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# NIGERIAN TRACKER NEWS

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## FEC Approves N507bn For Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano Road



'This Injustice Will Not Stand' – Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan Reacts as She Leaves Senate After Suspension



Abacha's Family Cautions IBB for Changing June 12th Narrative





## ***FEC Approves N507bn For Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano Road***

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved N507 billion for Section Two of the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano Road, covering 164 kilometres.

The Minister of Works, Engineer Dave Umahi, disclosed this on Monday after the federal cabinet meeting presided over by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

He said the approved fund was part of the sum of N733 billion okayed for road infrastructure projects across different regions of the country.

The minister said FEC also approved N24 billion for the construction of Abakpa Flyover in Enugu State, which borders the 82 Division Army Barracks, adding that the project was awarded to CCECC to ease traffic congestion in the area.

### ***The Purpose of Fasting***

***Fasting is not just about abstaining from food and drink; it is about purifying the soul. It teaches patience, self-discipline, and mindfulness in our actions and words.***

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## ***Abacha's Family Cautions IBB for Changing June 12th Narrative***

Family of late Head of State, Gen. Sani Abacha (rtd) has cautioned former Military President Gen. Ibrahim Babangida against tarnishing the image of the former military leader.

A statement on Sunday by Mohammed Abacha as reported by Daily Trust, the Abacha family noted that Gen. Babangida had in his recent book titled, "A Journey in Service" alleged that the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election "was the responsibility of the late General Sani Abacha."

Abacha's family said the claim sparked widespread controversy and necessitate a clear response in the interest of historical accuracy and justice.

The statement which described the allegation as false, said, "Any attempt to shift this blame onto General Sani Abacha, who was a very senior military officer within the regime, is a deliberate distortion of historical facts. For years, various actors have attempted to rewrite the history of that critical period in Nigeria's democratic evolution."

The family in the statement argued that Gen. Abacha was neither the Head of State nor the Commander-in-Chief at the time the June 12 election was annulled, saying, "The decision to annul the election was made under the administration of General Ibrahim Babangida, who, as the then Head of State, held absolute executive powers and was solely responsible for the actions of his government."

Abacha's family also urged Nigerians to be "wary of revisionist narratives that seek to manipulate public perception for personal or political reasons", stressing that "The memory of our late father and leader, General Sani Abacha, must not be tarnished by baseless accusations meant to absolve those who were truly responsible."

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## ***Ganduje Decorates Barau, Political General***

By Abba Anwar

Thrilled by the consistent effort of the Deputy Senate President, Barau I Jibrin, CFR, in making the All Progressives Congress (APC) waxing stronger across Nigeria, the National Chairman of APC, His Excellency (Dr) Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, CON, decorates the DSP with a title of Political General.

As the hall of the event to receive members of the Coalition of Atiku Abubakar Support Groups, from 19 Northern states, into the fold of the ruling APC, roared with standing ovation, the National Chairman continued, "Distinguished Barau I. Jibrin's capacity is beyond his constituency, Kano North or Kano State."

Silencing all hues and cries about Barau's role in accepting members of other parties at the local level, Ganduje reminded that, "Initially people thought Distinguished Barau I. Jibrin, representing Kano North Senatorial District, is only working in Kano for receiving members of other political parties to APC in Kano.

But you can see that, he is going beyond that. He is liberating those people especially those committed to democracy, convincing them to join APC, not only from Kano or from North, but from other parts of the country."

He commended that, "Senator Barau is a real political General."

To further show his inner most appreciation of the Deputy Senate President's effort in strengthening the party from many fronts, Ganduje concurred that, "... after the Fasting period all members of this Coalition will be gathered in Abuja under the leadership of Distinguished Senator Barau Jibrin, so that we invite Mr President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Vice President, Senate President and Right Honorable Speaker, House of Representatives, to formally receive all your members.

In order to register the death and the collapse of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Nigeria. Not only in the Northern part of the country."

The National Chairman of APC was at the event with all members of the National Working Committee of the party. What this indicates is, how important and relevant is Barau's effort in molding party structures and brilliant engagement in the nation's political experiment.

Recent cemented relationship between Ganduje and Barau signals many things for the party and individuals. Alignment and realignment, among other political strategies, are a condition that scares APC opponents, real and perceived, in Kano, North and the country as a whole.

