

NIGERIAN TRACKER NEWS

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Babangida Finally Admits MKO Abiola Won 1993 Presidential Election in Newly Released Autobiography

Former military Head of State, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB), has publicly admitted for the first time that the late Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale (MKO) Abiola won the June 12, 1993, presidential election.

The revelation was contained in Babangida's newly launched autobiography, *A Journey in Service*, unveiled in Abuja on Thursday, February 20.

According to the book reviewer, former Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Babangida acknowledged that Abiola, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) candidate, met all constitutional requirements to be declared Nigeria's president

"There was no doubt in my mind; MKO Abiola won the election. He satisfied all the requirements," Babangida stated.

The former military leader described the annulment of the election as the most difficult decision of his life

The June 12, 1993, election is one of the most disputed events in Nigeria's electoral history.

Widely considered the nation's most transparent and credible election, it was annulled by Babangida's administration, sparking widespread protests and political turmoil.

After proclaiming himself president, Abiola was detained by General Sani Abacha's military government and later died in custody in 1998 under unclear circumstances

The annulment of the election is widely believed to have stalled Nigeria's democratic progress, leading to years of military rule and civil unrest. The struggle for the actualization of the June 12 mandate became a symbol of democratic resistance, eventually influencing the country's transition to civilian rule in 1999.

In recognition of its significance, the Nigerian government later declared June 12 as Democracy Day, honoring the sacrifices made for democracy.

The aftermath of the annulment left a deep scar on the nation, as many Nigerians viewed the event as a betrayal of their hopes for a democratic future. The subsequent years saw increased political repression, with numerous pro-democracy activists, including prominent figures like Moshood Abiola, facing imprisonment, exile, or even death.

The struggle for the recognition of June 12 and the sacrifice of its heroes became a rallying point for Nigerians who were determined to see the nation fully embrace democratic ideals.

The eventual recognition of June 12 as Democracy Day not only honored the legacy of Abiola and others who fought for the country's democratic rights but also marked a significant turning point in Nigeria's post-military era, solidifying the values of justice, transparency, and the rule of law.

Despite the passage of time, the memory of the annulled election continues to influence Nigerian politics, reminding citizens of the high price paid for their right to vote and have their voices heard

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Contact:

+234 806 926 4025

Email:

editor@nigeriantracker.com

Website:

www.nigeriantracker.com

Abbas Yushau Yusuf

CE/Editor-in-Chief

Emmanuel Onoja

Editor South

Jabir Idris

Graphics Designer



Applauding Kano State Government's Foresight To Profile NGO's And Donor Organisations In Kano State

I commend the Kano State Government for inaugurating the High-Powered Committee on Profiling NGOs and Donor Organizations. This decisive move underscores a strong commitment to ensuring that NGOs and donor organizations align with the state's development priorities, values, and laws. The committee's focus on transparency and accountability is critical, especially given the recent concerns regarding some organizations with fraudulent and evil activities

The allegations involving USAID-funded NGOs promoting terrorism-related activities highlight the urgency of this initiative. Reports linking certain foreign-funded organizations to illegal activities, including financing terrorism, make the establishment of this committee essential to protect Kano State from potential abuses and destruction of the good moral values and religious practices, under the guise of rendering humanitarian services

This engagement will allow for the profiling of NGOs, knowing their funding sources, and ensure they do not serve as vehicles for promoting harmful ideologies or illegal operations, for those who are clean

A troubling example is the case of the NGO Women Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment and Equality (WISE), which, in July 2024, was accused of promoting values that contradict the state's moral and religious norms, particularly in relation to LGBTQ+ rights. The public outcry following these actions highlights the urgent need for stringent Profiling of the good and clean NGOs supporting the development of the State agenda, and to prevent the dirty NGOs from undermining social cohesion or violating the local values of the good people of Kano.

The committee's authority to shut down organizations engaged in illegal activities and investigate their funding sources is a critical safeguard.

