of culpable homicide punishable with death, the defendant Mamuda Zakariyau is hereby sentenced to death by hanging".

Mamuda was arraigned by the counsels to the Bauchi State Ministry of Justice Yusuf Adamu and on two counts charges before the court.

"Count one said on 16/10/2026, Mamuda conspired with Sadiq alias Gwaska now at large, they boarded a motor cycle driven by one Basiru Mohammed, they directed him to old airport, they stabbed him with a knife and robbed him his motorcycle contrary to section 1(2) on the robbery and firearms Special Provision act LFN 2004".

"Count two said Mamuda conspired with Sadiq alias

Gwaska now at large, did commit an offence of culpable homicide when they stabbed Basiru with a knife and robbed him his motorcycle, consequent which he collapsed and died there by committed an offence of culpable homicide contrary to section 217 of the Penal code law of Bauchi State".

The Prosecution called four witnesses and tendered five exhibits that included a handset, Motorcycle, Knife stained with blood, and shoes.

Counsel to the defendant Barrister Kayode Omosehin asked the court to acquit the defendant, because the confessional statements was involuntarily contrary to the administration of criminal Justice laws of Bauchi State, and there was no eye witnesses the evidences were just circumstantial"

In his judgement Justice Aliyu Baba Usman said the Prosecution's has proved both counts beyond reasonable doubt, the defendant Mamuda Zakariyau is hereby by convicted for the offence of armed robbery, contrary to section 1(2) of the robbery and firearms act Cap R 11 LFN 2004 and for the offence of

culpable homicide punishable with death contrary to section 217 of the PC laws of Bauchi State".

You would recalled, The Bauchi State Police Command arrested a 30-year-old man, Mamuda Zakari Yau, for allegedly stabbing a motorcyclist to death and stealing his motorcycle in a desperate attempt to raise money for marriage.

Mamuda allegedly used a knife to fatally stab Mohammed during a confrontation and made away with his red Bajaj Boxer motorcycle, bearing registration number NNG 813 UM.

The victim was rushed to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Bauchi, where he was later confirmed dead.

Wakil further revealed that the suspect was later traced and arrested following intelligence gathered from his recovered mobile phone.

The spokesperson stated that items recovered from the suspect included the red Bajaj Boxer motorcycle, a blood-stained knife, a pair of shoes, and one Android phone belonging to him.

Bauchi @50: Gov Bala emphasises harnessing youth potential to drive economic growth

Bauchi State is celebrating a milestone – 50 years of existence, despite facing numerous challenges, highlighting the state's vast potential for economic growth, particularly among its youthful population.

In a statewide broadcast on Tuesday, Governor Bala Mohammed of the state emphasized the need to harness the energy and talents of Bauchi's youths to drive development and reduce unemployment.

The Governor disclosed that Bauchi has a vast population of youths that are talented, able and ready to be transformed into a formidable workforce with the potential to propel the economic fortunes of the State.

"The State has, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, an unemployment rate of 21% mainly made up of graduates in various fields, entrepreneurs and others with key interests in youth export", He said.

Governor Mohammed noted that Bauchi's survival and growth are a testament to the vision and sacrifice of its founding fathers and leaders

who have contributed to its development.

He said, from its creation in 1976 to the present day, Bauchi State has made notable progress in various sectors, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, and security.

Bala Mohammed added that the establishment of schools, colleges, universities, and healthcare facilities across the state reflects the collective effort of its people.

The Governor who lauded both past and the present leaders in the state for playing significant role in shaping its growth and stability, disclosed that the current administration acknowledges their contributions.

According to him, Bauchi State's progress is a result of the collaborative efforts of its citizens, security agencies, and government.

He stressed that the state's peaceful nature has attracted investments and created opportunities for its people.

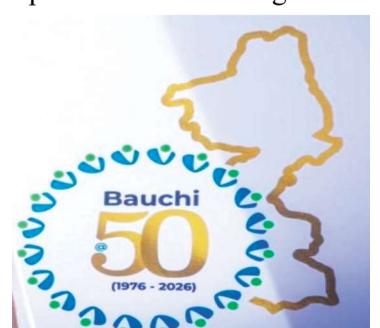
"The state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, with over 3,000 kilometers of urban and intra-state roads constructed, and an additional

1,000 kilometers built under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) of the World Bank", the governor stated.

He stressed that the development has opened up previously inaccessible areas, connecting rural communities to markets and essential services.

According to him, his administration has also prioritized youth empowerment, employing 10,000 workers and promoting skills development programs.

The governor pointed out that the state aims to reduce its unemployment rate of 21% through initiatives like the Kaura Economic Empowerment Programme (KEEP) and sports development, positioning Bauchi as the "Mecca of Sports" in Northern Nigeria.



Interview

We have witnessed Peace, Unity, and Progress in 50 years - Emir of Lame

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

Alhaji Aliyu Yakubu Lame, the Emir of Lame in Bauchi State is a respected Emir in the State Council of Emirs, in this interview with reporters on the anniversary of 50 years of Golden Jubilee of the State the Emir recalled the journey.....

Here is an excerpt

Sir Bauchi State is 50 years as a State? What would you say?