The way I see it, is this, as Barau started with local push, in accepting local politicians, entertainers and political novices, in some circumstances, his recent engagement with Coalition of Atiku Support Groups, speaks volume in understanding how deep he has gone in the national scheme of things of the ruling APC. He is more or less, becoming a pillar. Particularly with the endorsement of the National Chairman.

What Barau is up to, is subject to many interpretations. Depending on the side of the prism one is standing. But one fundamental item in his activities is this, that, he is making the party to be more visible, more vibrant, more relevant and stronger in multi-faceted manifestations. Left to me, I can say Barau is not too much concerned about local politics.

On his part, DSP appreciated that, since Ganduje became the National Chairman of APC, "... since he came in we did not lose any election. The party is waxing stronger day in day out. He has shown that he is capable. So we are proud of you Mr Chairman Sir."

Adding that, "We thank you for making Kano state proud we thank you for making North West proud. And we thank you for making Nigeria proud. His Excellency Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, CON, proves to all that he is a detribalised national leader."

Anwar, was Chief Press Secretary to the former Governor of Kano State, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, CON, and can be reached at [fatimanbaba1@gmail.com](mailto:fatimanbaba1@gmail.com)





## ***Kano Security Taskforce Strengthens Ties with DSS, Police, and Judiciary to Enhance Peace and Safety***

Kano state taskforce on Security, Peace and Youth Rehabilitation has expressed readiness to work with all security agencies in the state to complement their mandate of securing the lives and properties of the Kano residents

Chairman of the committee, who also doubles as the commissioner, Ministry of science, technology and innovation Dr Yusuf Ibrahim Kofar Mata, made the remarks when he led members of the taskforce on a visit to security agencies and other relevant stakeholders in Kano, to seek for their support in the discharge of the committee's mandates

The delegation visited the headquarters of the Department of State Security Services (DSS), the Commissioner of police and the office of the chief judge of Kano State on Friday, 7th March, 2025

After a brief meeting with the State Director, of the DSS in Kano, Dr Kofar Mata told journalists that, the task Force was at the DSS office to seek for their support.

At the police headquarters, Dr. Yusuf Kofar Mata told CP Salman Dogo Garba, who was recently promoted to the rank of AIG, that, the responsibility of the task Force Committee is to complement the effort of the police force of maintaining law and order in the State

We are here on a courtesy visit to formally introduce the committee to you and to seek for your support, as we believe that you are the engine room when it comes to internal security. Similarly, in his remarks, the commissioner of information and internal affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya commended the police for their dedication and selfless service, in enforcing laws and maintenance of peace and security

"I must commend you for your tireless effort to ensure security of life and properties, we can recall how this command under the then CP Hussaini Gumel initiated a program for repentant thugs which yielded positive results"



## ***Former President Obasanjo's Aide, Dr Doyin Okupe Is Dead***

Former presidential spokesperson Doyin Okupe has passed away.

His death was confirmed on Friday, 7th March, 2025. Okupe, who previously served as the Director-General of Peter Obi's Presidential Campaign, was forced to step down from the role following a court conviction for money laundering.

After the 2023 general election, he also resigned from the Labour Party and later became a vocal supporter of President Bola Tinubu's administration.

He was a senior adviser to former President Goodluck Jonathan.

In the early years of President Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999 Dr Doyin Okupe served as special assistant to the President on Media and publicity.







## ***Kano Governor's Spokesperson, Sanusi Bature, in Political Clash with House of Reps Member***

A political rift has emerged between Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, spokesperson to Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf of Kano State, and Hon. Jobe, a member of the House of Representatives representing Dawakin Tofa, Tofa, and Rimin Gado Federal Constituency.

Sanusi Bature publicly expressed his discontent with Hon. Jobe in a strongly worded statement posted on his verified Facebook page, signaling the start of what appears to be a fierce political confrontation.

In the post, written in Hausa, Bature challenged the federal lawmaker, stating that he was not afraid of any political battle. He emphasized the importance of leaders fulfilling their responsibilities to the people, asserting that public officeholders must be accountable to those who elected them.

"Tell my brother, Hon. Jobe, that if he wants a fight, I'm ready. By Allah, I am not afraid of him, and he knows this better than anyone," Bature declared.

He further criticized Hon. Jobe's leadership, insisting that a politician's honor lies in serving the people who entrusted them with power. Bature dismissed any suggestion that he was enduring political disrespect for the sake of contesting an election, affirming his belief in destiny and his willingness to step down rather than compromise his principles.