Given Kano State's status as a rapidly growing and cosmopolitan hub in Nigeria, it is crucial to take swift and strategic action to strengthen the role of NGOs and donor agencies in supporting the state's development. The activities of these organizations must be effectively coordinated to ensure they align with the state's strategic development goals.

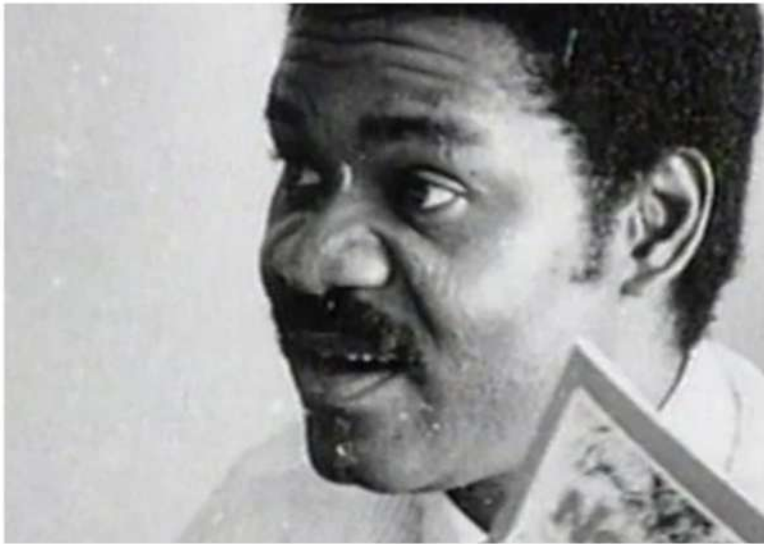
A similar approach has been implemented in other states across Nigeria, with Borno State leading the way. On December 11, 2019, the Executive Governor of Borno State signed a law establishing the Borno State Commission for Social Development, Humanitarian Affairs, and Relief (BACSDAHR). This agency is charged with creating policies, guidelines, and programs to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian and development partners, ensuring that their efforts are in line with the state's development agenda. Additionally, BACSDAHR is responsible for creating frameworks and strategies to oversee, coordinate, and monitor the activities of all humanitarian and development organizations operating within the state, including both international and national NGOs (INGOs, NNGOs) and civil society, community-based organizations (CSOs, CBOs). This model offers valuable insights for Kano State as it seeks to enhance the impact of its development partners.

As the committee, led by the Honorable Commissioner of Information and Internal Affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya, begins its work, I urge them to carry out their mandate with utmost diligence, safeguard the rights of the good NGOs to operate freely without any hindrance, as they have always remained partners in the development strides of the present Kano State Government.

Only organizations that genuinely serve the interests of the people of Kano and operate within the law should be allowed to function. This proactive approach will protect the state's security and values, ensuring that resources meant for development are not diverted to harmful causes. The people of Kano deserve a transparent and accountable system that promotes trust, peace, and the preservation of the state's cultural and religious integrity.

In the long run, this initiative will not only eliminate illegality within the sector but also cultivate an environment where legitimate NGOs and CBOs can flourish, contributing to the continued development and well-being of Kano State.

I am confident that, with such a comprehensive and collaborative approach, the committee will succeed in shielding Kano from both external and internal forces seeking to undermine its security and values.



Babangida Denies Involvement in Dele Giwa's Death

Former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd.), has denied involvement in the death of veteran journalist and Editor-in-Chief of Newswatch, Dele Giwa.

Giwa, a vocal critic of Babangida's military government, was assassinated via a parcel bomb in his home in Ikeja, Lagos State on October 19, 1986.

