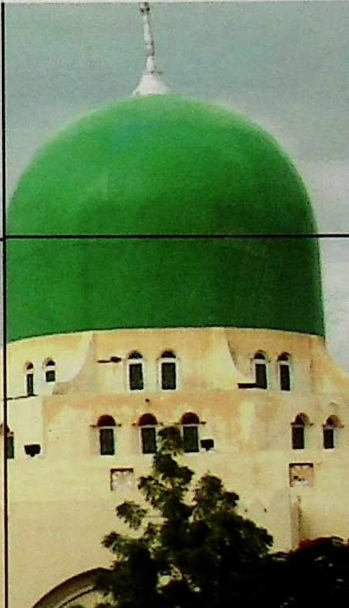
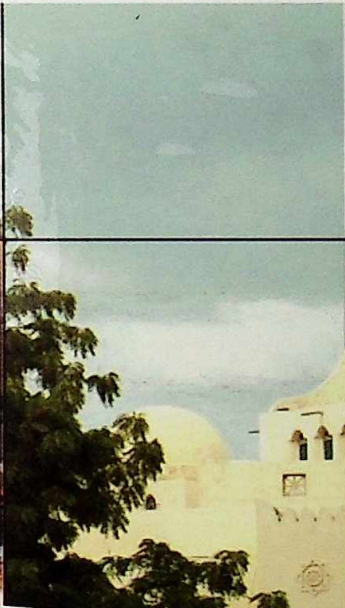
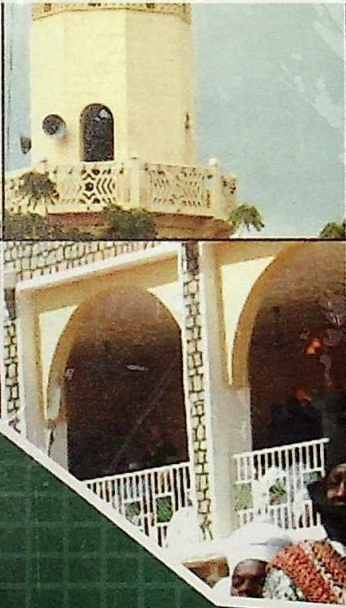




# about KANO



edited by  
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Research & Documentation Directorate





