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# NIGERIAN TRACKER NEWS

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## ***Agitation For the Creation Of 31 More States: Politics Or Development?***

Last week the Nigerian House of Representatives during its plenary session told the nation that it received the proposal for the creation of more states numbering thirty-one. Currently, Nigeria has a 36-state structure and if the proposed thirty-one are added the states will be 67. Nigeria started with three regions and has been restructured by the military and for over 64 years the agitation did not die down.

On February 5th, 2025 the House of Representatives Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution announced on Thursday, that it has received 31 proposals for the creation of new states across the six geopolitical zones.

Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu read a letter from the committee during plenary, outlining the conditions that must be met before any state creation requests can be approved.

According to the letter, the proposals include five from the North Central, four from the North East, five from the North West, five from the South East, four from the South-South, and seven from the South West.

Among the states being considered are Okun, Okura, and Confluence (Kogi); Benue Ala and Apa (Benue); FCT State; Amana (Adamawa); Katagum (Bauchi); Savannah (Borno); and Muri (Taraba).

The states also include New Kaduna state and Gujarat states from Kaduna state; Tiga and Ari from Kano, and Kainji from Kebbi state; Etiti and Orashi as the 6th state in the South East, Adada from Enugu, Orlu, and Aba from the South East.

They also include Ogoja from Cross River, Warri from Delta, Ori and Obolo from Rivers; Torumbe from Ondo, Ibadan from Oyo, Lagoon from Lagos, and Ogun, Ijebu from Ogun, Oke Ogun/Ijesha from Oyo/Ogun/Osun states.

According to the letter, Section 8 of the 1999 Constitution as amended outlines specific requirements that must be fulfilled to initiate the process of state creation.

The letter said “a request to the National Assembly for the purpose of creating a new state shall only be passed if a request supported by at least the third majority of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the House of Assembly in respect of the area, and the Local Government Council in respect of the area, is received by the National Assembly.

But in an exclusive interview with a renowned Nigerian Political Scientist at the Kano state college of Arts and Science, Dr. Kabiru Saidu Sufi said unless there is consensus the state creation exercise will be in futility.

“I think like you rightly said, state creation have become a recurring issue in Nigerian politics overtime there have been this agitation, the more states you create the more agitation, you are likely going to have from all quarters and this one is not a new one, and there have been the debate of whether the creation of states will be beneficial or not.”

“The proponents in practice and in theory believe if you create more states, you are creating more avenues to which you will bring government closer to the people, because as it is, the size of some of the states is so large and they believe that if some of these states are broken down they will bring government closer to the people.”

“There is also the issue of administrative efficiency, and you know some people that believe if you create more states these states are more viable, and you will have more administrative efficiency.”

“Thirdly there are those who believe these states are serving as a future training ground for national leaders, so they will go to the federal level, and they say most of them start from the states, so some people believe that the more states you have the more training ground you are creating, for future leaders”

He however explained reasons why some people oppose the creation of additional states

“on the other hand there are those people who believe the creator of states is detrimental to political development, for example they believe you are further disuniting people than uniting them, the more states you have the more divided Nigerians are, so there are those who believe we should have few states and they say let's even go back to the regions, so that Nigerians will have more sense of unity.”

“Some see the states as an avenue where money is being spent, rather than saving which they say we are creating avenues for spending more money than saving”

“There are those that see the more you create the states the more you are bringing further agitations, and there is even this debate whether it's possible to even create states under civilian dispensation especially taking into consideration the fact that in the past all states were created during the military regime”

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“there is this issue of constitutional procedure of creating more states, which is not an easy exercise in which Section 19 has laid down procedures. You can amend the constitution for which you can create states and amend borders and this is a very conversant process ranging from getting the two third majority in the two federal chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives and then the two third majority of the 36 states houses of assembly”

“In some cases there are serious issues, and there is also involvement of getting the four fifth of the states Houses of Assembly and no matter one will look at it and see that it is not an easy exercise and is something that requires a very rigorous procedure and that may not necessarily be easy to satisfy and in that regard one can say is an exercise in futility.”

“in addition no matter the agitation at the end of the day it does not become a reality and the only way we can make it a reality is to have a lead consensus and when the leadership of the country agree to the desirability of the creation of the states then probably they will find a way of making it easier and when there is no lead consensus you find it to be an exercise in futility.”