Two days before the incident, a senior official of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, had accused Giwa of illegally importing and stockpiling arms and ammunition to stage a socialist revolution in Nigeria. Alarmed at the charge, Giwa quickly briefed his lawyer, Gani Fawehinmi

The following day, a security chief, Colonel Halilu Akilu, called to reassure Giwa that the accusation had resulted from a misunderstanding and that the matter had been cleared, and that Giwa should think nothing of it.

According to Ray Ekpu, Giwa's colleague at Newswatch, a few hours later, a government emissary arrived at Giwa's Ikeja residence. His son, Billy, collected the parcel and handed it to his father, who was seated at the dining table in the company of Kayode Soyinka, the London correspondent of Newswatch, who was visiting from the UK. The envelope bore the seal of the Presidency and was marked "To be opened by addressee only."

However, dismissing the longtime allegation that he was involved in Giwa's death, Babangida, in his autobiography, "A Journey in Service," presented in Abuja on Thursday, noted that he expected that one day, the truth would be uncovered.

He said, "The hysteria of the media did not help the investigation of the Giwa murder. As is typical of the Nigerian media, the direction was marked by an adversarial attitude towards the government, which had remained the hallmark of the Nigerian media from its colonial heyday.

It was an attitude of 'we versus the government' that has remained today. It is a situation in which the government is adjudged guilty even before the evidence in a case is adduced.

"When the Obasanjo civilian administration reopened the Giwa case at the Oputa Panel on Human and Civil Rights, I expected that the police and lawyers would come forward with new evidence as to their findings on the Giwa murder over the years.

Nothing of such happened. The Giwa, like all mysterious murders, has remained unsolved after so many years. I keep hoping it will be uncovered in our lifetime or after us. More often than not, mysterious crimes are solved long after their commission."

The public presentation of the autobiography also witnessed the launch of Babangida's presidential library and was attended by President Bola Tinubu, who led former presidents, former military leaders, and captains of industries including Alhaji Aliko Dangote.

Also in attendance were former Vice Presidents Atiku Abubakar, Namadi Sambo and Yemi Osinbajo, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 poll and former governor of Anambra State, Mr Peter Obi and the Presidential candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, and former governor of Kano State, Rabiul Kwankwaso.





Obasanjo Wept Over the Passing of his Second ADC Maj.-Gen. Chris Jemitola-Oyinlola

Former Governor of Osun State, Olagunsoye Oyinlola has disclosed that former President Olusegun Obasanjo wept upon learning about the death of his former Aide-de-Camp, Maj.-Gen. Chris Jemitola (Rtd).

Oyinlola disclosed this at a night of tribute held for the departed general on Wednesday

Jemitola, a former Chief of Policy and Plans of the Army, died while playing golf at the IBB Golf Club in Asokoro, Abuja on February 6.

Oyinlola said he regretted being the one that broke the news to Obasanjo. "Baba cried when I broke the news to him.

was later told that he remained in a very bad mood for the rest of the day," he said.

Obasanjo also showered encomiums on the late general, whom he described as a loyal officer.

The former president, who was represented by former Governor of Cross River, Donald Duke, noted that Jemitola would be sorely missed.

Nigerian Tracker News reports that Major General Chris Jemitola was President Olusegun Obasanjo's second ADC when he came back as Civilian President from 1999 to 2007 .



Security: PI-SF Appoints Sharada As Director, African Parliamentarians Engagement

A former member of the House of Representatives, Hon. Sha'aban Sharada has been appointed by the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum (PI-SF) as its Director for African Parliamentarians Engagement and a member of its Steering Committee.

PI-SF is a global platform chaired by United States' Congressman, Robert Pittenger. It brings together lawmakers, security experts, and policymakers to address critical security and intelligence issues. Details of the appointment were disclosed in a statement signed by the Forum's Chairman, Congressman Robert Pittenger, on February 4, 2025. The statement reads:

"The Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum (PI-SF), chaired by Congressman Robert Pittenger, is pleased to announce the appointment of Hon. Sha'aban Ibrahim Sharada, a renowned Nigerian lawmaker, who was a former President General of the Network of African Parliamentarians Members for Defense and Security Committees and currently Honorary President of the Network, as Director for African Parliamentarians Engagement and Member of the Steering Committee of the Washington-based Forum.

