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Kano State Governor Honors 35 Kano Indigenes for Outstanding Service

In a grand and historic ceremony, Kano State Governor, Abba Kabir Yusuf, honored 35 distinguished indigenes whose outstanding contributions have left an indelible mark across various fields.

This was disclosed in a statement issued on Sunday by the Governor's spokesperson, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa.

According to the statement, Governor Yusuf described the event as "a night of pride, inspiration, and recognition," celebrating the brilliance and achievements of Kano's finest individuals.

He noted that the prestigious gathering brought together dignitaries from diverse sectors, including military officers, academics, public servants, engineers, and business leaders. While non-political in nature, the ceremony highlighted Kano's immense talent and its continued influence in shaping national progress.

Among the honorees were recently promoted generals in the Nigerian military, senior police and paramilitary officers, and Federal Permanent Secretaries of Kano origin, whose leadership and dedication have significantly impacted national security and governance.

The honored individuals included Air Marshal Hassan Bala Abubakar, Chief of Air Staff; Prof. Shehu Ahmad Said Galadanci, CON, Murshid of the National Mosque and renowned academic; Dr. Nasiru Sani Gwarzo, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, and esteemed medical professional.

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Others recognized for their unwavering commitment to national defense were Major General M.S. Ahmed, Major General Sani Sumaila Ibrahim, and Air Vice Marshal M. Yusuf.

In academia and other professional fields, the honorees included Prof. Umma Abdullahi, the first female Professor of Mechanical Engineering from Kano; Dr. Hadiza Galadanci, a renowned Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Prof. Nazifi Abdullahi Darma, a distinguished academic at the ECOWAS Commission.

Also honored were CP Hajiya Hauwa Ibrahim, one of Nigeria's highest-ranking female police officers and the first indigenous female Commissioner of Police from the Northwest geopolitical zone, as well as Eng. Mustapha Balarabe Shehu, President of the World Engineering Forum and a highly respected figure in the engineering profession.

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf emphasized that the ceremony was more than just an awards night—it was a celebration of Kano's enduring legacy of excellence.

He highlighted the honorees' dedication, resilience, and service, stressing that their achievements serve as an inspiration for future generations.

"These distinguished sons and daughters of Kano have brought immense pride to our state. Their commitment to excellence is a beacon of hope for our youth, who must strive to follow in their footsteps.

It is our responsibility to honor them and ensure their contributions are never forgotten," the Governor stated.

The gathering was attended by traditional rulers, religious leaders, and business magnates, fostering an atmosphere of mentorship and collaboration aimed at furthering Kano's development. The night concluded with a formal dinner and cultural performances, showcasing Kano's rich heritage and unity.

In his welcome address, Hon. Muhammad Yusuf Jamu, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Special Adviser to the Governor on National and International Relations, announced that the award ceremony would be institutionalized as an annual event to serve as a platform for unity, sustainable development, and economic prosperity.

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El-Rufai Fires Back at Bwala: I Never Wanted a Position in Tinubu's Camp

In a fiery response to Emmanuel Daniel Bwala, former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai has made it clear that he never sought a position in President Bola Tinubu's administration. El-Rufai's remarks come amid ongoing political tensions and accusations within the ruling party.

"I was a cabinet minister 22 years ago, and I was clear to Asiwaju that I was not interested in any position," El-Rufai stated, referring to President Tinubu by his popular moniker. He criticized Bwala and others who have recently aligned themselves with Tinubu, describing their actions as a reflection of their "moral flexibility."

El-Rufai did not hold back in his critique, labeling Bwala and others as "latter-day converts" to the Tinubu camp. "The pathetic manner all of you make an issue of something that I never wanted in the first place is a reflection of the level of your moral flexibility," he said.

Despite his harsh words, El-Rufai acknowledged Bwala's decency, stating, "I am only responding to you because I still think you are a decent person who may need a job." He contrasted Bwala with other political figures, whom he referred to as "political mercenaries" receiving substantial stipends to defend the Tinubu administration's actions, regardless of their merit.

El-Rufai's response also took aim at Wendell Simlin and a "Kaduna pretender" whom he claimed were retired by voters in 2019. He accused these individuals of being part of a group that blindly supports the Tinubu government.

In a parting shot, El-Rufai advised Bwala to prioritize his allegiance to God and country over any individual or authority. "Enjoy your special adviser position, my brother, but remember that allegiance to God and country comes first in the human scale of accountability, before any person or authority," he concluded.