## **Governor Yusuf Appoints Umar Farouk Ibrahim as Kano New SSG**

Kano State Governor, Abba Kabir Yusuf, has appointed Umar Farouk Ibrahim as the new Secretary to the State Government (SSG).

The appointment was announced in a statement issued by the governor’s spokesperson, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, on Saturday.

Ibrahim’s appointment takes effect from Monday, February 10, 2025.

According to the statement, Ibrahim was selected based on his extensive experience and expertise, which are expected to play a vital role in advancing the administration’s development agenda and keeping the state on track with its goals.

Umar Farouk Ibrahim brings over three decades of distinguished public service to his new role.

His career in the civil service, spanning from 1987 to 2023, has been marked by key leadership positions that significantly contributed to the governance and administrative structure of Kano State.

From March 2001 to May 2015, Ibrahim served as the Permanent Secretary for Research, Evaluation, and Political Affairs in the Office of the Secretary to the State Government

In this capacity, he was instrumental in analyzing key policy options, advising the government on viable alternatives, and overseeing the implementation of these policies across various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

Following this, from June 2015 to March 2016, Ibrahim held the position of Permanent Secretary for the Administration and General Services Directorate.

His tenure in this role showcased his strong leadership and administrative skills. Notably, he served as acting Secretary to the State Government during annual leaves in 2013 and 2014, underscoring the trust and confidence placed in him by the state leadership.

In addition to his formal roles, Ibrahim served as Secretary for several high-profile committees, including the Coordinating Committee on Independent Power (2012-2015), the Committee on the Identification and Sale of Government Property (GP Houses) in 2012, and the State Payroll Standing Committee (2000-2004).

His early career also saw him play pivotal roles in community and educational reforms, such as his position as Secretary of the Inter-Community/Religious Consultative Forum in 1998 and the Committee on the Review of the Operations of the Agency for Mass Education in 1994.

Mr. Ibrahim obtained a B.Sc. in Political Science from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University in 1985, followed by several professional certificates that further enriched his qualifications.

As a seasoned administrator and retired Permanent Secretary, Umar Farouk Ibrahim is expected to bring a wealth of knowledge, strategic insight, and a commitment to excellence in his new role as SSG.





## ***Ace Journalist, Sanda Adamu Tsafe Passes On***

An ace journalist and former Federal Commissioner of the defunct National Electoral Commission Abuja, Alhaji Sanda Adamu Tsafe, has passed away.

In a Facebook post by one of his children, Mahmud Sanda Adamu, it was announced that his father died at Usmanu Danfodiyo Teaching Hospital Sokoto.

Alhaji Sanda Adamu worked with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Kaduna in the 1970s, during which late Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gumi cited him in his famous book "Where I Stand" as one of the journalists who contributed to the airing of the late Sheikh's preaching on Sashin Hausa Radio Nigeria Kaduna.

Late Sanda Adamu Tsafe was the manager of Rima Radio Sokoto during the controversy that trailed the appointment of the late Ibrahim Dasuki as the 18th Sultan of Sokoto during the administration of General Ibrahim Babangida.

The deceased is survived by wives, children, and many grandchildren.

His funeral prayers will take place by 1:00PM at Masjidul Darul Da'awah, Kaduna Road, Guiwa Low Cost, Sokoto.

Late Alhaji Sanda Adamu Tsafe also left behind one of his brothers, Alhaji Ali Adamu Tsafe, a former Commissioner of Water Resources and Information during the administration of Alhaji Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi in Zamfara state.

His elder brother, late Alhaji Muhammad Adamu, died in the year 2015 in Kano.

One of his relations is Professor Yusuf Adamu of the department of Geography Bayero University Kano.



## ***Military Needs 500,000 Personnel To Defeat Insurgency-Retired General***

A former Provost Marshall of the Nigerian Army, Maj-Gen Pat Akem-Vingir (rtd), says the military needs at least 500,000 personnel to eliminate terror groups like Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP).

"Our army is small. We need to have an army of at least 500,000 personnel," the retired general said on the Friday edition of Inside Sources with Laolu Akande, a socio-political programme aired on Channels Television

The Nigerian military has about 230,000 personnel, according to the ranking platform, Global Fire Power. Maj-Gen Akem-Vingir said much of the successes of the military in the theatre of war in Nigeria's North-East zone have been lost because of the lack of manpower to hold the ground after clearance operations.

He said until there is sufficient manpower to secure territories after terrorist dislodgement, the blood-thirsty marauders would continue to regain those places.