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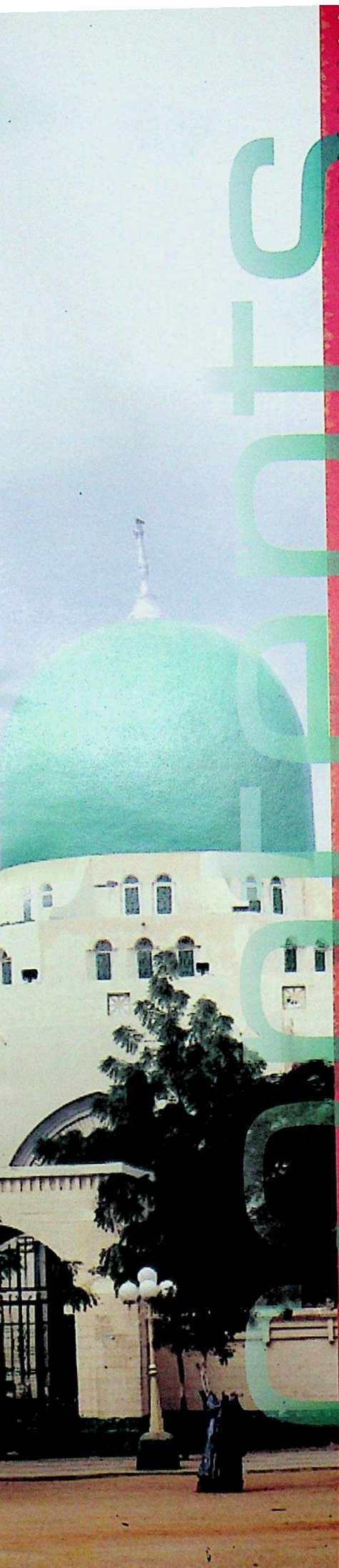
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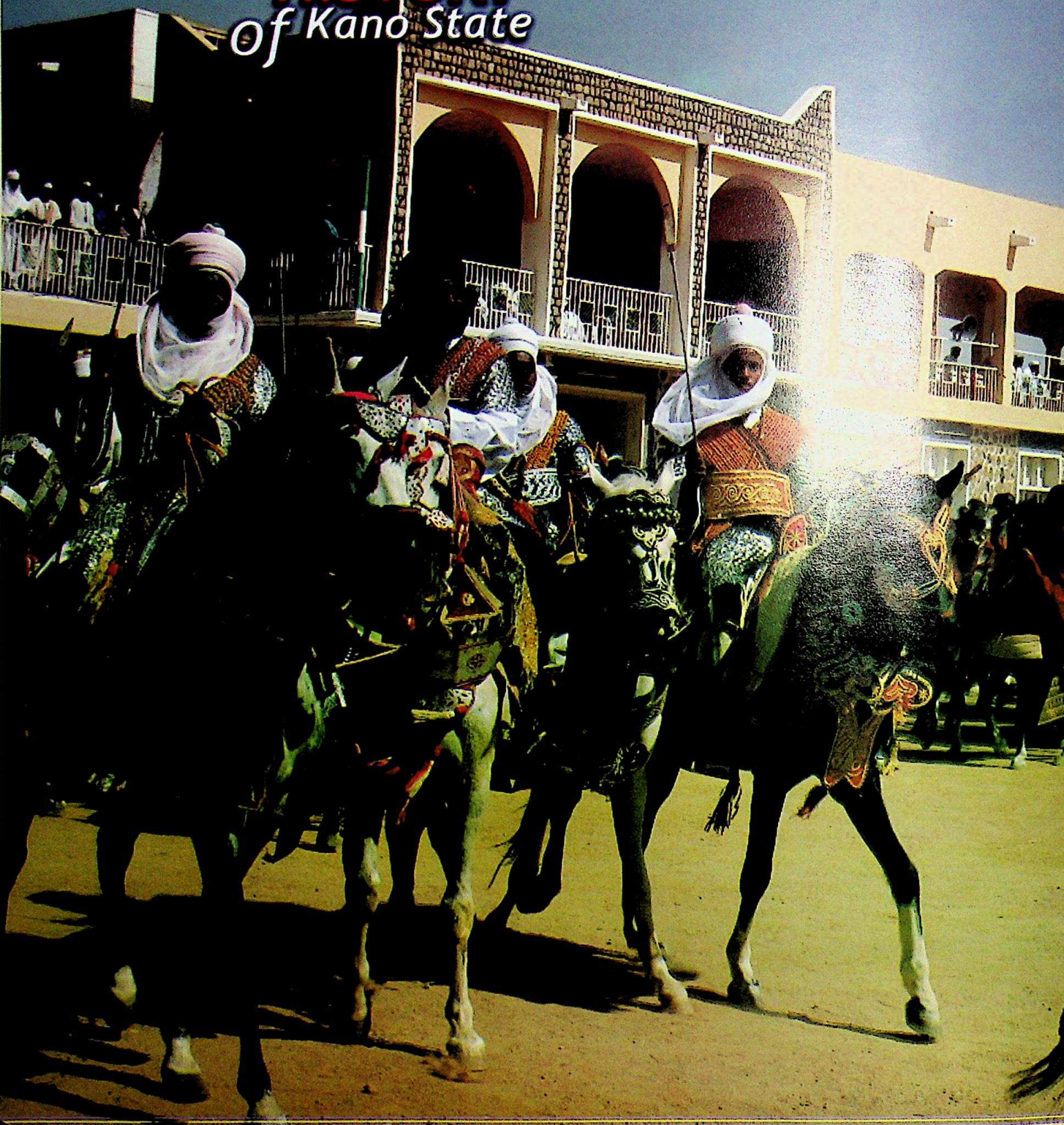





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# Geography and **HISTORY** of Kano State







# Geography and HISTORY of Kano State

**K**ano State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria lies between latitude  $13^{\circ}\text{N}$  in the North and  $11^{\circ}\text{N}$  in the South and longitude  $8^{\circ}\text{W}$  in the West and  $10^{\circ}\text{E}$  in the East. Kano State is made up of the following forty four local government areas: Ajingi, Albasu, Bagwai, Bebeji, Bichi, Bunkure, Dala, Dambatta, Dawakin Kudu, Dawakin Tofa, Doguwa, Gabasawa, Garko, Garun Mallam, Gaya, Gezawa, Gwale, Gwarzo, Kabo, Karaye, Kibiya, Kiru, Kumbotso, Kura, Kunchi, Madobi, Makoda, Minjibir, Kano Municipal, Nassarawa, Rimin Gado, Rogo, Shanono, Sumaila, Takai, Tarauni, Tsanyawa, Tudun Wada, Tofa, Warawa and Wudil. The total land area of Kano State is 20,760sq kilometers with a population of 9,383,682 based on the Official 2006 National Population and Housing Census. Kano's influence is not only demographic, but also economic. This is because "it represents an area of dominant influence over markets in adjacent areas. This influence varies from one industry to another, but also from one period of time to another".

