

NIGERIAN TRACKER NEWS

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Police, Kano State Government Bicker Over Annual Maulud Celebration



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Presidency Denies Forcing Eminent Nigerians to Testify in Paris Arbitration



Police, Kano State Government Bicker Over Annual Maulud Celebration

As the political crisis between the ruling All Progressives Congress at the federal level and the Kano State Government Under the Nigerian Peoples Party continues to rage, tensions have arisen between the Kano State Government and the Nigeria Police Force, which is controlled by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

On January 24, the eve of the annual Tijjaniyya Annual Maulud, the Command's Public Relations Officer, SP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, issued a press release stating that there is an impending security threat to public gatherings in Kano.

The Kano State Police Command in a statement raised an alert about plans by terrorists to attack strategic public facilities in the state. According to SP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, intelligence reports indicate that these attacks may target public gatherings in key locations urging residents to exercise caution, avoid crowded areas, and report any suspicious activities to the authorities as a preventive measure.

The statement further reads that in response to the threat, the police, in collaboration with other security agencies, have enhanced security arrangements. Specialized units, including the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear teams, have been deployed to strategic locations and are on high alert. Residents can report suspicious persons or items through the dedicated lines: 08169884988 and 07067157218.

The statement also reads that the Police Command reassures the public of its commitment to safeguarding lives and properties while maintaining law and order, encouraging residents to remain vigilant and report emergencies or unusual activities via the emergency numbers: 08032419754, 08123821575, or 09029292926. The police also expressed gratitude for the public's cooperation in ensuring a peaceful Kano State.

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However, in another twist of events before midnight, the State's Commissioner of Information, Comrade Ibrahim Waiya, gathered journalists and addressed a press conference, falsifying the claim made by the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, of the impending security threat the police claimed to have.

He expressed the Kano State Government concern over the blockage of the venue designated for the National Tijjaniyya Maulud by security agencies, deeming the action unnecessary and unjustified. "The event, scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Kofar Mata Stadium in Kano, has been a peaceful annual gathering for 39 years."

He emphasized that there are no reported security threats in Kano State to justify this measure and urged the Federal Government to withdraw security operatives to allow the event to proceed unhindered, as it represents a lawful exercise of religious freedom and assembly.

Reaffirming Kano's legacy of peace and religious harmony, the commissioner assured guests from across Nigeria and beyond that the Maulud will hold as planned. He called on participants to remain peaceful, calm, and law-abiding throughout the gathering, stressing the importance of respecting citizens' rights to religious practice. He also reiterated the state government's commitment to promoting unity and spiritual growth while urging authorities to respect the internal affairs of Kano State and uphold the constitutional rights of its people.

On Saturday, January 25, 2025, the Tijjaniyya followers heeded the calls of the Kano State Government and participated fully in the Maulud celebration. The Sani Abacha Stadium, located at Kofar Mata, was filled to the brim, with Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and Emir Muhammad Sunusi II in attendance.

The police command later withdrew its statement and even urged the public to come out en masse and attend the Tijjaniyya Maulud celebrations in Kano.

With the swearing-in of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, who is the only state governor being controlled by the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), and with the deposition of the 15th Emir of Kano, Aminu Ado Bayero, by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, the political atmosphere is charged, where some public gatherings are either banned or prevented from happening.

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Presidency Denies Forcing Eminent Nigerians to Testify in Paris Arbitration

The Presidency has refuted claims circulating on social media that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu forced eminent Nigerians to testify in an arbitration proceeding in Paris. The press release, issued by Bayo Onanuga, Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, emphasized that the proceeding is confidential and should not have been reported in the media.

"The attention of the Presidency has been drawn to some fake news on social media about an arbitration proceeding in Paris to which the Nigerian Government is a party," the statement read. It clarified that the private proceeding remains confidential until the international arbitrators reach a decision.

The Presidency categorically denied allegations that President Tinubu coerced anyone to testify for or against Nigeria. "We wish to state categorically that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has not forced anyone to testify for or to refrain from testifying against Nigeria," Onanuga stated.

The press release highlighted that all the eminent Nigerians involved in Nigeria's defense are participating willingly and out of patriotism. "All the eminent Nigerians involved in Nigeria's defense are doing so willingly and out of sheer patriotism and conviction," the statement emphasized.

President Tinubu and the entire country expressed their gratitude to these individuals for their voluntary support. "President Tinubu and the entire country are grateful to them," Onanuga concluded.

The press release, dated January 18, 2025, aims to dispel misinformation and reassure the public of the integrity and voluntary nature of the participation of eminent Nigerians in the arbitration proceedings.