Observers are keenly watching how the situation unfolds, as both political figures hold significant influence within the state



## ***This Injustice Will Not Stand" – Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan Reacts as She Leaves Senate After Suspension***

Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan has vowed to challenge her suspension from the Senate, declaring that "this injustice will not be sustained" as she vacated the chamber on Wednesday.

The lawmaker, representing Kogi Central, was suspended following a heated session in the Red Chamber. While details of her suspension remain contentious, sources indicate it stems from a recent altercation over legislative procedures.

Addressing reporters, Natasha maintained that her suspension was unjust and politically motivated. "This is an abuse of legislative power, and I will not let it stand," she asserted.

Her suspension has sparked mixed reactions, with supporters condemning the decision while others insist it aligns with Senate regulations. It remains unclear whether she will take legal action to overturn the suspension.

## ***Islamic scholar Sheikh Sa'edu Hassan Jingir has died after a prolonged illness***

Islamic scholar Sheikh Sa'edu Hassan Jingir has died after a prolonged illness.

Until his death, he was the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Scholars in the Izala Islamic Movement, led by Sheikh Muhammad Sani Yahaya Jingir.

He passed away at his residence in Jos, Plateau State.





## ***Why Atiku Should Contest Again, By Adnan Mukhtar***

Atiku is the only strong opposition leader in Nigeria so far. He was a vice president for 8 years and a successful businessman in active politics in the last 3 decades. He contested for election by appearing on the ballot 3 times. He did it in 2007, 2019, and 2023. He aspired for the office of the president in 1992, 2003, 2011, and 2015.

He's the only opposition leader with the capacity to unify this country, a nationalist to the core, Pan Nigerian, and advocate for restructuring. Nobody will deny these attributes on him.

Tell me any strong opposition leader in Nigeria apart from Atiku? Obi fought a good fight out of ethnicity and bigotry but Atiku fought his fight out of nationalism not because he is from the North or a muslim but because of his patriotism to govern this country and bring the desired change. He didn't hide under ethnicity or religion like other candidates do.

Atiku has built bridges across the country. If the Igbo's will come and work together with Waziri, he will definitely be a stepping stone for an igbo presidency as he always said: Power is negotiable. You don't fight for it.

Despite the fact that the votes were splitted and rigged, Waziri was able to beat Obi, Kwankwaso, and came second in the most fraudulent election since the return to democracy in 1999.

Atiku still has a good chance at 76. Raila Odinga contested for election at 81, Joe Biden is currently 80. Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu should be around that age, too, as nobody is aware of his real age. Age should not be an obstacle to contest for election. It's all about a candidate who has the ability and capacity to bring the needed results.

Atiku is the only opposition leader who can lead and restructure this country. This should not be his last shot, as others are saying. He should give it a try again.

President Muhammadu Buhari contested for election 4 times, he lost all the 3 and won in his 4th attempt. Those asking Waziri to forget about contesting again are doing a disservice to this nation. Many world leaders are in their 80's. That doesn't stop them from doing great things.

I'm optimistic that Waziri will get his stolen mandate at the Supreme Court. If otherwise, he should contest again as Nigeria and Nigerians need him more.



## ***Kano To Partner With The Society Of Nigerian Broadcasters***

The Kano State Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya, has expressed his willingness to collaborate with the Society of Nigerian Broadcasters.

The Commissioner made this statement while receiving members of the Society of Nigerian Broadcasters, Kano State Chapter, in his office. Comrade Waiya stated that the ministry would ensure that staff of state-owned broadcast agencies register with the professional body to enhance service delivery.

He emphasized the need to regulate certain content in broadcast media, particularly political programs, to prevent the spread of misinformation and protect the reputations of highly respected individuals.

The Commissioner further assured the Society of his commitment to collaboration, especially in the area of training, to ensure that all media content aligns with ethical standards, societal values, and religious principles.

Earlier, the Kano State Coordinator of the Society of Nigerian Broadcasters, Hajiya Aishatu Sule, congratulated the Commissioner on his appointment.

She explained that the Society of Nigerian Broadcasters is a professional body that regulates broadcasting in Nigeria, adding that no individual should practice as a broadcaster without registering with the organization.

In his remarks, the Vice President of the Society of Nigerian Broadcasters, North West Zone, Ado Sa'idu Warawa, solicited the ministry's support in organizing workshops to equip broadcasters with modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance digital broadcasting in line with global standards.