Kano City has been the capital of *Kano State* since the earliest recorded time. It is located on latitude  $12.00^{\circ}\text{N}$  and longitude  $8.30^{\circ}\text{E}$  within the semi-arid Sudan savannah zone of West Africa about 840 kilometers from the edge of the Sahara desert. Kano has a mean height of about 472.45m above sea level. Kano City has expanded over the years and has become the third largest conurbation in Nigeria with a population of about 3 million. It is made up of nine local government areas: Municipal, Gwale, Dala, Tarauni, Nassarawa, Fagge, Ungogo, Kumbotso and Dawakin Kudu. Kano's most enduring legacy *Gidan Rumfa* (Emir's Palace) the seat of Kano's prestigious *Sarauta* institution (Kingship) built over five hundred years ago is located in the Municipal Local Government Area. The Kano State Government House is located in Tarauni Local Government Area. ■■■







## ▶ Climate

The temperature of Kano usually ranges between a maximum of  $33^{\circ}\text{C}$  and a minimum of  $15.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  although sometimes during the harmattan it falls down to as low as  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Kano has two seasonal periods, which consist of four to five months of wet season and a long dry season lasting from October to April. The movement of the South West maritime air masses originating from the Atlantic Ocean influences the wet season, which starts from May and ends in September. The commencement and length of wet season varies between northern and southern parts of *Kano State*. The length of the season in Riruwai, which is southern part of *Kano State* is six months from early May to late September. While in northern parts it is from June to early September.

The average rainfall is between  $63.3\text{mm} \pm 48.2\text{mm}$  in May and  $133.4\text{mm} \pm 59\text{mm}$  in August the wettest month. The movement of the tropical maritime air masses from the Southwest to the North determines the weather of *Kano State* during the wet season. This air mass carries a lot of moisture from over the Atlantic Ocean. This moisture condenses when it is forced to rise by convection or over a barrier of highlands or an air mass; it then falls back as rain. The period of the heights occurs when the sun passes over West Africa between March and June. The dry season starts in October and lasts till about April of the following year. Temperatures are low during this period because the sun is in the Southern Hemisphere and because of movement of the desiccating continental air mass, which originates from the Sahara area and blows from the Northeast carrying along with it the harmattan dust. This is also the harvesting season. ■■■





## ▶ Vegetation

The vegetation of *Kano State* is the semi-arid savannah. The Sudan Savannah is sandwiched by the Sahel Savannah in the north and the Guinea Savannah in the south. The savannah has been described as the zone that provides opportunity for optimal human attainment. This is because it is rich in faunal and floral resources, it is suitable for both cereal agriculture and livestock rearing, and the environment is relatively easy for movement of natural resources and manufactured goods.

The canopies of the trees are very wide and most of them are less than 20m tall. The following are the common trees of Kano State: *Acacia albida* (Hausa: *gawo*), *Acacia nilotica* (Hausa: *gabaruwa*), baobab *Adanosia digitata* (Hausa: *kuka*), *Anogeissus leiocarpus* (Hausa: *marke*), neem *Azadirachta indica* (Hausa: *dogon yaro*), desert date *Balanties aegyptica* (Hausa *aduwa*), ebony *Diospyros mespiliformis* (Hausa: *kanya*), mahogany *Khaya senegalensis* (Hausa: *madachi*), locust bean *Parkia clappertoniana* (Hausa: *dorawa*), *Piliostigma thonningii* (Hausa: *kargo*), *Sclerocarya birrea* (Hausa: *danya*), *Vitex doniana* (Hausa: *dinya*), *Ziziphus spina-christi* (Hausa: *kurna*). These trees are very resistant to drought. It has been suggested that these products have been available as part of the vegetable resources in the West African savannah for two to three thousand years. Domesticated crops include sorghum, millet and African rice, several indigenous yams, two African groundnuts, cowpeas and black beniseed.

The natural vegetation of Kano State has been modified as a result of several centuries of human activities such as bush clearing and burning for cultivation and hunting as well as animal grazing. ■■■