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent and the Merciful, Alhamdulillahi, we thank the Almighty Allah who give us the ability to see how we mark the 50th Anniversary of the creation of our State which was created by our leader former Head of State Late General Murtala Ramat Mohammed of blessed memory, to me the journey of Bauchi as a State 50 years is a defining moment in our history, because I was born when we are together with Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe and Taraba at that time we are in Maiduguri as a Northeastern State.

When Bauchi was created we are together with Gombe State at that time we have 16 local government areas, when Gombe was created out of Bauchi State in 1996, our local government became 20, I remember when our state was created there was poverty, majority of our households eat rice once in a week in their Houses mostly on Fridays, Many people rent clothes to even go to see the Woman they intend to Marry or to attend festivities, we have difficulties in getting portable water, we have only one Hospital in Bauchi State, but today Alhamdulillahi with our collective sacrifices especially the sacrifices made by our parents who struggled for us to get the State and our leaders who governed the State both Military and Civilians, today we are smiling because of the joy and we thanks to the Almighty Allah that, despite political, economic, and social challenges, we have witnessed changes and progressed in all sectors of life when one look at the where we came from and the kind of achievement we have recorded worthy of celebration which were made possible through the vision and sacrifice of our founding fathers, These leaders laid the solid foundations of governance, unity, and development upon which our



Alhaji Aliyu Yakubu Lame, the Emir of Lame

State stands today. We will always honour their legacy and pray that Almighty reward them abundantly and forgive those who have returned to our Creator, some of the notable progress we are enjoying today are in the areas of education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply, and security, our various government provided access to both Islamic and Western education through building of several schools and colleges, universities, polytechnics, primary healthcare facilities and general hospitals across all nooks and crannies of the State, if you go to any wards or Local Government Areas, today you will witnessed good road networks, you will see mass investment in agriculture despite all challenges associated with human factors and increase in population and lean of resources.

What about traditional institutions?

Alhamdulillahi, everything come through the will of Allah we have seen sustained remarkable progress, when Bauchi State was created we have emirates and chiefdoms in both Bauchi and Gombe State, when Gombe State was created, for example I can recalled of Tangale Waja chiefdom, Billiri. Chiefdom, in

Can you list some of the legacies left by our leaders?

As I told you earlier each one of the 16 governors that governed the State contribute positively to the development of the State, I can remember when the state was created the size of Bauchi was not like that of today, the increase in population today makes people to change the places we know as a farm in the past to shelter today, the governors built road networks, I remember late Abubakar Tatari Ali of blessed memory take schools and dispensaries or cottage hospitals to all then wards and villages in the State, late Sani Sami, Bamigboye, Chris Abutu Garuba, late Abu Ali, built roads, Morden gates, improve Schools and hospitals, they make Bauchi a Mecca of sports, Ahmed Mua'zu, Isa Yuguda, also built roads, took electricity to villages they brought airport, University, Teaching Hospital, and many other things, to cut it short, each one of them as a Governor did his best including the ones didn't mention since the State is big today it occupies a total land area of 49,549 square kilometres representing about 5.3% of Nigeria's total land mass, and we have a population estimated at over 10 million. This provides a vast pool of human capital needed for the economic growth of the State.

But the administration of Governor Bala Mohammed Kauran Bauchi did a lot in the transformation of the State, Governor Bala continued from where his predecessors stayed and came with a good blue print that change the narratives and open up the State, in the area of economic we are all aware that the economy of Bauchi had shrunk considerably in the 1990s due to economic downtown and major industries such as Bauchi Meat Factory, Galambi Cattle Ranch, Gubi Dairy Company Limited, Arewa Ceramics and Zarandah Hotels among others became moribund, since when he assumed duty as a Governor, the present Governor show interest in fact he is working hard to attract private, investment in order to resuscitate these industries either through partnership or outright investment, we are all aware of investment Summit where over five billion dollars will be invested in the State, and his efforts towards attracting

Continued on page 23

From Page 22

the required investments are yielding required and encouraging results when he organised the Bauchi State Economic & Investment Summit in October 2025 it lead to the establishment of a Cement Company the arrangement unheard that it has reached advanced stage.

In the area of education out of school children were reduced the governor built many Mega Schools and constructed over 8000 blocks of classrooms. He provided working materials needed by tertiary institutions and worked hard to addressed their needs and challenges, he built over 3000 kilometres roads took hospitals to each ward built general Hospital in each local government, the governor built palaces for emirs district and villages heads and provided them with all they need like vehicles, furniture's and increase their allowances, Governor Bala have expanded the road network in the State and open up the inaccessible agrarian and rural areas to wider markets while at the same time he provided access to the communities to basic social services required in that area as I said earlier, I heard that over 3,000 kilometres of urban and intra-state roads have been constructed in addition to 1,000 kms roads constructed under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) of the World Bank which connected the hard to reach areas of the state to mention just a few, in the area of traditional rulers the Governor has so much respect for us and he is always willing to wipe out tears , he left his door open to us he listened to us and respond to our needs and the needs of our communities.