He said, "When you are fighting insurgency, you must capture ground and hold it. It takes troops to do that. When you capture ground, then you build and hold so that people can resume their lives and there will be security but if you are clearing areas and you are not holding, then they (terrorists) will come back."

The retired general also said the government should not recognise the newly formed terror group Lakurawa wreaking havoc in the North-West geopolitical zone of the country. Maj-Gen Akem-Vingir described the Lakurawa group as "one small tiny group" seeking attention.



## ***Hakimi: Labour Party Will Capture Northern Nigeria Under Abure's Leadership***

The Director of Peter Obi Coalition 2023 (CPO), Sadisu Isyaku Hakimi, has expressed strong confidence in the leadership of Julius Abure, the National Chairman of the Labour Party (LP)

In an interview with newsmen in Kano, Hakimi stated that if Abure's footsteps are followed, the Labour Party has the potential to capture Northern Nigeria and ultimately the entire nation.

Praising Abure's tenure as the best, Hakimi emphasized that the National Chairman's focus on the interests of Northern Nigeria would lead to significant gains for the party. "Julius Abure's tenure is the best. He has to look at the interests of Northern Nigeria, and the party will make it," Hakimi remarked.

Hakimi further criticized the All Progressives Congress (APC), stating that the party is failing to protect the interests of the masses. "APC is not protecting the interest of the masses, and as such, the APC is going to lose the election," he asserted.

Hakimi's comments highlight the growing confidence within the Labour Party's leadership and supporters. He believes that under Abure's guidance, the party can address the needs and aspirations of the Northern Nigerian populace, leading to broader national support.

The interview has sparked discussions among political analysts and the public, with many watching closely to see how the Labour Party's strategies unfold in the upcoming elections.



## ***APC Youth Reject Ganduje's Daughter's Appointment, Demand Reversal***

A fresh controversy has erupted within the All Progressives Congress (APC) as youths within the party strongly reject the proposed appointment of Asiya Ganduje, daughter of APC National Chairman Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, as Director of Community and Rural Development in the newly established Northwest Development Commission (NWDC).

A leaked letter circulating in the media reveals that the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, and Deputy Senate President, Jibrin Barau, recommended Fatima Ganduje and 10 others for key director positions in the commission. This revelation has ignited backlash from APC youths, who are now calling on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to reject the nomination.

Leading the opposition is renowned APC youth activist Sadiq Ali Sango, who has publicly condemned the appointment, describing it as an attempt by Ganduje to turn the APC into a family business.

According to Sadiq Sango Many loyal APC members worked tirelessly for the party's success, yet Ganduje is only concerned about his family.

"He already holds two appointments, his son is a director in a federal agency, and now he wants to impose his daughter in the Northwest Development Commission. This is unfair, undemocratic, and must be stopped."

He further stressed that the APC in Kano has a pool of qualified and competent individuals who deserve such appointments.

The youth activist urged President Tinubu to dismiss the proposal and appoint a more deserving APC member from Kano State.



## ***Bayero University Promotes Seven Communication Scholars to Professors***

Bayero University, Kano (BUK) has promoted seven distinguished communication scholars to the ranks of Professors and Associate Professors. The promotions were approved by the Governing Council of the university in recognition of their hard work and immense contributions to the field of Communication and Media Studies.

Among those promoted to the rank of Professor are Dr. Nura Ibrahim and Dr. Hadiza Ibrahim. Their dedication and scholarly excellence have earned them this prestigious title, acknowledging their impact on academic research and teaching in the field.

Additionally, the university has promoted five scholars to the rank of Associate Professor. These include Dr. Ruqayyah Aliyu Yusuf, affectionately referred to as “Academic Mummy” by her students and colleagues, Dr. Sule Yau Sule, Dr. Hassan Yau, and Dr. Ibrahim Siraj Adhama. Each of these individuals has demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing communication studies and mentoring the next generation of scholars.

The promotions reflect Bayero University’s commitment to fostering academic excellence and supporting the professional growth of its faculty members. The newly promoted professors and associate professors are expected to continue their valuable contributions to research, teaching, and community service, further enhancing the university’s reputation as a leading institution for higher education in Nigeria.

The university community has warmly congratulated the promoted scholars, celebrating their achievements and looking forward to their continued success in their respective academic pursuits.