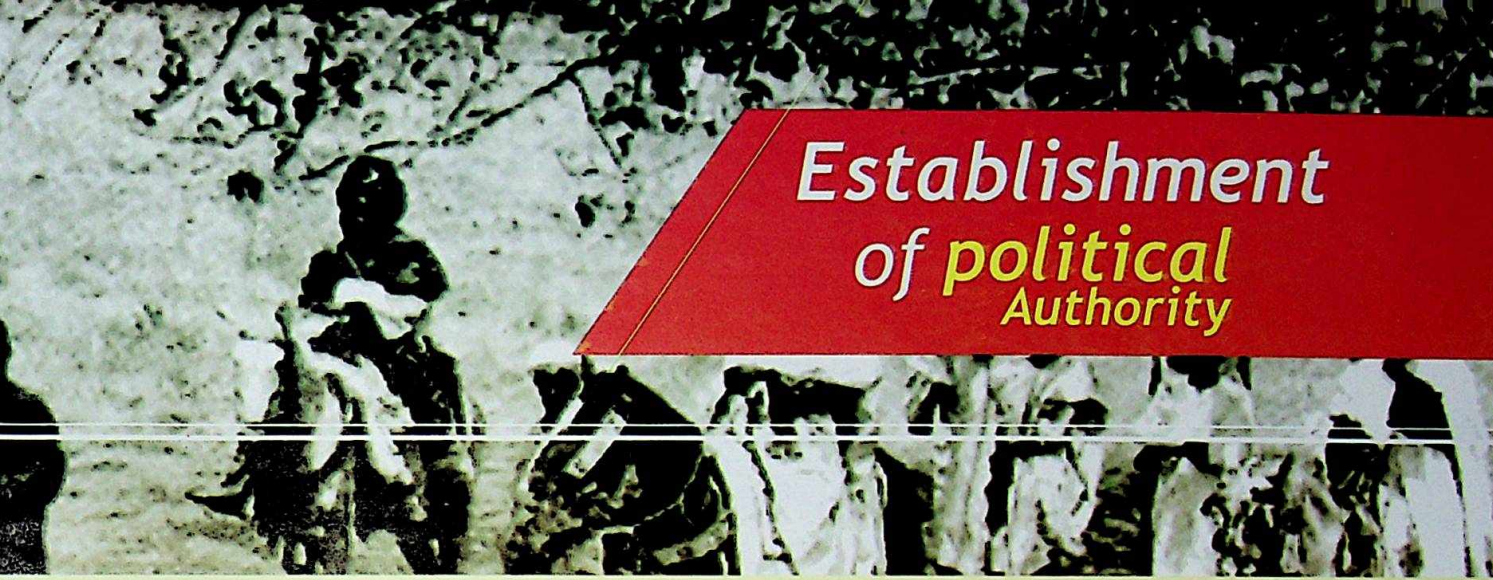


# HISTORY

of Kano  
999 to 2003

**K**ano is one of the oldest political entities in Sudanic Africa which stretches from the Atlantic Coast in the West to the Red Coast in the East. It has over 1000 years of history of centralized authority beginning with the Bagaudawa Dynasty. This section briefly explores the history of Kano and it has been adopted from previous publications of the Directorate especially *Efforts of the Shekarau Administration in Harnessing Resources for Social and Economic Development* and those of the editor.





## Establishment of *political* Authority

The emergence of central political authority in Kano was closely associated with the foundation of *birni* (city) Kano itself. This was like other Hausa states where the *birane* (cities) were the centers of political authority. These cities developed as a result of immigration of diverse groups who have no kinship relationship and were integrated gradually displacing authorities whose power depended on kinship loyalties.

It has been postulated that political authority in Hausaland evolved from farming family groups whose farms were very close to their homes and they were separated by waste-lands. These separate settlements were called *kauyuka* or *unguwoyi* (sing. *kauye*, *unguwa*). It was further suggested that authority was of two types family and communal. The communal authority was vested in the *sarki* (ruler) which was recognized for specific purposes. Especially farming which was the backbone of the economy. The *sarkin noma* (king of farming) coordinated all the farming activities including the religious rituals for rains. The head of the family unit regulated all other affairs not related to agriculture. The *kauye* was a collection of these independent family units *gidaje* (sing. *gida*) each headed by the *maigida* (family head). The society expanded as a result of immigration of families who were not related to each other, *unguwoyi* and *kauyuka* merged and became towns *garuruwa* (sing. *gari*). The community leader of the *gari* was known as *sarkin gari* who was assisted by ward heads *masu unguwani* (sing. *mai unguwa*). As the town developed the authority of the *sarki* became expanded beyond the farmland with diminishing emphasis on kinship since most of the immigrants were not related.

The *birni* (city) evolved from the *gari* (town). The *birni* of antiquity was cosmopolitan; it was an urban center with a considerably large population of diverse groups who lack kinship relations with one and the other. Economic factors were responsible for the growth of *birane* (sing. *birni*) of ancient Hausaland, because only buoyant economy could support a large population. Agriculture supported by fertile soil was the mainstay of the economy. The iron industry also supported agriculture by producing farm implements. Dutsen Dala, which was an iron site, was the foundation of Kano the greatest of all Hausa *birane*. *Birnin Kano*



became the nucleus of fertile *Kasar* (country of) Kano. Trade and religious attraction was contributed to the growth of Kano. Dutsen Dala and Kurmin Jakara both located in Birnin Kano were centers of *iskokai* (spirits) adored by the ancient Hausas. Barbushe the first known Sarkin Kano was a chief priest of *Tsumburbura* which were also *iskokai*. For any *birni* to flourish, it needed security thus another very important feature of any *birni* of ancient Hausaland was the *ganuwa* (city wall) which was a fortification. It has been suggested that this security of the *birane* was an essential element in their emergence as centres of "unusual political power". The emergence of states in Hausaland appeared to have been linked with the foundation of *birane* as these centers of political power.