We have witnessed Peace, Unity, and Progress in 50 years - Emir of Lame



He responded to all what we want to the best of his ability, if you tell him your community needs water, or school or hospital he will provide it for them , and take for example the newly appointed emirs, out of respect when we were appointed instead of us to collect our appointment letters in government house, he asked us to wait in our

palaces he sent a high powered delegates that took the letter to us and turbaned us in our Palaces, he gave each one of us ₦10,000,000.00 Ten Million Naira to celebrate our turbanning ceremony, we did everything with humility joyful and thanks to almighty Allah, we have done everything we help our families and our subjects with the

remaining, he also use to support us with money during festivities whatever happened to us he responded in the affirmative, he took us to hospitals within or outside the country and take care of our medical needs.

Now Bauchi is 50 in your own view, how do you want government to celebrate the golden jubilee?

Alhamdulillahi the government is doing everything with honours and dignity, they should continue but when it comes to durbar celebration then in his usual character, he should come in and support our leader the Emir of Bauchi with his warriors and palace guards to put in good regalia and performed the most colourful durbar that will makes all people of the State and dignitaries much happier , this will continue to promote more peace and put more joy in the minds of the people it will also live a memorable activity in the people's heart.

Any message to the people?

We always appeal to our people to look back and emulate the legacies left behind to us by our forefathers, especially their sacrifice, discipline, and commitment, our people should be law abiding and always pray for our leaders to succeed, we should be patriot and always pray for peace and socio - economic development of our State and the country at large.



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

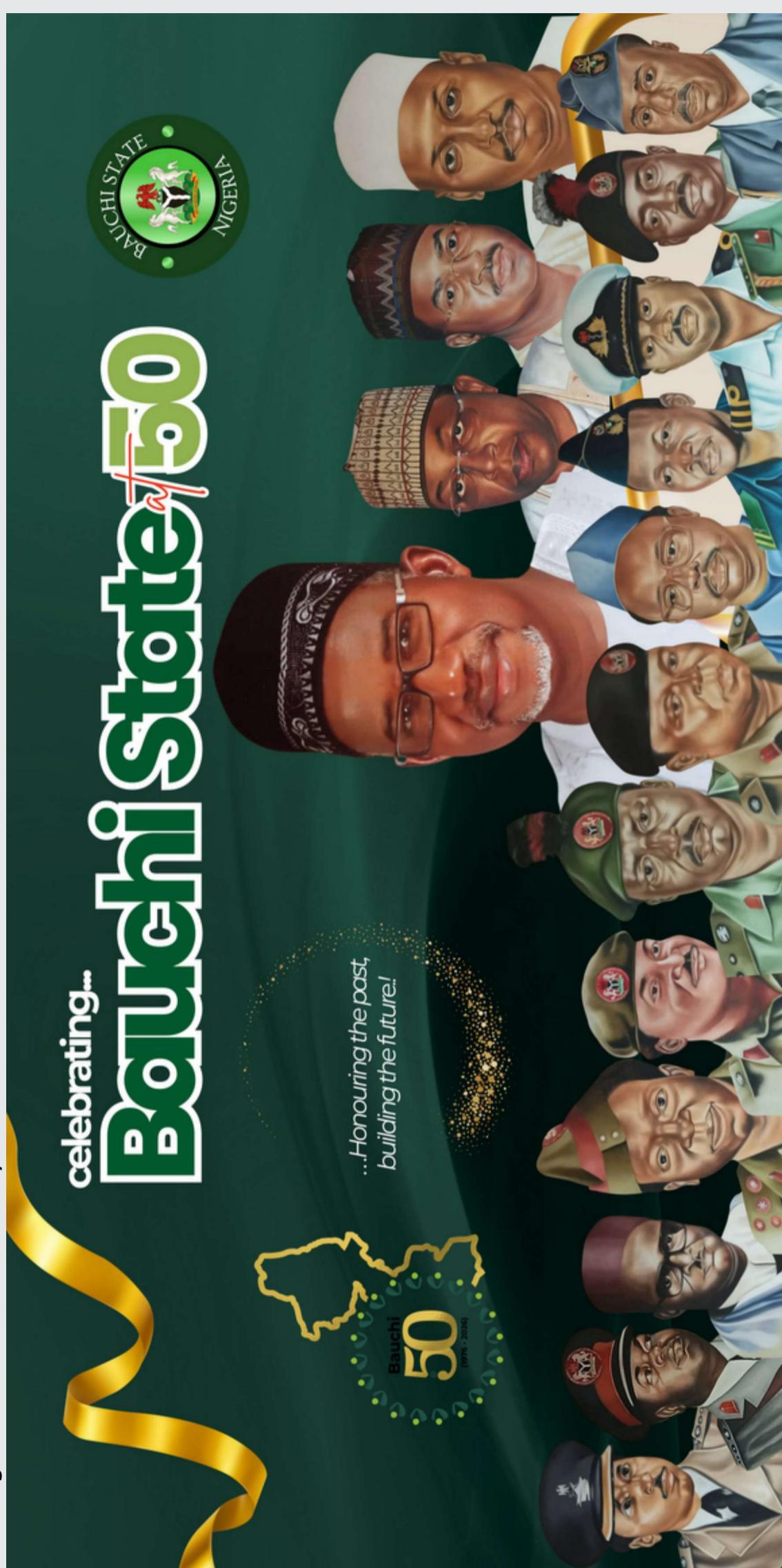
On Bauchi State At 50

On behalf of the Bauchi State Ministry of Information, I warmly congratulate His Excellency, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed CON (Kauran Daular Usmaniyya), the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, and the good people of Bauchi State on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the creation of our dear state.