Hafizu Kawu, Council of Ulama's Effort in Taming Social Media Misuse By Politicians : An Appraisal

Former member House of Representatives, from Tarauni Federal Constituency, Hafizu Kawu under the auspices of Hafizu Kawu Media Team, in collaboration with the Council of Ulama of Nigeria, Kano State Chapter, are all out to cleanse misuse of social media platform by politicians and their proteges.

The first effort of its kind by an individual politician. It comes a long way, as another strengthening process, after the powerful and straightforward call made by the All Progressives Congress (APC) Deputy Governorship Candidate, Murtala Sule Garo, for past governors in the state to put heads together for the development of the state.

Kawu and the Council gathered social media people from APC, New Nigerian People's Party (NNPP), People's Democratic Party (PDP), among other parties, in a Two-Day Seminar on Social Media Summit and Sensitization, held at Islamic Forum of Nigeria National Headquarters, in Kano, to purposely aimed at reforming and promoting decency in modern political practices, particularly on social media platforms.

A very interesting outing which says a lot in Hafizu Kawu's clear intention and commitment towards promoting political cohesion and understanding among political parties in the state. Particularly within the ranks of their social media users. Who proved, many times, to be in disarray.

A Dual-Professor, Abdallah Uba Adamu, was the Guest Speaker at the all-important event. At the presence of a renowned scholar Shaykh Ibrahim Khalil, Chairman of the Council of Ulama, Kano Branch.

Read more: <https://nigeriantracker.com/2025/01/19/hafizu-kawu-council-of-ulamas-effort-in-taming-social-media-misuse-by-politicians-an-appraisal/>



NSE Criticizes Unqualified Appointments to RBDAs

Allegations have emerged in Kano's political circles accusing Deputy Senate President, Senator Barau Jibrin, of halting the appointment of Kano indigenes to positions within the Hadeja Jama'are River Basin Authority.

However, investigations reveal that these claims are unfounded and unrelated to Senator Barau's actions.

The Federal Government had announced the reconstitution of the executive management of the 12 RBDAs on December 18, 2024. The appointees from Kano are Engr. Rabiu Suleiman Bichi (Managing Director), Baffa Dandatti Abdulkadir (Executive Director, Engineering), and Hon. Musa Iliyasu Kwankwaso (Executive Director, Finance).

On December 23, 2024, the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) released a statement in Abuja raising concerns over the appointment of unqualified individuals to critical engineering roles within the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) under the Federal Ministry of Water Resources.

Signed by NSE President Margaret Oguntala, the statement noted that many appointees to key positions, such as Executive Director of Engineering and Executive Director of Planning and Design, lacked the professional qualifications and expertise required for these roles.

The NSE's review of the appointments revealed that only four of the 12 executive director positions were filled by certified engineers.

Read more:

<https://nigeriantracker.com/2025/01/20/nse-criticizes-unqualified-appointments-to-rbdas/>

Dangote Refinery Adjusts Petrol Prices, Absorbs 50% of Global Oil Price Increase

Dangote Petroleum Refinery said the recent adjustment in its ex-depot price of Premium Motor Spirit (petrol) is directly related to the significant increase in global crude oil prices.

The ex-depot price of petrol has been adjusted from N899.50 to N950 per litre, marking a 5% increase. However, Dangote Refinery emphasised that this increase is notably lower than the 15% rise in global crude oil prices. Over a span of just a few days, Brent Crude prices have climbed from \$70 to \$82 per barrel, with additional premiums for Nigerian crude adding approximately \$3 per barrel.

Dangote Petroleum Refinery, in a statement, also clarified that it has chosen to absorb part of the increased logistics costs, in a bid to maintain consistent pricing across Nigeria. The refinery also kept the Single-Point Mooring (SPM) ex-vessel price stable at N895 per litre, a move aimed at reducing the impact on consumers.

In an effort to keep prices manageable, Dangote Refinery stated that it has absorbed nearly 50% of the price hikes in international crude oil markets, ensuring that the retail price of PMS nationwide will remain at N970 per litre. Without this intervention, the company noted that the retail price could have surged to as high as N1,150 to N1,200 per litre in certain locations, a stark contrast to the current price.

The company also acknowledged its partners, including Ardova, Heyden, and MRS Holdings, would retail petrol at the same price of N970 per litre nationwide, aimed at preventing price disparities across different regions and ensuring uniform pricing across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Read more:

<https://nigeriantracker.com/2025/01/20/dangote-refinery-adjusts-petrol-prices-absorbs-50-of-global-oil-price-increase/>



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Kano Governor Donates Land to Police Officers' Wives Association

Kano State Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to supporting security agencies to ensure the safety of lives and property across the state.