He also appealed to the Commissioner to assist the Society in securing a befitting secretariat to improve working conditions.





## ***Global Integrity Crusade Network Retracts Allegations Against Guaranty Trust Bank, Apologizes for Misleading Public***

A civil society organisation, Global Integrity Crusade Network (GICN), has retracted allegations of corruption and unwholesome activities made in a Private Investigation Report (PIR) against Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB) Limited, a subsidiary of Guaranty Trust Holding Company Plc.

In a statement made available to Blueprint in Abuja, Tuesday, signed by President of the organisation, Edward Omega Esq., he stated that he presented the PIR to the media on 3rd October, 2024 and later submitted same to certain agencies in Nigeria, UK, USA and Ghana for further action.

He said the documents relied upon to compile the PIR, were obtained from the internet and were baseless and do not depict the true state of affairs about GTB Limited and its management.

"In other words, the position taken by Global Integrity Crusade Network in the PIR was misguided. It has become clear that Guaranty Trust Bank Limited, its Management and the entire GTCO brand are not under any financial or regulatory scrutiny in Nigeria or abroad as alleged.

"The issues raised about Unsolicited Accounts Opening for customers were unnecessary, as the bank operates in line with the highest standards of compliance and due process, whilst preventing the breach of data privacy laws," he said.

On the issue of profit declaration for the period ended June 30, 2024, Omega stated that records abound to show that GTB Limited fully complied with the applicable legal requirements of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN) as well as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"It was therefore not appropriate for GICN to query the Audited Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements for the period ended June 30, 2024, released by GTCO Plc to the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) and London Stock Exchange (LSE).

"In the same vein, the corporate image and integrity of GTB Limited remains intact in foreign countries where it carries on business.

"The financial penalties paid in the United Kingdom by Guaranty Trust Bank (UK) Limited coupled with the suspension of its Foreign Exchange Trading Licence in Ghana were minor regulatory issues, which have been sorted out long time ago.



## ***Kiru Concerned Citizens Commend Anti-Graft Agency for Arresting LG Chairman for Land Grab***

The concerned citizens of Kiru, based in Lagos and other parts of Nigeria, have commended the Kano Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission for arresting Kiru Local Government Chairman Abdullahi Muhammad over allegations of selling land worth over 100 million Naira meant for Kadin Maiyaki Mini Stadium.

The chairman of the group, Yau Ibrahim, stated this in a release issued to newsmen.

Yau Ibrahim said the Anti-Corruption Commission, led by Muhyi Magaji Rimi Gado, has done the right thing at the right time, considering Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf's efforts in fighting corruption.

Yau Ibrahim said on behalf of the concerned citizens of the local government, drawn from different parts of Nigeria, that they fully support the Kano Public Complaints Commission and the Government of Kano State to ensure that justice is done.

They urge Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and Barrister Muhyi Magaji Rimi Gado not to leave any stone unturned regarding the huge land grab allegedly perpetrated by the chairman in order to serve as a lesson to others.

It can be recalled that the Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission on Friday arrested the Chairman of Kiru Local Government Area, Alhaji Abdullahi Mohammed, over allegations of selling land worth over N100 million meant for Kadin Maiyaki Mini Stadium.

The commission spokesman, Mr. Kabir Abba Kabir, told newsmen that the council chairman has been detained and is undergoing interrogation.





## ***Senate President Akpabio Denies Sexual Harassment Allegations by Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan***

Senate President Godswill Akpabio has firmly denied allegations of sexual harassment leveled against him by Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan.

The accusations stem from an alleged incident during a visit to Akpabio's country home in Akwa Ibom State.

Breaking his silence during a plenary session on Wednesday, Akpabio categorically refuted the claims, asserting that he has never harassed Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan or any other woman.

He emphasized his deep respect for women, citing his upbringing by a struggling single mother as the foundation of his values.

At no time did I ever harass any woman. I was raised very well by my late single mother, and I have always upheld respect for women. I was even awarded the most gender-friendly governor in Nigeria," Akpabio stated.

He further mentioned that he has four daughters and would never engage in inappropriate conduct against women. Expressing gratitude to his colleagues for their support and prayers, Akpabio remained confident that divine intervention would vindicate him.

The controversy between Akpabio and Akpoti-Uduaghan surfaced following the latter's suspension over a seating arrangement dispute.