Northern Online Media Group Elects National Exco, Nigerian Tracker Publisher Emerges National Treasurer

Northern Online Media Group Elects National Exco, Nigerian Tracker Publisher Emerges National Treasurer

The Northern-based media group under the aegis of Northern Online Media Reporters and Publishers (NORP) on Saturday elected its National executive members

The election, held in Kaduna at Arewa House, Kaduna, was supervised by the Electoral Committee of the Union.

Comrade Musa Mohammed from Kaduna State emerged as the new Executive National President in a keenly contested election. He polled 287 votes to defeat his rival, Comrade Lynn Adda, the former NUJ chairman, Taraba State, who got 138 votes.

Comrade Femi Adi from Kogi State emerged as the Executive National Secretary with 210 votes. He defeated Comrade Rayyan Al-Hassan, who polled 207 votes.

By the constitution of the Union, the Deputy National Secretary and National Assistant Secretary positions are reserved for persons who come second in both. Therefore, Comrade Lynn Adda and Comrade Rayyan Al-Hassan emerged as Deputy National President and National Assistant Secretary accordingly.

Others who emerged unopposed are Comrade Zaharaddeen Ishaq Zailani – National Financial Secretary; Comrade Abraham Suleman – Asst. National Financial Secretary, and Comrade Abbas Yusha'u Yusuf – National Treasurer.

In his acceptance speech, Comrade Musa Mohammed urged members of the group across the 19 northern states to take advantage of social media platforms to fight fake news and promote good governance.

According to him, social media platforms can only be reliable for information dissemination when professional journalists take over and use them professionally.



Chinese Community in Kano Celebrates Traditional New Year, Highlighting Growing Nigeria-China Ties

A Chinese nationals residing in Kano State are currently celebrating their country's traditional new year.

Reports indicate that the Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival is a festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

Kano State played host to a unique celebration of Chinese New Year, where Wu Qun, popularly known as "Tea Master," highlighted the growing cultural and economic ties between Nigeria and China.

Speaking passionately about his love for Kano and its people, Wu Qun expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality he has experienced since moving to the city.

"People here are very nice, and they have strong faith. I want more Chinese people to come to this place because Kano holds a special place in my heart," he said.

Wu Qun praised the development efforts in the state, noting the improved infrastructure and leadership. "The roads being built show how much Kano has changed for the better. It makes me happy to see the city thriving and people helping each other."

Reflecting on the significance of the Chinese New Year, Wu Qun described it as a time for family reunions and cultural celebration. "In China, families come together during this season, celebrating with performances, fireworks, and traditional dinners. It's a way to honor our history and look forward to a prosperous year ahead," he explained.

Wu Qun emphasized the importance of fostering cultural understanding between China and Nigeria. He pointed to the increasing number of Nigerians studying and doing business in China as evidence of the strong ties between the two nations.

"This relationship is growing not just at the government level but also among the people," he added.

As the Chinese New Year celebrations bring both cultures together, Wu Qun hopes for continued collaboration, mutual understanding, and prosperity for both nations.



Court Reschedules Arraignment of Former NHIS Executive Secretary Usman Yusuf

Justice Chinyere E. Nwecheonwu of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Kuchiako, Kuje, on Thursday, January 30, 2025 rescheduled to February 3, 2025 the arraignment of Professor Usman Yusuf, former Executive Secretary of National Health Insurance Scheme, NHIS.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC had on Wednesday, January 29, 2024 arrested Yusuf and brought before the court on Thursday, January 30, 2025 for arraignment on allegations of fraud.

The arraignment was, however, moved to Monday to allow for amendment of the charges.

Though defence counsel, Isah Dokto Haruna, who held brief for the lead defence counsel, O.I.Habeeb, SAN made an application for bail, it was turned down by the court on account of the defendant's deferred arraignment.

Justice Nwecheonwu adjourned the matter till February 3, 2025, for arraignment and ruled that the defendant be remanded in the custody of the Commission.



Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo Inaugurates Conference on Hausa Culture and Economic Sustainability

Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo, wife of the former Vice President, inaugurated a two-day conference aimed at promoting knowledge exchange on Hausa culture and economic sustainability in the 21st century. The event, titled “Real’adun Hausawa da Dorewar Tattalin Arziki a Karni na Ashirin da Daya,” commenced with a focus on empowering women and showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Hausa people.

In her opening remarks, Hajiya Amina Namadi Sambo emphasized the importance of addressing societal ills through cultural revival and economic empowerment. “We decided to do this to do away with some of the societal ills. We have been trying to inaugurate the program in Kano to empower and showcase to the world our rich and good culture,” she stated. She highlighted plans to identify women who will be taught skills and provided with capital to support their ventures.