This golden jubilee marks five decades of resilience, unity, progress, and collective aspiration. Under the purposeful leadership of His Excellency, Bauchi State has continued to witness people-centred governance, infrastructural renewal, peace, and inclusive development that reflect the true spirit of this historic milestone.

As we celebrate 50 years of existence, we also reflect on our shared journey, honour the sacrifices of past leaders, and renew our commitment to building a more prosperous, united, and forward-looking Bauchi State for future generations.

May this anniversary inspire renewed hope, stronger institutions, and sustained development across all sectors of our state. Congratulations to His Excellency and all Bauchi citizens on this remarkable milestone.



Usman Shehu Usman
Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Information Bauchi State

KACRAN's Passionate Appeal for an Amicable Resolution of Nigeria-Niger Differences and the Strengthening of Bilateral Ties

From, Sani Gazas Chinade Damaturu



The Kulen Allah Cattle Rearer's Association of Nigeria (KACRAN) has urged leaders of Nigeria and Niger to reconcile their diplomatic differences to resolve diplomatic disputes, strengthen bilateral relations.

According to national president of the association hon, Khalid Muhammad Bello, the association emphasizes the rich historical ties, cultural connections, and intertwined economies of the two nations, which it describes as twin nations.

The association highlights that the close to 1,608-kilometre shared border has fostered strong social and economic bonds, with families

split across the territories and local markets interconnected.

KACRAN warns that ongoing diplomatic tensions are having a detrimental impact on trade and the livestock industry, particularly during critical seasons like Eid al-Kabir and other occasions.

The KACRAN calls for prioritizing citizen welfare, joint security cooperation to combat shared challenges, and emphasizes that dialogue and diplomacy are essential for progress respectively.

KACRAN concludes by appealing for a commitment to collaboration between the two nations to ensure peace and prosperity in the West African sub-region at large.

By Salihu Makera

Russian intelligence SVR, reported as seen on Sputnik, terror attacks on citizens, attacks on gasoline tankers, and attempts to blockade Malian cities are all purportedly intended to set the stage for President Assimi Goita's coup.

The China Global Television Network also put out a tweet, alleging the same plan.

Since September 2025, a militant blockade by the al-Qaeda-affiliated group Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) has effectively cut off regular fuel deliveries, with armed fighters attacking and destroying hundreds of tanker trucks along major transport corridors in an apparent bid to weaken the military government and tighten its grip on key logistics routes.

By October, Mali suspended school activities nationwide.

Education Minister Amadou Sy Savane said on state television that classes

would be halted for two weeks "due to fuel supply disruptions that are impacting the ability of school staff to travel."

The crisis got so extensive that foreign carriers and logistics organizations, like Mediterranean Shipping Company, temporarily halted cargo bookings to Mali owing to safety and fuel concerns, exacerbating the country's overall economic problems.

This issue was later linked to a surge in insecurity in Mali, which caught the attention of the international community, prompting the United States to add Mali and four other

US to deport 79 Nigerians on Criminal List

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced plans to deport no fewer than 79 Nigerians.

The DHS disclosed that the affected Nigerians were listed among what it described as the "worst-of-the-worst" criminal aliens arrested by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Their names and photographs have been published on the department's official platforms.

Findings from the DHS website indicate that the Nigerians slated for deportation were convicted of offences ranging from fraud and drug trafficking to assault, robbery and manslaughter.

An accompanying note on the list stated that the arrests were carried out as part of a broader effort to rid the United States of criminal immigrants.

"The US Department of Homeland Security is highlighting the worst of the worst criminal aliens arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement," the note read.

"Under Secretary Noem's leadership, the hardworking men and women of DHS and ICE are fulfilling President Trump's promise and carrying



out mass deportations, starting with the worst of the worst."

The published list includes dozens of Nigerians, among them Boluwaji Akingunsoye, Ejike Asiegbunam, Emmanuel Mayegun Adeola, Bamidele Bolatilwa, Ifeanyi Nwaozomudoh, Aderemi Akefe and Solomon Wilfred.

Others named are Chibundu Anuebunwa, Joshua Ineh, Usman Momoh, Oluwole Odunowo, Bolarinwa Salau, Oriyomi Aloba, Oludayo Adeagbo, Olaniyi Akintuyi and Talatu Dada, alongside several more individuals.

The DHS said the publication of names and photographs was intended to promote transparency and demonstrate the scope of its enforcement actions.

The move forms part of President Trump's renewed push to tighten immigration

controls, with a particular focus on undocumented migrants and those convicted of crimes.

In recent weeks, ICE operations have reportedly expanded to include large-scale enforcement raids, which have triggered fear and anxiety within immigrant communities across the United States.

Reports indicate that the intensified campaign has unsettled many Nigerians living in the US. Some are said to have gone into hiding, while others have reportedly begun returning to Nigeria quietly amid fears of arrest and deportation.