Finn Fuglestad has criticized Abdullahi Smith's theory of the evolution of the state in Hausaland. He has argued "that the institution and concept of Kingship in Hausaland were not indigenous to Hausaland. They did not grow smoothly out of pre-existing institutions but were on the contrary imposed by people perceived to be aliens". Still Abdullahi Smith's theory remains credible at least in Kano because there are evidences from the 'Kano Chronicle' that indicate execution of some form of political authority by Barbushe and his predecessors apart from their spiritual leadership role. It would be safer to assume that *Sarauta* Kingship institution in Kano was a synthesis of local traditions and new innovations by Bagaudawa who conquered Kano sometime in 999 CE.

Political authority is closely associated with class distinction. In Hausaland members of the ruling class were known as *masu sarauta* and the *talakawa* are the commoners. The sarki was the head of the *sarauta* and also the head of state and all the state officials were *masu sarauta*. The office of the *sarki* (king) was dynastic and in Kano throughout the pre-jihad era it was vested in the family of Bagauda. The *masu sarauta* were fiefholders given to them by the sarki for their loyalty. The system was complex and it took several years to develop. The most important innovation was the creation of the *Tara ta Kano* (literarily Kano nine) by Sarkin Kano Muhammadu Rumfa. This was the council of state made up of the senior state officials: *galadima*, *madaki* and *wambai* (always a slave) who were considered greater than the sarki, followed by *makama*, *sarkin jarumai* and *sarkin bai* (always a slave) who were considered equal to the sarki and the last three who considered less than the sarki were: *barde*, *sarkin dawakin tsakar gida* and *turaki*.

One of the functions of the *Tara ta Kano* might have been the selection of the new *sarki* from amongst the *'yan sarki* (sons of the King). It has been reported that the *sarki* always feared the consensus of the members of *Tara ta Kano*. Some members of the *sarauta* had specific functions for example *sarkin kasuwa* was in charge of the market, the *sarkin kofa* was the official gate keeper. These and some other titles later became less important. The *sarakuna* of important towns such as Gaya, Birnin Kudu, Dutse, Bebeji and Ringim were later incorporated into *sarauta*. Kano also later lost its independence and became part of Kano. During the emirate period these



*sarakuna* (kings) were relegated to the status of *manyan dagatai* (territorial chiefs) and they were considered below other *hakimi* (title holders) in precedence and they became vassals of the powerful *hakimi* who were resident in the city. There were also *sarauta* titles that were reserved for royal slaves throughout the history of Kano for example *shamaki*, *dan rimi*, *salama*, *kasheka*, *turakin soro* and *kilishi* while other titles were later converted from royal slave titles to the nobility.

The Bagaudawa reign was not smooth as there was opposition from those displaced from power especially the descendants of Barbushe. *Two Kings (Sarakuna) of the Bagauda dynasty Gajimasu and Tsamiya* consolidated the political gains of Bagaudawa, built upon the solid foundation for territorial expansion of the community and attempted to socialize different cultures into one single dominant *culture*. Some of the *sarakuna* were very innovative. The most famous was Sarkin Kano Muhammad Rumfa (1463-1499 CE/867-904 AH). The Kano Chronicler has stated that: "He can have no equal in might from the time of founding Kano until it shall end". Rumfa made twelve innovations: the most notable political innovations were the institution of Tara ta Kano as earlier mentioned and conferment of titles on eunuchs. Sarkin Kano Muhammad Rumfa consolidated the *Sarauta* (Kingship) with several enduring features *Gidan Rumfa* (the Palace), *Hawan Sallah* (procession on the days of Muslim festivals) which is the largest procession of colorful horses (Durbar) in the world, *Dawakin Zage* (spare horses for the sarki during battles and processions), *Kakaki* (trumpet), *Figini* (sarki's fan), *Takalmin Jumuna* (ostrich sandals) *Tagwayen Masu* (twin spears). These regalia of Rumfa have remained part of Kano heritage ever since. The greatest legacy of Rumfa is not materialistic but social and intellectual which have remained relevant ever since. This legacy guided the social and political responses of Kano even during the most traumatic British colonial enterprises. The Kano leaders were guided by Rumfa's legacy of hard work, good sense, courage, confidence and above all faith.