In a statement issued by the Director-General, Media and Publicity, Kano Government House, Sanusi Bature Dawakin-Tofa, Governor Yusuf made this pledge while receiving the wife of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mrs. Elizabeth Kayode Egbetokun, who led the executive members of the Police Officers Wives Association (POWA) on a courtesy visit to his office.

Governor Yusuf highlighted the state government's continuous support for the police in discharging their duties effectively, particularly through the provision of logistics and operational vehicles.

He emphasized that the security of Kano State remains one of the administration's top priorities, stating:

"We remain steadfast in supporting the police and other security agencies because the safety of lives and property is critical to the progress and well-being of our people."

"Our administration will continue to provide the necessary support to ensure a secure environment in Kano State."

The governor commended Mrs. Egbetokun's dedication to improving the welfare of police officers and their families, describing her initiatives as reflective of the national efforts spearheaded by the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, to uplift women across the country.

As a demonstration of his administration's support, Governor Yusuf graciously approved the allocation of land and financial support for the construction of a POWA Secretariat in Kano.

President Trump Orders Federal Agencies to Tackle Cost of Living Crisis

In a bold move to address the cost of living crisis affecting Americans, President Donald Trump has signed nine executive orders aimed at reversing policies from the previous administration and implementing new measures to stabilize the economy. The executive orders, signed on [date], mark a significant shift in federal policy and underscore the administration's commitment to economic reform.

The first executive order involves the rescission of 78 Biden-era executive actions. "Revoking Biden-era executive orders, memoranda, and related directives," the order aims to undo policies implemented by the previous administration that President Trump believes have contributed to the current economic challenges.

The second executive order institutes a regulatory freeze, halting the issuance of new regulations by bureaucrats until the administration achieves full control of the government. This measure is intended to prevent further regulatory burdens on businesses and individuals during the transition period.

A federal hiring freeze is the focus of the third executive order. "Implementing a freeze on all federal hiring, with exceptions for the military and select categories," the order seeks to reduce government spending and streamline federal operations.

The fourth executive order mandates a return to full-time, in-person work for federal employees. "Mandating that federal workers return to full-time, in-person work immediately," the order aims to improve productivity and efficiency within federal agencies.

Read more: <https://nigeriantracker.com/2025/01/21/president-trump-orders-federal-agencies-to-tackle-cost-of-living-crisis/>



Palestinians Won The 15-Month Battle -Hashim Abdallah

By Hashim Abdallah

On 15th January, 2025 Zionism signed to end its US backed genocide in Palestine where hundreds of thousand casualties recorded mostly Palestinian civilians, including women and children from among whom were journalists, health, rescue and above all diplomatic workers.

Although Palestinians being seeing at the receiving end as they recorded such a huge number of casualties, either dead or maimed ones, it is obvious they won the battle for many reasons from their perspectives and of course from different point of view.

We must firstly take into consideration the aim of the oppression even if it might had falsely been claimed, ie, to rescue the hostages captured by the Hamas. Have the captives been liberated from the Hamas captivity? If no, the claimed, or open aim of the shelling has been defeated outrightly. Has Hamas been forced to release them unwillingly? If no, their resistance is steadfast and their pledge is amazing.

The facts of their being triumphant did not stop there as their resilience in thronging in multitudes to return to the remains and the 'only remaining 8% saved places in Gaza' as according to Aljazeera. It surprised the world as they were smiling and raising the two fingers symbolizing their triumph and courage which confirm you the notion of feeling being victorious as they harbour it amidst the debris of the collapsed structures. They appear rejoicing the news of the armistice in spite of the Israeli breaches from the truce first day till the second and third day that exceeded even to the fourth day. Yes, there were attacks here and there with death toll rising even after the ceasefire being said to have already been signed.

Celebration vs protest

As the Palestinians celebrate the ceasefire, Israelis have been reported to have been protesting violently attacking Israeli Palestinians/Arabs.

Captives' Exchange

It is both surprising and fascinating Palestinians would exchange few jews for many Palestinians as Israeli agreed to with no alternative.

'You can kill a man, but you can't kill his ideology' is a popular saying originated from wise thinkers, revolutionaries and freedom fighters from Bhagat Singh to Martin Luther King, Victor Hugo and Steve Biko.

All Palestinians believed to have been fighting a holy war which leads them to heaven. However, this is not an ideology limited to be held by only Palestinians but also all muslims. You could find a lot ready to die defending their territory from Israeli aggression and occupation. Matyrs is what all Muslims consider and/or refer to brethren died fighting the holy war of self defense and/or the other one, ie, 'crusade.'