"Hon. Sharada's extensive experience in promoting global security, governance, and international cooperation makes him an ideal candidate for this role."

Chairman of the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum, Congressman Robert Pittenger said, "Your active participation and valuable insights have greatly contributed to the success of our initiatives. .



Court To Rule On Alleged Forceful Takeover of Kuyan Ta Inna Lands By FG On April 7, Owner Urges Kano Govt, Emirate Council To Intervene

Kano State High Court No. 4, presided over by Justice Usman Malam Naabba, has set April 7, 2025, for a ruling on a motion brought before it by owners of Kuyan Ta Inna lands in Kumbotso Local Government Area in Kano State.

Lawyer to the applicants, Barrister Umar Usman Dan Baito, stated this while addressing newsmen at the court's premises.

Barrister Dan Baito said the applicants have sued the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, the Ministry of Transport, and the Nigerian Army for the alleged forceful takeover of their landed property without following due process to construct a railway.

He said the applicants are 76 in number. He said the Defendants want to take over the lands without following due process because there are sections that give freehand to every Nigerian to own movable and immovable property, and the law states no one can forcefully take over without due process.

Among which is to sit down with the owner or pay him adequate compensation. He said counsel to the Nigerian Army has appeared because the applicants alleged that the Nigerian Army is being used to coerce the applicants to surrender their properties.

He said before the court gave an interim order regarding the issue and now has set a date for ruling. Dan Baito said he is expecting the court to rule justly. He said one cannot forcefully take over one's land without recourse to justice, and they are expecting justice from the court.

On his part, the lawyer representing the Nigerian Army, Godwin Akwopfueze, who is the sixth respondent, said they looked for a favorable ruling, noting that they are not involved in the matter, saying the applicants have never been invited to the barracks.

On his part, the chairman of the association of landowners, Isa Jibrin Isa Kaci Kasa, said there is no justice in inviting applicants to a barrack through means of intimidation whereby they pay a meager amount of 600 thousand Naira for a landed property that costs over 3 million.



Kyari Bags NMGS Distinguished Ambassador Award

The Nigerian Mining & Geosciences Society (NMGS) has conferred its Distinguished Ambassador Award on the GCEO, NNPC Ltd., Mr. Mele Kyari.

Kyari, a Fellow of the Society, received the award during a Dinner/Awards Night held by the Society to mark the end of its 60th Conference and Exhibition in Abuja on Wednesday.

The two-day Conference, which has as its theme "Transformation of the Mineral, Energy, Water, and Construction Sectors through Innovation," focused on conversations around mining industry reforms, policy enhancements, and broader public appreciation of geosciences' role in national development.



Rahama Radio Loses Pioneer Judicial Correspondent

Rahama Radio and Television has lost one of its pioneer staff, Abubakar Dahiru Yakasai, after a brief illness.

Confirming the death, Rabiou Sadauki Kura, a staff member of Rahama Radio and a close associate of the deceased, said the late Abubakar Dahiru died on Thursday evening after a brief illness. "He started the illness last week, but he didn't succumb," he said.

Abubakar Dahiru Yakasai was a pioneer crime and judicial reporter of Rahama Radio



Federal Government Bans Large Fuel Tankers to Curb Rising Accidents from March 2025

The federal government has announced that fuel tankers with a capacity of 60,000 litres and above will no longer be allowed to operate on Nigerian roads from March 1, 2025, to curb rising accidents involving petroleum trucks. By the fourth quarter of 2025, trucks exceeding 45,000 litres will also be restricted from loading fuel.

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) said the decision followed consultations with key stakeholders, including security agencies, road safety authorities, and petroleum marketers.