The first Islamic scholar who lived in Kano and wrote in Arabic was perhaps Shaykh Abd al-Karim al-Maghili. He was in Kano during the reign of Sarkin Rumfa (1463-99). He was a great Maliki Jurists and Political Theorist. He wrote *Ta'if fi ma yajib al-Muluk* (The obligation of the Princes) and *Mukhtasar mimma yajuz li 'l-hukkam fi radd al-nas an al-haram* (Summary of Permissability of Turning Away People from Unlawful Acts by those in Authority) to guide Sarkin Kano Muhammadu Rumfa. It is not clear whether he wrote his *al-Mughni al-nabil fi sharh Mukhtasar al-Khalil* (A commentary on Mukhtasar Khalil) in Kano. Muhammad b. Ahmad (aka Aida Ahmad) (824-936AH/1469-1529CE) is said to have resided in Kano and other parts of Hausaland he was an author and contemporary of al-Maghili. He was given *ijaza* (certificate) to teach by some scholars in Egypt and Hijaz and he wrote a commentary on the *Mukhtasar*. He may have taught in Kano before he became the *Qadi* (judge) of Katsina. Another Maliki Jurist who resided in Kano during the Bagaudawa period was Makhluf al-Bilbali apart from his knowledge of Fiqh he was also a *Muhadith* (scholar of Prophetic traditions) he had memorized the Sahih al-Bukhari. Some of his judgments and legal views have been documented. ■■■









## From **Emirate** to **Statehood**

**S**hehu Usman Danfodio made Hijra (Migration) from Degel to Gudu (1217) February 21 1804. This was after several years of preaching and that culminated in the establishment of his Community (*Jama'ah*) who were persecuted by the Gobir authorities necessitating this Hijra during the reign of Sarkin Gobir. At Gudu the Shehu's followers pledged allegiance and formally made him the *Amir al-Muminin* (Commander of the faithful). The Sultan of Gobir sent an expedition against the *Jama'ah* as the Shehu's community and followers came to be known but it was driven back. The Shehu's followers were also successful against the Gobir army at the famous Tabkin Kwatto battle. Shehu just before his Hijra had instructed his followers from all parts of Hausaland to return to the localities and prepare for the Jihad. He also sent his *Wathiqat ahl-Sudan* to all parts of Hausaland and there was widespread mobilization against the established order. This culminated in the overthrow of the ruling





From **Emirate**  
to *Statehood*

dynasties of the major Hausa States of Kano, Katsina, Zazzau and Daura and the establishment of new provinces known as Emirates. The previously independent Hausa states and the new provinces gave their allegiance to Sokoto, which was the Caliphate established by the Shehu. It succeeded as the most prosperous and complexly organized state in tropical Africa (Iliffe 1995: 171 and Lubeck 1986: 12) because it derived its legitimacy from the Islamic allegiance of its citizens. It has been rightly observed that "the Sokoto Caliphate was not properly speaking an empire, since its unity depended not so much on force, as on religious obedience the emirs or provincial governors owed the Commander of the faithful or Caliph of Sokoto" (Crowder 1978). Adeleye (1974) has also emphasized that: "It must be stressed that this loyalty which the Shaikh received from the various communities was freely given not imposed".

The British conquered Kano Emirate in 1903. Kano Emirate has been part of the Sokoto Caliphate since 1807 and was ruled by Emirs, the first was Sulaiman who was succeeded by Ibrahim Dabo in 1819 and all subsequent Emirs (Sullubawa Dynasty) were his descendants. The British used the Emirate structure to administer the territory in system known as the indirect rule. The Emir was the sole Native Authority who was answerable to the colonial administration headed by the Resident at the Provincial level. Kano Province was made up of Kano Emirate and the Emirates of Hadejia, Kazaure and Gumel but each had its Native Authority that controlled the courts, prisons and local police.

Through out the colonial period the British tolerated arbitrary use of power by the native authorities so long as it did not obstruct the attainment of colonial objectives of exploitation of local resources and the transmission of European culture. The arbitrary dismissal of district heads by



the native authorities during this period was advantageous to the colonial authorities because as tax collectors the fear of dismissal made them more efficient. The British encouraged autocracy in judicial matters they had wanted Sarkin Kano Abbas to use his discretion on judicial issues so that the Shari'ah could be gradually abolished but he declined because of his religious consciousness.