The disagreement escalated into a heated exchange when the Kogi Central senator discovered her seat had been changed without her consent.

During a recent television interview, Akpoti-Uduaghan alleged that Akpabio was punishing her for rejecting his advances. She claimed that while giving her a tour of his residence, Akpabio had suggested they could "spend quality time together" and that she would "enjoy it."



## ***Death Toll Of NNN Beneficiaries Awaiting Northern Govs Payment Hits 106***

Death Toll Of NNN Beneficiaries Awaiting Northern Govs Payment Hits 106

Beneficiaries of New Nigerian Newspapers (NN) Ltd, under Northern States Governors Forum (NSGF) have lamented the protracted dilemma of non payment of their benefits amounting to N2.1B stressing that the death toll of members waiting for this benefit have reached 106 as January 2025.

A statement signed by Alhaji Sadiq Tela on behalf of Elders Forum and Friday Sule for Joint Union of the New Nigerian Newspapers, said, "following the recent out of Court settlement between Northern Governors Versus Albert Iweka and Co which was adopted on the 27th of November, 2024 by the Federal High Court as facilitated by New Nigerian Beneficiaries, expectations have being high given the extreme poverty orchestrated by this pending benefits.

"Recall that the duo of Barrister Iweka and Idi Sule all former workers of the New Nigerian Newspapers had dragged Northern Governors to Court over payments of check off dues and later obtained a garnishee order that freezed New Capital Properties Limited (NCPL) account where the proceeds of sales of NNN assets was domiciled in.

"Following the painstaking efforts by New Nigerian Beneficiaries, the matter was squashed and all garnishee orders instituted earlier vacated and all parties duely settled except New Nigerian Beneficiaries." It stressed

He pointed that "more than 100 days after the vacation of the 10 years old scorging court matter, all New Nigerian Beneficiaries who served the 19 Northern Governors are still wondering in the wilderness in pains and gnashing of teeth.





## ***Kano State Launches 2025 Ramadan Feeding Programme***

On the 2nd of March 2025, which coincided with the 2nd of Ramadan 1446, , The Deputy Governor of Kano State, Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo, officially launched the 2025 Ramadan Feeding Programme in the state capital. The ceremony took place at Dandali Centre, Fagge Local Government Area.

The state commissioner for information comrade Ibrahim Waiya stated this in a release issued to news men

Comrade Waiya said since the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP)-led government assumed office in Kano State, under the leadership of His Excellency, the Executive Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf, the state government has institutionalized this initiative to support vulnerable residents by providing them with daily iftar meals during the holy month of Ramadan. This annual programme is a humanitarian effort aimed at easing the difficulties faced by fasting Muslims.

Waiya said in order to recognise the needs of the state's large population of Ramadan observers, the Kano State Government remains committed to ensuring that relief reaches those in need. Consequently, the government has approved the 2025 Ramadan Feeding Programme, with 91 designated feeding centers across the state. The initiative will cater to 91,000 people daily for 27 days.

To ensure the effective implementation of this year's programme, catering service providers have been engaged to prepare and deliver 91,000 plates of food per day across all designated centers.

According to Waiya the Deputy Governor of Kano State, Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo, who also serves as the Chairman of the 2025 Ramadan Feeding Programme, expressed satisfaction with the smooth takeoff of the initiative. He made this known during a visit to Dandali Centre in Fagge Local Government Area. He further urged the catering companies involved to ensure timely and efficient delivery of meals to all feeding centers to achieve the programme's objective.

During the flag-off ceremony, the Deputy Governor was accompanied by the Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya, Hon. Commissioner for Religious Affairs, Sheikh Tijjani Auwal, the permanent secretary of the Deputy Governor's office, and other top government officials, who serve as members of the Ramadan Feeding Programme Committee.



## ***Tsangaya education: Jigawa Govt. signs MoU with Arabic, Islamic studies board***

The Jigawa Board for Tsangaya Education, has signed an MoU with the National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS), to enhance Tsangaya education in the state.

Dr Abubakar Maje, the Executive Secretary of the board, made this known in a statement on Saturday in Dutse.

Maje said the gesture was part of the partnership between the two boards to enhance Tsangaya education.

He explained that the partnership, formalised through the MoU signed on Wednesday, focused on teacher training, curriculum development, and resource allocation.

The executive secretary added that a key aspect of the agreement was a six-month teacher training programme at five centres across the state, which led to its certification by NBAIS.



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