## ***ICPC Arrests NSCDC Deputy Commandant and Former Navy Admiral Over Alleged N3 Billion Fraud***

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arrested Adam Imam Yusuf, a Deputy Commandant of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Kogi State, over the alleged diversion of more than N3 billion.

Yusuf, who was at large until now, was taken into custody from his residence in Gwagwalada, Abuja, and is set to face prosecution.

ICPC investigations revealed that former Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jibrin (rtd.), allegedly orchestrated the fraud through Yusuf and former Brigadier General Ishaya Bauka Gangum (rtd.).

The alleged scheme reportedly involved the diversion of public funds using 92 fictitious companies that were not registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

An investigation by the ICPC traced these funds to Lahab Integrated, Gate Coast Properties, and other affiliated companies, leading to the acquisition of over 18 properties, including filling stations.

Four of these properties have been forfeited to the government so far, while legal proceedings continue over the remaining assets.

The ICPC is also intensifying efforts to apprehend other suspects at large.





## ***Project Monitoring Tour: MPPPM&E Advances Projects Oversight***

As the state watchdog for public procurements and projects, Thursday, 6th February, 2025 the Ministry for Public Procurement Project Monitoring and Evaluation, Kano forged ahead with the project monitoring tour.

The Honorable Commissioner Comrade Nura Ma'aji Sumaila yesterday visited 5 local governments and inspected 12 number projects.

The tour started with Tofa local government, whereby the Honorable Commissioner inspected renovation of classroom blocks in Lambu Bakin Titi Primary School and construction of Kwankwasiyya Gida-Gida Blocks of 4 Classrooms at Yalwa Karama Primary School.

In Bagwai local government, the Honorable Commissioner inspected 5 kilometer road, construction of Standard Magistrate Court, classroom blocks in Bagwai Model primary school and Kwankwasiyya Gida-Gida Blocks at Umbawan Liman primary school.

Nura Ma'aji Sumaila in Shanono started with inspection of 5 kilometer road, then proceeded to Central Primary School, Shanono

In Gwarzo local government, the tour monitored Farm Mechanization Institute, Hawan Gamji to Kara Sabon Layi 13.2 kilometer road, Zango Primary School and Classroom block at Upper Basics Government Secondary School Shehu Abdulwahab.

Malam Muhammad said that the village before has no a single block, the children were taken lessons in an open place until the intervention of this administration. He then appealed to the Honorable Commissioner to extend their demands for accessible roads to His Excellency Engr Abba Kabir Yusuf



## ***Ahmad Gwale Emerges SWAN Kano Best Radio Sport Presenter Of 2024***

The youngest Ahmad Hamisu Gwale of Premier Radio Kano has emerged as the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Kano's Best Radio Sports Presenter for 2024.

Ahmad Gwale received the honorary award at the launch of the 2024 SWAN Kano calendar, held at the Kano State NUJ secretariat on Thursday, February 6, 2025.

The award was attended by Kano stakeholders, including Sharif Rabi Inuwa Ahlan, Kano FA Chairman Professor Abdurrashid Garba, Chancellor of the KHAIRUN University, Alhaji Isyaku Tofa, and former Kano information commissioner Baba Halilu Dantiye and others.

Gwale's outstanding contributions and dedication to media practice through storytelling as well as transformation of the print and broadcasting through a journalism system that has been unparalleled in the Nigerian media industry.

Hamisu Gwale was born in Kano, and began his journalism career at Freedom Radio in 2021 before joining Premier Radio in 2023 as a broadcast journalist.

Gwale's commitment to promoting local sports talent has earned himself to this prestigious award, solidifying his position as a leading sports broadcaster in Kano.

Ahmad Gwale, has achieved a remarkable milestone by becoming the youngest person to win the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Kano Best Sports Presenter of the Year award.



## ***Kano Rep. Sagir Koki Commissions School Renovations, Donates Educational Materials***

Engr. Sagir I. Koki, the member representing Kano Municipal Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, has commissioned the renovation of Laure Ibrahim Government Upper and Lower Basic School in Sabuwar Koki, Kano State.

Beyond the renovation, Engr. Koki demonstrated his dedication to students by donating school uniforms and educational materials to 602 pupils. He also extended his support to higher education, providing laptops to students at Nafisatu College of Nursing Sciences and Adamu Adamu Federal Medical Centre, Azare.