The sweeping enforcement actions have also sparked debate and protests in some cities, especially following reports of confrontations involving federal immigration officers.

France Approved Removal of 'Unwanted Leaders' in Africa - Russian Intelligence



African countries to its high-risk travel list.

Accusation of France's involvement in West Africa

Very recently, Niger suffered an attack on its Diori Hamani International Airport on the outskirts of its capital city, Niamey.

The offensive, reportedly spanning approximately 30 minutes, caused 24 casualties and 11 arrests as a joint operation involving Nigerian and Russian security operatives launched an air and ground counter-attack against the perpetrators.

In the aftermath of the attack, the nation's head of state, General Abdourahamane, alleged the involvement of France, Benin, and Côte d'Ivoire in the assault.

General Abdourahamane Tiani (2nd L), the head of the military regime in Niger, greets the thousands of people who gathered at the largest stadium in Niamey for the launch of festivities marking the first anniversary of his coming to power after the July 26, 2023 coup that overthrew civilian president Mohamed Bazoum on July 26, 204.

Niger's junta gathered thousands of people in the capital Niamey on Friday to celebrate the first anniversary of its coup. [Photo by BOUREIMA HAMA/AFP via Getty Images] General Abdourahamane Tiani (2nd L), the head of the military regime in Niger, greets the thousands of people who gathered at the largest stadium in Niamey for the launch of festivities marking the first anniversary of his coming to power after the July 26, 2023

coup that overthrew civilian president Mohamed Bazoum on July 26, 204.

"We remind the sponsors of these mercenaries, notably Emmanuel Macron, Patrice Talon, and Alassane Ouattara: we've heard them bark quite enough; now they should get ready to listen to us," the Nigerien president stated.

In September, Niger's Prime Minister, Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), accused France of training, supporting, and arming terrorists while attempting to destabilize the country from inside and incite inter-ethnic violence.

"Since French troops were cast out from Niger in 2023, the government of France has established a subversive, underhand plan to destabilise my country," he told world leaders in New York.

He accused Paris of "training, financing and equipping terrorists" and attempting to foment "inter-ethnic conflict" in Niger and across the Sahel.

News

GCVSI Empowers 250 Girls with STEAM Skills to Combat Gender-Based Violence in Bauchi

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

A Non-Governmental Organisation, the Girl Child Values Support Initiative (GCVSI), has empowered 250 young women and girls through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education as a strategic tool to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Bauchi State.

The empowerment initiative, tagged "STEAMinist Against Gender-Based Violence," is supported by the French Embassy Fund (FEF) and targets girls aged 18 to 25, including persons with disabilities, drawn from Bauchi metropolis, with others from Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas participating virtually.

Speaking during the programme, participants expressed optimism that the skills acquired would not only provide sustainable



livelihoods but also help them become advocates against GBV in their communities.

One of the beneficiaries, Shakina Adedeji, who learned photography, said she plans to use visual storytelling to raise awareness on GBV prevention.

Similarly, Faith Shuaibu, trained in digital storytelling and postcards, noted that the skill would enable her to tell impactful stories that educate and sensitize the public on gender-based violence.

For Sadika Adamu, a

person with disabilities who learned painting, art remains a powerful advocacy tool. She explained that paintings can effectively communicate messages, influence public perception, and promote awareness on GBV prevention.

The Senior Programmes Officer of GCVSI, Mr. Zuriel Oluwatosin, urged the government to mainstream the STEAMinist model into key ministries such as Education, Women Affairs, and Youth and Sports Development.

modelling, application development, web design, and painting.

Oluwatosin explained that "STEAMinist represents a movement of young women empowered with STEAM skills to design community-based solutions and actively advocate against gender injustice."

Meanwhile, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) collectively called on the Ministry of Women Affairs to approve a pilot framework for STEAM-GBV hubs, establish a technical working group for policy integration, mobilize multi-sector funding, and commence at least three hubs within 12 months.

They also appealed to the Ministry of Education to adopt the proposed STEAM policy recommendations and align them with ICT-in-Education strategies, stressing that Bauchi State's digital transition presents a critical opportunity to strengthen GBV prevention and inclusive empowerment.

According to him, the project equips beneficiaries with skills including photography, videography, digital storytelling and podcasting, drama and theatre, Soldering and electronic implementation, 3D animation, 3D printing, 3D

NIS arrest suspected human trafficker, rescues 59 women children in Borno

By Salihu Makera

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has rescued 59 women and children who were being trafficked from Katsina State to N'Djamena, the capital of the Republic of Chad.

Announcing the development in Maiduguri on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, the Borno State Comptroller of Immigration, Muktari Tanimu Musa, said the victims were intercepted at the border town of Ngamboru, near Nigeria's frontier with Cameroon.

He said the group was travelling with a suspected trafficking agent who allegedly lured them with promises of "good jobs" in Chad.

"After interviewing them, it became clear they were being trafficked," Musa said.

"The agent deceived them with false employment offers. Many of the victims did not understand the risks involved."

He said the command has intensified surveillance along the Maiduguri - Ngala axis and is working with the Borno State Government to strengthen border security and curb the movement of trafficked persons through the corridor.