Ogbugo Ukoha, NMDPRA's Executive Director of Distribution Systems, Storage, and Retailing Infrastructure, said the rising number of tanker-related accidents made urgent action necessary.

The National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), however, warned that the move could lead to losses of about N300 billion for tanker owners, as nearly 2,000 trucks worth N150 million each would be affected.

NARTO President Yusuf Othman argued that poor road conditions, driver errors, and vehicle maintenance were bigger contributors to accidents than tanker size. He urged the government to consider a buy-back policy to assist owners in transitioning to lower-capacity trucks.

Since 2009, Nigeria has recorded 172 oil tanker crashes, resulting in nearly 1,900 deaths. A 2024 explosion in Jigawa State that killed 181 people further highlighted the dangers.



KEDCO Pays Condolence Visit To The Family Of Late Haruna Zago

Management of Kano Electricity Distribution Company (KEDCO), has paid a condolence visit to the family of the late Managing Director of Kano State Refuse Management and Sanitation Board (REMASAB), Alh. Ahmadu Haruna Danzago.

Leading the company's delegation earlier today, the Managing Director/CEO, Abubakar Yusuf, on behalf of the Board and Management expressed heartfelt sympathies to the family of the deceased, saying his death is a great loss to humanity.

During the visit, Yusuf offered prayers for the repose of the deceased's soul. He stated, "we share in your grief and pray that the Almighty Allah grants you the strength to bear this irreparable loss. The late Haruna Danzago was a dedicated public servant whose contributions to the socio-economic development of Kano State will remain indelible.

The MD/CEO recounted Haruna Danzago's numerous contributions to Kano State, particularly in promoting political stability, enhancing environmental sanitation and promoting public health through REMASAB's initiatives. He highlighted Danzago's legacy of service, noting that his efforts had positively impacted the lives of many residents of Kano and beyond.

Yusuf said the visit is part of KEDCO's commitment to maintaining strong community relations and solidarity with stakeholders and their families during moments of need.



Fintiri Sacks Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar As Wazirin Adamawa

The Governor of Adamawa State, Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has stripped himself and former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, former Governor Boni Haruna and others of traditional titles. The trio hold the titles of Sarki Yaki Mubi, Waziri Adamawa and Makama Mubi respectively. This is along with all other traditional title holders in the state whose traditional jurisdictions have been affected by the recent exercise of creation of emirates and chiefdoms.

Making this proclamation at the coronation ceremony of the newly appointed Chief of Madagali chiefdom, the governor proclaimed that as a policy, all District Heads are to transfer their loyalty, rights and privileges to their new emirates and chiefdoms. He pointedly added:

“Hence, traditional titles acquired from the old emirates and chiefdoms are hereby dropped. The constituted traditional councils of the new emirates and chiefdoms, are therefore directed to recommend new titles for approval in line with the statutory dictates of the tradition.”

Incidentally, all the new emirates and chiefdoms were carved out of the emirates of Adamawa and Mubi from which they all hold their traditional titles.

Fintiri, who hails from Madagali, holds the traditional title of Sarki Yaki Mubi; Atiku, who hails from Jada, holds the title of Waziri Adamawa; and Haruna, who hails from Michika, holds the title of Makaman Mubi. By implication, therefore, Fintiri himself, Atiku, Haruna and all others whose traditional jurisdictions are affected have lost their titles.

As directed by the governor, the Lamido of the present Adamawa emirate is expected, if he is so desirous, to forward Atiku's name along with others for reappointment to the governor for approval.



Reduce Prices Of Foodstuff', Nigerian Govt Issues Warning To Traders, Shop Owners

The Federal Government of Nigeria has called on traders across the country to reduce the prices of foodstuff in the market.

The call by the Federal government comes shortly after it was announced that the inflation rate of the nation had dropped to 24.48 percent.