“Education is the foundation of a prosperous society,” Engr. Koki stated during the commissioning ceremony. “Our children deserve to learn in a conducive environment. This renovation and donation of materials are part of my promise to support education in Kano Municipal.”

He further emphasized his commitment by promising to donate laptops to one school in each ward within the Kano Municipal Local Government Federal Constituency.

In a further show of support for community safety, Engr. Koki also donated police uniform kits to 16 newly recruited police officers from the local government area.

The renovation project encompassed improvements to classrooms and an upgrade of the school’s infrastructure, all aimed at enhancing the learning experience for students.

Dr Yusuf Kofarmata Commissioner, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovations, lauded Engr. Koki’s efforts, describing the initiative as “a step in the right direction.” He called on other leaders and stakeholders to follow suit, emphasizing the importance of such impactful projects.



## ***Rimin Zakara Killing: Kano Gov. Directs Bayero University to Suspend Demolition Exercise***

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf has visited the Rimin Zakara community in Ungogo Local Government Area to express his condolences to the families affected by the recent demolition exercise that resulted in the tragic loss of three lives and left several others injured.

This was contained in a statement issued by the governor’s spokesperson, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, on Thursday.

During his visit, Governor Yusuf met with the bereaved graves family, offering heartfelt sympathies and announcing that the state government will sponsor the family of the three deceased victims.

He also directed the immediate settlement of medical bills for all injured individuals and provided food items to support the affected families.

In a compassionate gesture, the governor announced plans to construct a new Juma’at mosque in Rimin Zakara as sadaqatu jariya (a lasting charity) dedicated to the three departed souls.

Additionally, the governor unveiled a comprehensive development plan for the community, which includes:

- Connecting the community to the electricity grid.
- Constructing solar-powered boreholes to provide clean water.
- Establishing a primary health care centre to enhance medical services.
- Developing an access feeder road to improve transportation within Rimin Zakara.

Governor Yusuf issued a stern warning to security forces against the use of live ammunition on innocent citizens, emphasizing that such actions are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

To ensure accountability, the governor has established an investigative committee tasked with uncovering the causes and identifying those responsible for the tragedy.





## ***Gov Yusuf Inaugurates Sharia and Zakkat Commissions***

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf has inaugurated the Chairmen, Commissioners, and members of the Sharia and Zakkat & Hubusi Commissions.

This was contained in a statement issued by the governor's spokesperson, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, on Monday.

Speaking at the inauguration, Governor Yusuf emphasized Kano's influential status in the Islamic world, citing its large number of renowned scholars, Islamiyya schools, and Islamic study centers.

He noted that the appointees were selected based on merit, competence, and trustworthiness, expressing confidence that they would execute their duties with dedication, enthusiasm, and integrity.

The governor charged the Sharia Commission with the responsibility of fostering unity among Muslim faithful across different sects to enhance peace, stability, and socioeconomic development in the state.

Similarly, he tasked the Zakkat and Hubusi Commission with devising effective strategies to collect alms (Zakkat) from wealthy individuals to support the less privileged, thereby reducing poverty to the barest minimum.

***Did you know that the Aso Rock in Abuja, Nigeria's capital city, is a 400-meter-high monolithic rock formation that serves as a symbol of national unity?***



## ***Dangote Refinery Crashes Ex-Depot Price Of PMS To N890***

In a bold move to drive economic relief for Nigerians, Dangote Petroleum Refinery has reduced the ex-depot price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), commonly known as petrol, from N950 to N890, effective from Saturday.

This price adjustment is in response to favourable developments in the global energy sector and a significant decline in international crude oil prices. Dangote Refinery's decision reflects its commitment to aligning with market realities and ensuring that consumers benefit from changes in international crude oil prices.

A statement from Dangote Petroleum Refinery, issued by the Group Chief Branding and Communications Officer, Anthony Chiejina, explained that this latest move follows a similar decision made on 19th January, when a modest price increase was implemented due to rising crude oil costs. However, with recent global market trends indicating a decline, Dangote Refinery has once again adjusted its pricing structure, providing relief to Nigerians.

The statement also noted that the price reduction would significantly lower the cost of petrol across the country, generating a positive ripple effect throughout the broader economy.

"Dangote Petroleum Refinery firmly believes that this reduction from N950 to N890 will result in a meaningful decrease in the cost of petrol nationwide, thereby driving down the prices of goods and services, as well as the overall cost of living, with a positive ripple effect on various sectors of the economy," the statement said"

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