Agitation for national independence increased after the Second World War partly because of returning soldiers who had become more enlightened as a result of their participation in the war and as well as the gradual dissolution of the British Empire. The first political association to be formed in the Northern Region in August 1950 was the NEPU. Its first leader was Mallam Abba Maikwaru of Fagge an Islamic Scholar and a community activist. He was a frontline member of Taron Masu Zumunta (TMZ) a grass root organization. Mallam Aminu Kano resigned his teaching appointment in November 1950 and he later became the President General of the NEPU. The Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) was the party of the establishment. It has been described as the political party expression of the Native Authority and the *sarauta*. The emerging merchant capitalist class contributed to the financing of the party in order to maintain their dominant position in the commodity export trade. The party won most of the elections in Kano and other parts of Northern Nigeria. Its leader was Sir Ahmadu Bello (Sardaunan Sokoto). It formed government in the Northern Region and Ahmadu Bello was the Premier. It also formed government at the Federal level because it had more seats in the parliament and it was in alliance with other parties. Sardauna's deputy Sir Abubakar Tafawa Belwa thus became the Prime Minister of the Federation. The NPC was committed to the transfer of power to Nigerians who will maintain the *status quo* because of their association with the colonial establishment. All NPC ministers at the regional and the Federal level were former Native Authority employees and traditional titleholders.

The military overthrew the first republic in a bloody coup on January 15 1966 and ruled the country for thirteen years. There was a civil war from 1967 to 1970 when the Eastern Region attempted to secede in the name of Biafra under the leadership of Col Ojukwu but the Federal side led by General Yakubu Gowon was victorious. It was General Gowon's administration that created Kano State in 1967. In 1991 Jigawa State was carved out of Kano State by the General Ibrahim Babangida regime.





## *From Emirate to Statehood*

**S**ince 1967, Kano State has been governed by sixteen governors namely: Police Commissioner Alhaji Audu Bako (military) 1967-1975, Colonel Sani Bello (military) 1975-1978, Group Captain Ishaya Aboi Shekari (military administrator) 1978-1979, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi (1979-1983, civilian Peoples Redemption Party-PRP), Alhaji Audu Dawakin Tofa (1983 civilian PRP), Alhaji Sabo Bakin Zuwo (civilian-PRP) 1983, Air Vice Marshal Hamza Abdullahi (military) 1984-1985, Colonel Ahmed Daku (military) 1985-1986, Group Captain Ndatsu Umaru (military) 1986-1988, Colonel Idris Garba (military) 1988-1991, Alhaji Kabiru Gaya (civilian National Republican Convention NRC 1991-1993), Colonel Abdullahi Wase (military) (1993-1996), Colonel Dominic Oneya (military) (1996-1998), Colonel Aminu Isa Kontagora (military) (1998-1999), Dr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso (civilian Peoples Democratic Party-PDP 1999-2003), Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau (civilian All Nigeria Peoples Party-ANPP 2003-2007) and Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau (re-elected All Nigeria Peoples Party-ANPP 2007-)





# The Kano Economy and Resources

**N**igerian economy since the colonial times has been largely driven by export of raw materials. This was one of the aims of colonialism and even subsequent western strategies of neo-colonialism and globalization. Northern Nigeria, especially Kano, was a major producer of groundnuts. In fact Kano produced about a half million tons which was about half of Nigeria's groundnut production during peak periods. Oil replaced agricultural commodities as the main source of foreign exchange and government revenue. The oil boom of the 1970's made the government to neglect agriculture. Many of the rural dwellers rushed to the cities in search of "greener" pastures.

Government at the federal and state levels formulated policies for the revival of agricultural productivity and poverty alleviation, because the survival of the society was threatened, as Nigeria became an importer of food. Among these policies were the operation feed the nation, green revolution, better life for rural women and family economic advancement program. Agricultural practitioners have complained that they have not benefited from previous programs, hence the present state of poverty especially in northern Nigeria. The federal government made attempts to encourage industrialization in Nigeria through several programs and institutions such as NIDB (Nigeria Industrial Development Bank), NBCI (Nigeria Bank for Commerce and Industry) and NERFUND (National Economic Recovery Fund).

The people of Kano have been known for the "extensive initiative and perseverance". Kano merchants have been famous in West Africa some of them were even legendary for example the late Alhaji Alhassan Dantata who was the wealthiest Nigerian at the time he died. Alhaji Aliko Dangote one of the wealthiest African industrialists is a great-grandson of the late Alhaji Alhassan Dantata. Kano businessmen, including Dantata pioneered the first textile industry in Nigeria the Gwamaja Textiles established by the Kano Citizens Trading Company. It should be noted that even in the pre-colonial period, Kano "was probably Nigeria's most celebrated textile exporting center".





Kano's products were in high demand even in North Africa and it was rightly observed by Professor Elizabeth Isichei in her book *A History of Nigeria* that: Almost as far as the Nile, and certainly in Southern Morocco, the blue haïques and burnouse of semi-Arab and Moorish tribes are the products of craftsmen in Kano and Sokoto, and this 'country cloth', as it is called, is worth much more along the coast than any turned out in Manchester.