She said, “The conference also featured presentations from Ulama and traditional leaders, who were invited to share insights on the positive aspects of Hausa culture. “We invited our Ulama and traditional leaders to present papers that will show the world our good attitude and culture,” Hajiya Amina added. Expressing concern over the erosion of cultural values, she noted, “We have been trying to find ways to revive our culture. Our children and grandchildren are not speaking pure Hausa except Enghausa.

We have abandoned our traditional foods like Shaye Shaye da romo, wainar Gero, yar tsala, and shashshaka.” She called on Kannywood actors to help showcase Hausa culture in their films and invited scholars to deliberate on whether Hausa is a language or a tribe, emphasizing the need to embrace and preserve their cultural heritage.

Hajiya Amina expressed gratitude to the Governor of Kano State for the cooperation extended to the conference holding in Kano



CSO decries ‘undue silence’ over ex-NiMET DG’s corruption probe by EFCC, ICPC

A civil society organization, Coalition to Save Education in Nigeria, COSEN, has decried undue silence by the anti-graft agencies over corruption allegations against a former Director-General of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency, NiMET, Prof. Sani Abubakar-Mashi.

COSEN’s Director of Operations, Kamsi Ezenwa, in a statement on Tuesday, lamented that despite several petitions by concerned Nigerians, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and the Independent Corrupt Practices (and Related Matters) Commission, ICPC, were yet to take action on the former DG. The CSO claimed that during the period leading to his removal in early 2021, Mr Mashi was regularly visiting the anti-graft agencies to answer to allegations of fraud, embezzlement and violating public service rules among other things.

“The most damning of the petitions, according to credible sources in one of the anti-graft agencies, was the one reportedly filed by one Mukhtar Sirika, which immediate consequence is believed to be directly responsible for Mashi’s sudden sack, only a few months after his tenure had been renewed.

“An Aviation sector publication, Nigerian FLIGHTDECK has similarly reported that Mashi was alleged to have diverted COVID-19 funds approved for NiMET, engaged in reckless depletion of the internally generated revenue of the agency and awarded of inflated contracts without due approval,” the statement noted.

COSEN expressed dismay that almost four years after his sack, and despite what it described as “tons of evidence” against him, Mr Mashi has not been made to account for what the group insisted were “several, serious allegations” against him.

“It therefore called on the two anti-corruption bodies to “do the needful and ensure that within the shortest possible time cases against Prof. Mashi are given the full attention that they deserve and the law is allowed to take its course,” he added.



Rep Fulata Denies Allegations of Financial Inducement for 2025 Education Budget Approval

The Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on University Education, Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata has dismissed an allegation by an online medium that the lawmakers demanded for certain amount of money as condition for passage of 2025 budget of education sector.

Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata who is also the Lead Chairman, House Committees on Education said the allegation was designed to undermine the efforts of the lawmakers, particularly his committee to improve the standard of education in the country.

In an interview with journalists, Fulata said ordinarily he wouldn't have said anything about an online medium, not Nigerian Tracker 'allegation but he decided to respond in order to avoid misleading the general public about the activities of the committee and the 10th House of Representatives.

Fulata said due to the advocacy of the legislators against inclusion of tertiary institutions of learning in the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), President Bola Tinubu graciously removed universities and all tertiary institutions from IPPIS. According to him, IPPIS is "anti-intellectual, anti-academics and retrogressive."

He said following the absence of councils for universities and other tertiary institutions nearly a year after the inauguration of the present government, the House of Representatives considered the effect of it and adopted his motion urging Mr President to constitute the councils. He said shortly after the House's resolution, Mr President constituted the councils.

Fulata noted that the House Committee on University Education had in 2024 carried out oversight visit to all federal universities under his committee's supervision except Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State whose vice chancellor did not only block the legislators from accessing the school but also failed to provide documents regarding budget performance of previous years (2022 to 2024) and 2025 budget proposal.

According, to him, the management of almost all the universities visited complained seriously against the hike in electricity tariff.

"Some of the universities were paying about N100 million as electricity tariff every month and we thought this cannot help our tertiary institutions. I moved a motion on this issue and the House came up with the resolution urging for downward review of electricity tariff or removal of these institutions from Band A group of electricity tariff. Mr President again listened to our appeal and approved 50 percent subsidy on electricity tariff for universities, polytechnics, colleges of education and all tertiary institutions and hospitals," Fulata said.. He appealed to media practitioners to always cross-check the pieces of information at their disposal before disseminating them.