That not limited to Muslims for the world too believed they have been defending themselves from occupation, transgressions, trespassing and land seizure by Israeli settlers backed by the Jew government(s) which the current one is being led by the blood monger, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Even from the eyes of the world of analysis, it is a striking ascertainment among the analysts that none on earth resist like Palestinians. Of course, it is undeniable fact that they never surrendered to Israeli full military forces of aggression and oppression.

Indeed, as it is according to the Muslim faiths, the people around the holy mosque of Al'aqsa would be bold, resistant and guards of the Quds Mosque on behalf of the Muslim and Islam as the third holy mosque in Islam.

Palestinians won the war if the world really united in speaking up against the atrocities in Gaza Strip. The secrets that many non Muslims do not know is that all the happenings have been predictions in Islam. Nothing surprised Muslim world that much.

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Prof. Gwarzo Hails Nigeria Customs Service CG on 59th Birthday

The Founder and President of MAAUN Group of Universities has felicitated the Controller General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Bashir Adewale Adeniyi on his 59th birthday.

Prof. Gwarzo sent his felicitations in a statement he personally signed and issued to newsmen in Kano on Monday.

According to Prof. Gwarzo, the customs CG deserves to be celebrated on this auspicious occasion in view of his commitment towards bringing various transformations in the service.

“It is indisputable fact that the Nigeria Customs Service has witnessed a revolutionary change under the current Controller General, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi from revenue generation to enforcement among others,” Prof. Gwarzo said.

“So, on behalf of the management of Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria Group of Universities, I wish to felicitate with you for reaching this milestone in active service.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to continue to bless the Customs Controller General with long life and in good health to enable him to continue to lead the service with a view to meeting the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tunib.

While describing Adeniyi as a committed and patriotic personality, Prof. Gwarzo prayed to Almighty Allah to guide and give the CG the wisdom to continue to lift the organization to greater heights.



Court Jails UDUTH's Accountant for Diversion of over N60M via GIFMIS

he Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of one Lukumanu Sani Waziri, an accountant at Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH), Sokoto, for corruption and abuse of office.

Waziri was found guilty of diverting public funds amounting to over Sixty-million naira through unauthorized access to the Government Integrated Financial Information System (GIFMIS). ICPC had in 2021, in a charge number: FHC/ICPC/122021 arraigned Waziri and two others before Honourable Justice M. Abdulgafar of the Federal High Court, Sokoto Division in a nine-count charge of fraud and corruption

In the course of the trial, ICPC’s Prosecutor, Dr Osuobeni Ekoi Akponimisingha, led evidence before the court on how Waziri, a designated user of GIFMIS in the Teaching Hospital altered financial records and facilitated the transfer of multimillions of government money into private accounts, including his own and that of one Monday Michael Adejo.

Waziri was also said to have, without authorization changed the bank account details meant for state taxes of Kogi, Edo, Bauchi and Zamfara States to that of Monday Adejo Michael where the taxes due to the aforementioned States were fraudulently diverted to.

Read more: <https://nigeriantracker.com/2025/01/21/court-jails-uduths-accountant-for-diversion-of-over-n60m-via-gifmis/>



Amnesty Urges Sokoto Government to Ensure Safety of Hamdiyya Sidi Shariff Amid Trial

Nigerian authorities have been called upon to impartially and transparently investigate disturbing threats to the lives of Hamdiyya Sidi Shariff and her lawyer, Abba Hikima, as the trial against Shariff continues. The Sokoto State Government has charged Hamdiyya Sidi Shariff with the "use of insulting or abusive language" and "inciting disturbance" for criticizing the governor of Sokoto State, Mr. Ahmed Aliyu.

Isa Sanusi, Director of Amnesty International Nigeria, emphasized the urgency of the situation. "Right now, apart from facing persecution for exercising freedom of expression, Hamdiyya Sidi Shariff and her lawyer Abba Hikima are being subjected to threats, including phone calls and in-person confrontations by sponsored thugs and individuals claiming to be 'intelligence agents,'" Sanusi stated.

At the last court hearing, Barrister Hikima was compelled to apply for armed police protection due to the hostile atmosphere in court, and the request was granted. While in Sokoto for the trial, they were also stalked at their hotel, accosted, and intimidated by some individuals.

"These actions represent an alarming abuse of power and a calculated attempt to intimidate and punish those who speak out for their society and lawyers defending them. The hostilities being faced by Hamdiyya Sidi Sharif and Barrister Abba Hikima are increasingly making their appearance in court in Sokoto dangerous," Sanusi added.