Musa urged Nigerians to be cautious of individuals offering foreign job opportunities, especially those promoting so-called "white-collar jobs abroad."

"We always encourage people to travel through proper visa procedures and migrate with dignity," he said.

He added that legitimate employment opportunities exist within Nigeria and warned that traffickers often exploit victims for criminal activities, including organ harvesting.

The comptroller noted that trafficking networks sometimes operate with local support.

"These activities are sometimes aided by community members. But recent breakthroughs came because of stronger cooperation with transport operators, drug control officers, and community

leaders in Banki and Ngamboru Ngala," he said.

He also highlighted his recent visits to border communities.

"I have visited Banki and Ngamboru Ngala to meet chairmen and stakeholders, urging them to share timely intelligence with our officers," he said.

The NIS has profiled the rescued victims and will hand them over to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) for further care and investigation.

Musa appealed to media organisations to continue supporting public awareness efforts.

"The media play a crucial role in educating communities about the dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking. Their support is essential," he said.

Troops Destroy ISWAP Detention Camps, Kill 32 Terrorists

The troops of the Joint Task Force North East, Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK), have destroyed ISWAP terrorists' detention facility within the forested Timbuktu Triangle in Gujba Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The Force Media Information Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Sani Uba, disclosed this via a statement issued on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

Uba said the development marked a significant advance into areas long considered beyond the reach of security forces and underscored the growing effectiveness and sustainability of ongoing counter-insurgency operations.

Uba stated that the operation was conducted as part of Operation Desert Sanity, following sustained offensive pressure and intelligence-led manoeuvres that forced terrorists to abandon critical facilities deep within their strongholds.

He added: "From 21 January 2026 to date, troops uncovered and destroyed 3 major terrorists detention facilities concealed within the Timbuktu Triangle forest which stretches across Borno and Yobe states.

"Preliminary assessments indicated that the facilities had the capacity to hold up to 300 detainees, highlighting their strategic importance to ISWAP terrorists operational and coercive framework.

"Further findings indicated that sustained offensive action by troops directly led to the escape of over 70 captives previously held by the terrorists. This was corroborated by many of the escaped captives who later resurfaced in several villages like Goniri, Burata, and Mandaragirau, among others."

Uba noted that one of the escapees, Jidda Ba Jidda, a native of Kufi village near Buratai in Biu LGA of Borno State, who was abducted on December 22, 2025, disclosed that he escaped during the gun duel between the terrorists and troops in the Timbuktu Triangle.

The Force spokesman said: "During the series of encounters in the Timbuktu Triangle, ISWAP suffered significant combat losses, with no fewer than 32 fighters neutralised, including 2 Qaids and 3 Munzirs, while several others sustained serious injuries during fierce engagements with troops."

"Following thorough clearance of the area, the 3 detention facilities were deliberately demolished, permanently denying ISWAP the ability to reuse or reoccupy the site. The operation was conducted successfully and without incident, reflecting the resilience, professionalism, discipline and combat effectiveness of the troops of OPHK."

Few Days to Commence: Access Bank Lagos City Marathon Rolls Out Additional ₦11 Million Prize Money

As the 11th Access Bank Lagos City Marathon gets closer, organisers have confirmed a total prize of ₦11 million exclusively for Nigerian runners competing in the 42km marathon race in addition to the general prize package for all runners.

The prize structure, which applies to both men and women, underscores the marathon's growing focus on rewarding local talent and strengthening grassroots and elite long-distance running within Nigeria.

According to the organisers, each gender category will share ₦5.5 million in prize money, spread across the top 10 finishers.

Under the breakdown, the first-place Nigerian finisher will earn ₦2 million, while the



second and third positions will receive ₦1.5 million and ₦1 million respectively. While fourth-place finisher will go home with ₦500,000, followed by ₦200,000 for fifth place and ₦100,000 for sixth.

Athletes finishing between seventh and tenth positions will each receive ₦50,000, ensuring broader reward coverage and competitive depth among Nigerian runners.

The substantial ₦11 million commitment reflects the marathon's mission to create opportunities for homegrown athletes, motivate participation, and provide a viable pathway for Nigerian runners to compete alongside elite international counterparts."

NSC sympathizes with Super Eagles Captain Wilfred Ndidi over loss of father

The National Sports Commission, NSC, has expressed its deepest condolences to the Captain of the Super Eagles, Wilfred Ndidi, over the demise of his father Mr Sunday Ndidi. Who died in a fatal motor accident.

The Director General of the NSC, Hon. Bukola Olopade who expressed shock over the news, said this is a sad moment for Nigerian football and urged the entire sports family to put the Ndidi family in their prayers in this difficult time.

"On behalf of the Chairman of the NSC, Mallam Shehu Dikko and the Nigerian Sports family, I want to express our heartfelt condolences to Wilfred Ndidi and his family for the



unfortunate loss".

"I know for a fact how close Wilfred Ndidi is to his father and the role the man has played in the success story of his son".

"Wilfred Ndidi has been a patriotic servant for our great country over the years, playing for the Super eagles and also representing Nigeria in good light playing club football in Europe. All these

are a product of the kind of upbringing he was given by his parents", the DG stated.