On allegation by an online medium, Premium Times that the meeting "Initially scheduled for 10 a.m. that day, the meeting was delayed until 3 p.m. due to behind-the-scenes discussions between lawmakers and some vice-chancellors," Fulata said the committee had budget defence meeting for National University Commission and vice chancellors of universities on January 15th, 2025, the Armed Forces Remembrance Day and not the date and time mischievously stated by the medium

He said the budget defence which took place at the House temporary chamber was open to the general public and media as there was no executive session or closed door meeting during the meeting which was brought to a close before another committee, House Committee on Water Resources commenced its budget defence meeting in the same venue by 2pm.

Fulata who was the Chairman, House Committee on Rules and Business in the 9th National Assembly said it is ridiculous for anyone or group to say he is demanding for a kobo as condition to approve budget proposal.

He said if Mr. President despite his tight schedule, will appear before joint session of National Assembly to present Appropriation bill, he sees no reason why heads of MDAs will find it difficult to defend their budget proposal.

"Similarly, if the Ministers of Education, the Executive Secretary of NUC and other Parastatals under the Ministry as well as over 50 Universities could come and defend their Budget proposal before the Committee, there is no reason why the Vice-Chancellors of University of Lagos, Federal University Gusau and Army University Bi'u will refuse to come and defend their budget proposal. Instead, they have resorted to blackmail and smear campaign and sponsorship of public outcry against the Committee.



Kano Governor Appoints Social Media Influencer Ibrahim Adam as Special Adviser on Information

In his continued efforts to ensure inclusiveness and youth engagement for effective service delivery, Kano State Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf, has appointed Ibrahim Adam as Special Adviser on Information.

This was disclosed in a statement issued by the Governor's spokesperson, Mr. Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa.

Ibrahim Adam, a 32-year-old graduate of Political Science from Bayero University, Kano, is one of the vibrant social media influencers who have strategically promoted the achievements of the present administration.

He previously served as Personal Assistant to Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf during his tenure as the gubernatorial candidate of Kano State between 2020 and 2022.

Subsequently, Ibrahim was appointed as Special Assistant to Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, the NNPP Presidential candidate, a position he held until his recent appointment as Special Adviser to the Governor on Information.

The Governor congratulated the appointee and urged him to demonstrate teamwork, dedication, and commitment to service by providing strategic information about the policies and programmes of the present administration.



Dangote sets to buy 12m barrels of crude oil from United States for refinery operations

The Dangote Petroleum Refinery is awaiting up to 12 million barrels of crude oil from the United States.

The refinery resorted to crude importation as local supply challenges hindered the new \$20bn refinery's push to reach full refining capacity. Recall that the refinery plans to reach its 650,000 barrels per day capacity in June this year. However, low local crude supply from the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited is currently a challenge to this plan to ramp up daily production.

The 12 million barrels of crude has already left the United States and will land in Nigeria next month, according to the news from African Report. "About 12 million barrels of crude have departed the US and should arrive in Nigeria by February," an insider source told The Africa Report.

Dangote Petroleum Refinery is said to be importing more crude oil as supply from the NNPC becomes insufficient for fuel production at the \$20bn Lekki-based facility.

Officials at the plant said the facility has ramped up production to about 500,000 barrels per day, with the target of hitting the 650,000bpd mark by June this year.

The NNPC is reportedly struggling to supply 350,000bpd to the Dangote refinery from the 450,000bpd crude meant for Nigeria's local consumption.



ASSOMEG Partners with Kano State to Enhance Visibility of 300 Ongoing Projects

The Kano State Commissioner for Public Procurement and Project Monitoring, Nura Iro Maaji, revealed that there are over 300 project sites currently under development across the state. Maaji made this announcement during a meeting with the Association of Online Media Guild (ASSOMEG) led by Isyaku Ahmad, the publisher of Stallion Times.

“This is my 19th day here. I keep January as a learning month,” Maaji stated. He explained that the Project Monitoring team has already visited 21 local government areas and provides weekly reports on the progress. “We go to every sector – land, water resources. We have physical projects that we do. From May 2023 to date, the Governor has ordered us to audit all the MDAs,” he added.

The Commissioner highlighted the Kano State Integrated Project Monitoring initiative, noting that the state has over 300 active project sites. “All hands are on deck. The spirit from the governor is there. We need the presence of the media. We will work with you,” Maaji emphasized.

Isyaku Ahmad, the publisher of Stallion Times who led the ASSOMEG team, expressed his support for the Commissioner and the ministry. “We are here to congratulate you and to partner with the ministry in projecting its activities,” Ahmad stated.