Speaking during the 2025 Wheat Farmers Green Field Day at Dabi village in Ringim Local Government Area of Jigawa State, Abubakar Kyari, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources alleged that most traders were only exploiting Nigerians.

Condemning the nonchalant attitude showcased by some traders and farmers alike, the minister said the drop in inflation has not reflected in the prices of foodstuff in the market.

He also stated that such act from traders is unpatriotic and should not be acceptable any where.

Citing some instances, Kyari said that while the prices of commodities like sugar, rice, flour and pasta has reduced retailers, bakers and even some shop owners still peg their prices on the high side. He said these group of people are doing a disservice to Nigerians and are hereby warned to desist from such action.

The minister said, “In previous months, stakeholders in the retail value chain raised concerns about the rising cost of food items. Now that the prices have dropped, such as flour, which fell from N81,000 per bag to below N60,000, and spaghetti, which has fallen from N20,000 to N15,000. “It is only fair and just to let consumers benefit from food price reduction,” he added.



Forbes: Aliko Dangote's wealth surges by almost 100% to \$23.9bn, now 86th richest in the world

Billionaire Aliko Dangote has seen his wealth nearly double to \$23.9 billion, according to Forbes, which ranks the Nigerian entrepreneur as the wealthiest person in Africa and 86th in the world. It would be recalled that Forbes ranked Aliko Dangote as the 144th richest person in the world in 2024 with \$13.4 billion.

Forbes estimates Dangote's net worth at \$23.9 billion, primarily due to his 92.3 percent stake in Dangote Petroleum Refinery & Petrochemicals. At 67 years old, Dangote is once again one of the top 100 richest individuals worldwide, a position he has not held since 2018, according to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List.

This places him significantly ahead of South African Johann Rupert, who is ranked 161st in the world with an estimated wealth of \$14.4 billion and very far above Mike Adenuga, who is the second richest in Nigeria and 481, in the world, with a net worth of \$6.8 billion.

Dangote disrupted the government's oil monopoly by constructing the largest petroleum refinery in Africa. After 11 years, a \$23 billion investment, and numerous challenges, the Dangote Refinery began operations last year. Located on a vast 6,200-acre site in the Lekki Free Zone, the refinery, at full capacity, will process a remarkable 650,000 barrels per day (b/d), making it the seventh-largest refinery in the world and the largest in Africa. Additionally, the refinery's adjacent petrochemical complex has an annual production capacity of 3 million metric tons of urea, making it Africa's largest fertiliser producer.



Kano State's N33 Billion Investment Drive: Unveiling a New Era of Development and Infrastructure

Kano State Executive Council has approved the sum of N33,455,431,626.56 for the execution of various development projects across the state.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the meeting, the Commissioner of Information and Internal Affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya, stated that the Council approved the settlement of nine-month allowances for 2,369 screened street sweepers under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change at N426,420,000.00. He added that the Council also approved N109,070,000.00 for the procurement and distribution of UTME/JAMB forms, including the screening, registration, and training of prospective candidates under the Ministry of Education. Similarly, he noted that N284,122,002.61 was approved for the construction of a Model Primary Health Centre at Rimin Zakara in Ungoggo Local Government Area under the Ministry of Health.

The Commissioner further revealed that the Council granted approval for the general repairs and renovation of physical structures at Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS) Shekara at N434,339,301.25, as well as the renovation of First Lady's College, Magwan, at N893,109,270.55. He explained that the Council also reviewed the contract rates for the construction of 8 units of 2-bedroom semi-detached houses, a gatehouse, and the renovation of the wall fence at Government House, Kano, with an approved sum of N90,725,980.96. Additionally, he announced that N6,600,000,000.00 had been allocated for the implementation of 2025 State Constituency Projects, while N256,654,768.37 was approved for the ongoing renovation of the Deputy Governor's Office at Government House, Kano.

CONTACT US

editor@nigeriantracker.com

&

08069264025



Nigerian Tracker News

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www.nigeriantracker.com

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