Hon Olopade added that the National Sports Commission will work closely with the Nigeria Football Federation in every possible capacity to render any form of assistance to the Ndidi family in this difficult time.

"He loved Nigeria" – Amaju Pinnick on why Arsenal's Eberechi Eze refused to play for the Super Eagles

Former President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Amaju Pinnick, has revealed why Arsenal midfielder Eberechi Eze refused to play for the Super Eagles, Soccernet.ng reports.

Pinnick served as the President of the NFF between October 2014 and October 2022. In that period, Nigeria failed to qualify for the World Cup in 2022, although they qualified for the 2018 version of the Mundial under Gernot Rohr.

Under the 55-year-old, Nigeria saw a rise in the switch of foreign-born talents choosing to play for the Super

Eagles. Alex Iwobi, Ola Aina, Ademola Lookman and Calvin Bassey all switched allegiance during Pinnick's tenure.

However, a few like Jamal Musiala, Karim Adeyemi, Tammy Abraham and Eberechi Eze also slipped out of Nigeria's hands.

Then-head coach Gernot Rohr invited the one-time FA Cup winner as the team ahead of friendlies against Senegal and Burkina Faso, both of which were later cancelled due to security concerns.

Pinnick revealed that everything was in the works for Eze to become a Super Eagles player officially, but he

decided to hold off.

Instead, he chose to wait for England, eventually making his debut for the three Lions in 2023, six years after his interaction with Nigeria.

"Eberechi Eze came, I met the dad, and we had a long discussion, and he agreed to play for Nigeria," Amaju Pinnick said on the Playzone and Dangolo Way show.

"It was tough, but eventually we got him and so many others," Amaju Pinnick concluded.

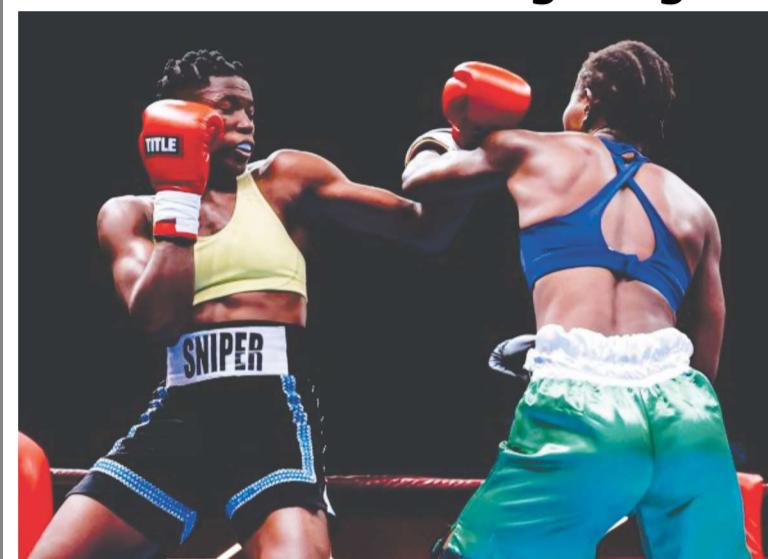
Eberechi Eze has played 16 games for England since making his debut, playing four of those as a starter.

THE TRUMPSPORTS

With
Usman Abbas Shehu



NBF Unveils Team Nigeria For Maiden African Boxing League



The Nigeria Boxing Federation has unveiled the list of boxers to fly the country's flag at the African Boxing League.

The inaugural event will kick-off in April and will feature pugilists from over twenty African nations.

In readiness for the championship, the NBF technical and tournament committee have listed forty-one boxers to represent the country across the various weight categories.

In the male category, the listed boxers are: Sodiq Odunyi 55kg, Samuel Dahusi 55kg, Raymond Abodunrin 55kg, Musefiu Quam 60kg, Abdulahi Robiu 60kg, Ajisola 60kg, Abdulrahman Abdulwahab 65kg, Ridwan Raheem 65kg, and Michael Babalola 70kg.

Others are Ibrahim Yakubu 70kg, Alata 70kg, Daniel Joshua 80kg, Prince Gardy 80kg, Chuwka Emmanuel 80kg, Jamiu Saheed 90kg, Olomitus Michael 90kg, Ifeoluwa Ogunniyi 90kg, Agbadike Emmanuel 90+kg, Ebuka Henry Obierika 90+kg, and Adeniyi Adesoji 90+kg.



The women consist of Ayomide Mayowa 51kg, Amarah Oluwatoyin 51kg, Adesina Zainab 51kg, Aliyat Olalekan 54kg, Aliyat Ganiyu 54kg, Kadijat Ajisola 57kg, Akinremi Asisat 57kg, Shoyombo Anuoluwapo 57kg, Asisat Gbadamosi 60kg, and Adeniji Aliyat 60kg.

Also, on list are Sakirat Kareem 60kg, Damilola Sodipe 65kg, Omolayo Adaramola 65kg, Jinadu Akimot 65kg, Blessing Orakwe 70kg, Adaobi Onara 70kg, Onyechi Anya 70kg, Queen James 70+kg, Mary Bassey 70+kg and Chidimma Nmugeu 70+kg.