Hamdiyya Sidi Sharif was abducted by armed men and whisked into a tricycle on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, while going to collect her mobile phone from a charging point. She was beaten and thrown out of a moving tricycle, sustaining severe injuries.

Sanusi criticized Governor Ahmed Aliyu's intolerance of dissenting voices through heavy-handed clampdowns on critics. "Sokoto State Governor Mr. Ahmed Aliyu's frightening intolerance of dissenting voices through heavy-handed clampdown on critics is unacceptable in a free society. No one should be punished solely for expressing an opinion that is contrary to that of the government," Sanusi asserted.

The Nigerian authorities have been urged to guarantee the safety of Hamdiyya Sidi Shariff and Barrister Abba Hikima, particularly during court appearances and their stay in Sokoto for the trial. "Instead of attempting to suppress dissenting voices, Sokoto State Government and the Nigerian security agencies should focus on addressing rampant insecurity facing particularly the people of the eastern part of Sokoto State where gunmen have been killing people, razing villages, abducting women and girls – almost daily," Sanusi concluded.



Kano Reaffirms Support for Community Associations

The Kano State Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya, has reaffirmed his commitment to supporting self-help community associations in their efforts to enhance welfare and development initiatives.

The Commissioner made this pledge during a courtesy visit by members of the Kakakin Dala Association to his office. He commended the group's dedication to promoting security, youth and women empowerment, and developmental projects in Dala Local Government Area.

Highlighting the political significance of Dala Local Government in Kano State, especially during elections, Comrade Waiya praised the Association for its initiatives aimed at improving the lives of residents.

He assured them of the Kano State Government's readiness to collaborate with such associations to drive progress and uplift the community's standard of living.



Yankura Tricycle Riders Appeal to Governor Yusuf for Aid Amid Alleged Ejection

Tricycle riders in Yankura, a popular station in Kano known for its bustling trade and services, are calling on Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf for assistance following an alleged ejection order. The riders, who have been operating in the area for over thirty years, are facing pressure from shop owners to vacate the premises.

Jazuli Abdurrauf, the chairman of the Yankura tricycle riders, expressed the group's concerns during an interview.

"Tricycle riders have been here for over thirty years since the days of Okada," Abdurrauf stated. He highlighted that the current issue stems from a conflict between shop owners and tricycle riders, with the former pressuring the latter to leave despite having government permission to operate there.

"Some people just appeared and asked us to leave the place. They are policemen from the market division," Abdurrauf explained. He called for a peaceful resolution to the situation, emphasizing that many of the tricycle riders are family people whose livelihoods depend on their operations in Yankura. "We want a peaceful resolution of the issue. Most of us are family people, and we are very important here. It's the government that gave us permission to be here," he added.

Abdurrauf appealed to the government for aid, stressing the importance of the tricycle riders to the local economy and community. "In the whole of Sabon Gari, we appeal for government aid to allow us to continue earning a living here," he said.

Yankura is a significant station in Kano where goods and services are patronized by millions of people from within and outside the state. The tricycle riders play a crucial role in the transportation of goods and passengers, contributing to the area's economic vibrancy.

The tricycle riders are hopeful that Governor Yusuf will intervene to resolve the issue and allow them to continue their operations without further harassment. The situation remains tense as the riders await a response from the government.

FCT Minister During Abacha's Regime Lt. Gen Jeremiah Useni Is Dead

By Asile Abel, Jos

The Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, deeply regrets to announce to the citizens of Plateau State and all patriotic Nigerians, the passing of the former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Lt. General Jeremiah Timbut Useni.

The distinguished elder statesman passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the age of 82, following a protracted illness. In a statement in Jos, Governor Mutfwang described the passing of General Useni as a tremendous loss not only to his immediate family but also to the Nigerian Armed Forces, Plateau State, and the entire nation.

The Governor highlighted General Useni's exemplary leadership and steadfast commitment to service, which left an indelible mark on Nigeria's security and political landscape. He noted that General Useni's tireless efforts to promote peace and security, especially in Northern Nigeria and Plateau State, will forever be remembered.

Governor Mutfwang recounted the illustrious career of the late General, who served Nigeria with distinction in various capacities, including as Minister of Transport, Quarter-Master General of the Nigerian Army, and Minister of the FCT.

After retiring from the military, General Useni transitioned into politics, where he continued his service to the nation. He served as Deputy Chairman of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and was elected Senator representing Plateau South Senatorial District in 2015 under the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

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