The delegation from ASSOMEG included prominent media figures such as Abbas Yushau Yusuf, publisher of the Nigerian Tracker; Abubakar Abdulkadir Dangambo, publisher of Independent Post; Zainab Abdurrahman Mai Agogo of Kakaki24; and Musa Best Seller of Alfijir Labarai and Aliyu Dangida of Hotpen

The partnership between the ministry and the online media guild is expected to enhance the visibility and transparency of the ongoing projects, ensuring that the public is well-informed about the government’s development efforts.



APC Arewa Youths Merger Group Gives Journalist Ja’afar Ja’afar 24 Hours to Apologize to DSP Barau I Jibrin

The APC Arewa Youths Merger Group has issued a 24-hour ultimatum to journalist Ja’afar Ja’afar, demanding an apology to the Deputy Senate President of Nigeria, Senator Barau I Jibrin, or face legal action. The group condemned Ja’afar for his remarks alleging that all the problems in Kano State are orchestrated by Senator Barau I Jibrin, while exonerating former Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje.

In a communique issued to journalists after an emergency meeting held by the group’s executives, the APC Arewa Youths Merger Group accused Ja’afar of attempting to discredit Senator Barau I Jibrin and divide APC members. They claimed that Ja’afar has a history of discrediting prominent figures in Kano, particularly those affiliated with the APC.

The group highlighted that Ja’afar had previously released a video involving dollar transactions to discredit former Governor Ganduje, which led to criticism of Kano in the North. They alleged that Ja’afar is being used as a journalist to defame elders in Kano State, violating the principles of journalism.

Zaitawa, a member of the group, stated that even the current Kano State Governor, Abba Kabir Yusuf, has not escaped Ja’afar’s fabrications. “If it were not for our respect for journalism, we would have taken legal action against him already,” Zaitawa said.

Zaitawa further alleged that Ja’afar had previously lied about food distribution issues and the tax bill, which were later approved by the Kano governor. He questioned why Ja’afar did not speak out about the shortcomings of the Kano State government and the dishonesty of its officials.

The APC Arewa Youths Merger Group warned Ja’afar that the youth of the APC in the North would not tolerate his defamation of their leaders. They demanded that Ja’afar retract his statement and apologize to Barau I Jibrin within 24 hours or face legal action in court.



Kano High Court Issues Interim Order Restricting Police from Inviting or Arresting Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman

Kano High Court presided by Justice Sunusi Ado Ma'aji has granted an interim order restraining the Inspector General of Police and Police Authority from inviting, arrest or harras the Chairman of the Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Plaintiffs in the suit are the Kano State Attorney General, Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission and Muhuyi Magaji Rimingado.

Also, the defendants are the Nigerian Police Force, Inspector General of Police, AIG Zone One, Kano Commissioner of Police, ASP Ahmed Bello and Bala Muhammad Inuwa.



"I Feed Now As Ex-President From Renting Out One Of My Houses In Kaduna" – Buhari

Former President Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday, disclosed that he now lived on money he earned from renting out one of his two houses in Kaduna State, insisting he did not corruptly enrich himself as president.

Buhari said Nigeria was a difficult country to govern because of its complexities, and tasked the leaders on transparency and accountability.

He made the revelations while addressing the All Progressives Congress (APC) caucus in Katsina State, at Government House, Katsina, ahead of the state's local council election, scheduled for February 15.

The former president said most Nigerians were unaware of the administrative challenges involved in governing the country, but simply blamed their leaders during and after their tenures.

Buhari said, in Hausa, "Nigeria is a difficult country to govern, but most Nigerians are unaware. Until you find yourself in the administrative position of the country, if not, you will not understand the complexities.

"I look much better and healthier now than when I was the president of the country. Anybody that sees me now acknowledges that I look better than before."

He explained that did not corruptly enrich himself with the country's wealth during his eight years as president.

Buhari, who was visibly excited, added that nobody could blackmail him for illicit enrichment while in office.

He disclosed that he had only three houses in his native Daura, Katsina State, and Kaduna State.

He said, "After my eight years as a civil president, I have only three houses; one in Daura and two in Kaduna. I have given one out for renting where I get money for feeding."

Buhari urged Nigerian leaders to adopt transparency and accountability as guiding principles while in office.

In his remarks, Governor Dikko Radda of Katsina State urged APC stakeholders to mobilise electoral support across the state in preparation for the forthcoming local government elections.

Radda said APC chieftains should canvass for support in their respective local government areas. He stressed the importance of achieving total victory through popular votes while ensuring transparent electoral processes.

The governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Mohammed, said, "We are committed to conducting elections that reflect the true will of the people."

did you know that the ancient walls of Kano, built to protect the city, date back to the 10th century. Some parts of the walls still stand today, reminding us of Kano's historic past.

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