Kamol Wahab, Penda Agwhlolo and coach Kemi Adebayo. Others are coach Gift Ituonye Alice Alumbugu, and coach Mary Ekpo.

The draws for the league will be held in March. Team Nigeria would travel to other nations for their away while their home fixtures would be staged in Nigeria.

The vice president of the Nigeria Boxing Federation Hon. Omonlei Imadu said the boxers will resume camping later this month ahead of the tournament.

Adamawa Guber aspirant, Diaulhaq expresses hope in party's strong democratic credentials

From Umar Dankano, Yola



Engineer Diaulhaq Abubakar, a young entrepreneur and philanthropist, has formally declared his intention to contest the 2027 Adamawa State governorship election under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), citing his strong confidence in the party's respect for internal democracy as the driving force behind his decision.

Speaking on Monday at the APC State Secretariat in Yola shortly after announcing his ambition, Engr. Abubakar said the party's commitment to transparent, fair and inclusive processes reassured him that every aspirant would be given a level playing field.

According to him, these democratic ideals distinguished APC from other political platforms and made it right haven for credible and people-oriented leadership.

Abubakar, who is also the President of Adamawa Blue Community, a platform through which he has empowered hundreds of youths and women across the state, expressed optimism that with the resolve of the party to stick firmly to free and fair internal processes, APC will surely record comprehensive victory across all elective positions in 2027.

He noted that internal cohesion and respect for members' rights remain critical to public trust and electoral success.



Refugees Return Home After Years in Cameroon: What the Repatriation Means for Security and Livelihoods in Borno

By Alkali Muhammad Musa, Maiduguri

Borno State has recorded a major milestone in its long recovery from insurgency, as multiple convoys of Nigerian refugees returned home from Cameroon in a coordinated and dignified repatriation exercise. The latest movements, which form part of the third phase of the state's voluntary return programme, signal renewed confidence in regional stability and ongoing efforts to rebuild conflict-affected communities.

The first batch of 300 refugees, representing 75 households, arrived in Pulka, Gwoza Local Government Area, after over a decade of displacement in Cameroon. Their return followed Governor Babagana Umara Zulum's December 2025 visit to their camp, where he assured them of a safe and voluntary homecoming.

In emotional scenes, some of the returnees knelt



to touch Nigerian soil, while others offered prayers of gratitude. Many of the children, born or raised in exile, gazed curiously upon a homeland they barely knew.

A second convoy of 705 refugees and a third convoy of 700 refugees also arrived in Banki, Bama Local Government Area, welcomed by military officials, traditional leaders, and members of the Borno State Repatriation Committee. In both locations, the returnees were escorted from Cameroon by the Governor of the Far North Region, Midjiyawa Bakari, reflecting strong bilateral cooperation.



Government Support and Reintegration Efforts

Each returning household received financial and material support. In Gwoza, the state government provided ₦500,000 to each household head and ₦50,000 to each wife, while returnees to Banki received ₦100,000 per household head and ₦20,000 per wife. All families were given mattresses, wrappers, and

food supplies including rice, beans, millet, and cooking oil.

The Borno State Government, supported by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also provided newly constructed homes in Banki and supplies to help families rebuild their shelters.

Chairman of the Repatriation Committee, Engr. Lawan Abba Wakil, described the exercise as "a significant achievement," saying it restores hope and dignity to communities devastated by insurgency.

However, he cautioned refugees against attempting to manipulate the process for economic

advantage, warning that individuals who secretly settled in Banki while retaining refugee status in Cameroon would be excluded from benefits.

..... What the Repatriation Means for Security and Livelihoods in Borno

Boost to Local Security

The return of refugees strengthens security in border communities such as Gwoza and Banki. Previously, large areas were deserted, creating opportunities for insurgents to hide or move across borders. Repopulating these towns improves community vigilance, increases local intelligence networks, and helps stabilise strategic locations around the Lake Chad Basin.

Improved cooperation between Nigeria and Cameroon, demonstrated by the joint handling of the repatriation, also enhances efforts to combat cross-border insurgency.

Economic and Livelihood Benefits

The returnees bring new energy to local economies. After years in Cameroon, many have acquired skills, trades, and cross-border experience that can support agricultural recovery and small businesses.

The government's cash support acts as an immediate economic injection, stimulating local markets through increased purchasing power. As families rebuild homes and restart farming,

construction activities and labour demand are expected to rise.

Community Rebuilding and Social Stability

The reintegration of displaced families helps restore community life in areas previously emptied by conflict. Schools, markets, and health centres can operate more effectively when populations return. Traditional leaders regain influence, easing coordination between communities and government authorities.

The process sends a strong message that normalcy is gradually returning, encouraging development partners to continue investing in long-term recovery.

Remaining Challenges

Despite the positive developments, challenges remain. Sustaining security, expanding access to housing, and ensuring adequate social services will require continued commitment. Livelihood support must go beyond initial cash assistance to prevent long-term dependency and promote genuine self-reliance.

Conclusion

The return of refugees from Cameroon marks a critical step in Borno State's journey toward stability and recovery. As more convoys arrive in the coming days, the repatriation exercise highlights a broader strategy, restore peace, rebuild communities, and pave the way for a future where displaced families can once again call Borno home.