Private investors established most of the industries in Kano. The regional government, during the first republic, established no industry in Kano as it did in Kaduna and Sokoto, which hosted the textile and cement industries respectively. The Federal Government established only one industry in Kano, the National Truck Manufacturers (NTM), a commercial vehicle assembly plant that was never viable because of its precarious foundation and it was closed and later privatized. But in Kaduna, the federal government established a fertilizer plant, a motor assembly plant and a refinery. The last two are all functioning and the refinery is perhaps the most important industry in northern Nigeria.

Most of the industries established in Nigeria during the oil boom era were import substitution-based and with the fall in oil prices, the value of naira crashed, most of them collapsed because they relied on imported raw materials. The worst affected were those in the North especially Kano. This is because, the transportation cost from Lagos to Kano skyrocketed. Hence, they could not compete with those in Lagos or Ota and since there is no railway, it will be difficult to restore such establishments. Energy supply to Kano has also remained epileptic. The cost of diesel, which is used by generators, has also skyrocketed, especially in Kano. These and other reasons made many factories to close and render their workers unemployed.



# AGRICULTURE

**A**griculture is one of the most important pillars of the State's economy with about 75% of the total working population engaged directly or indirectly in this activity. The principal food crops cultivated in abundance are Millet, Cowpeas, Sorghum, Maize and Rice for local consumption while Groundnuts and Cotton are produced for export and industrial purposes. During the colonial period and several years after the country's independence, the groundnuts produced in the State constituted one of the major revenue sources of the country. Kano State is a major producer of Hides and Skin with over 80% of the tanneries located in the industrial estates of the state producing high quality tanned leather ranked among the best in the world, which are exported. Some of the exportable commodities grown in Kano State include Sesame, Soya Beans, Cotton, Garlic, Gum Arabic and Chili Pepper. Most of these commodities are available at Dawanau Market about 13 Km from the Kano City center. Kano State contributes over 20% of Nigeria's non-oil export revenue.

Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau's administration has recognized agriculture as the most important sector of the economy because it is the most productive. The administration has remained committed to revamping of this sector which has been neglected for several years. It has accorded it the highest priority ever by allocating on the average more than 10% of its three consecutive budgets. The Shekarau Administration has also initiated the Special Mass Food Production Program. KNARDA has initiated various intervention strategies and farmers have been encouraged to establish associations and they have responded, hence more than 10000 farmer groups have been formed. The administration has provided more fertilizer than any other previous administration. It provided 55,000 tons and 60,000 tons for 2004 and 2005 planting seasons respectively at a subsidized price of N1000 per bag.







## COMMERCE

Commercial activity in Kano received its first encouragement with the establishment of Kurmi Market by Sarkin Kano Muhammad Rumfa in the 16th century CE. Subsequent leaders made contributions to the emergence of Kano as a leading commercial center in the Sudanic Africa. For example, the first two Emirs of Kano, Sarkin Kano Ibrahim Dabo and Sarkin Kano Sulaiman in the 19th century encouraged traders to move from Katsina because of Maradi raid. This was one of major contributing factors that made Kano the richest province in the Sokoto Caliphate. The Jihad leaders of the caliphate encouraged Kolanut trade and Kano was the greatest beneficiary with an annual turnover of about \$30 million. Kano merchants were also very innovative and they were able to integrate commerce and craft industry during the pre-colonial period this contributed to the prosperity of the province. Kano was producing an estimated 10 million pairs of sandals during that period because of economic harmony. Sarkin Kano Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi (1953-1963) established the Bompai Industrial Estate which was the first of its kind in the state through a loan guaranty that was later used against him by the Northern Regional Government.

Kano State is the most important and largest commercial centre in Northern Nigeria. With about 10 million people, it provides a stable and continuous market for both manufactured and semi-processed goods. The volume of trading activities conducted on daily basis in the markets, notably Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi (Sabon-Gari), Kwanar Singer, Kantin Kwari, Kurmi and Dawanau Markets signify the state's great potentials as a market for various products.

In addition to the large and unique markets, Kano is also blessed with plentiful and various kinds of agricultural products which provide huge raw materials for Agro-Allied industries. Agricultural products like Maize, Guinea Corn, Rice, Cotton and Groundnut are readily available to serve as raw materials for oil milling, flour and textile industries. Other agro based raw materials are Gum Arabic, Livestock, Hides and Skin, Cowpeas, and Citrus fruits.





Similarly, the second Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in the country has been approved by the federal government and the state government is making efforts for its actualization. It is expected to provide additional impetus to both local and foreign investors. Furthermore, the state is one of the three states in the Northern part of the country that serve as a dry port and Inland Container Depot (ICD) for import/export activities of the hinterland shippers.

The impressive infrastructural facilities such as the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport road and Railway links to other parts of the country as well as the excellent road network within the state provide unique opportunities for the steady growth of commercial activities. There are over 100 branches of commercial banks. Similarly, there are several branches of insurance companies and brokerage firms making Kano the leading financial center of Northern Nigeria.



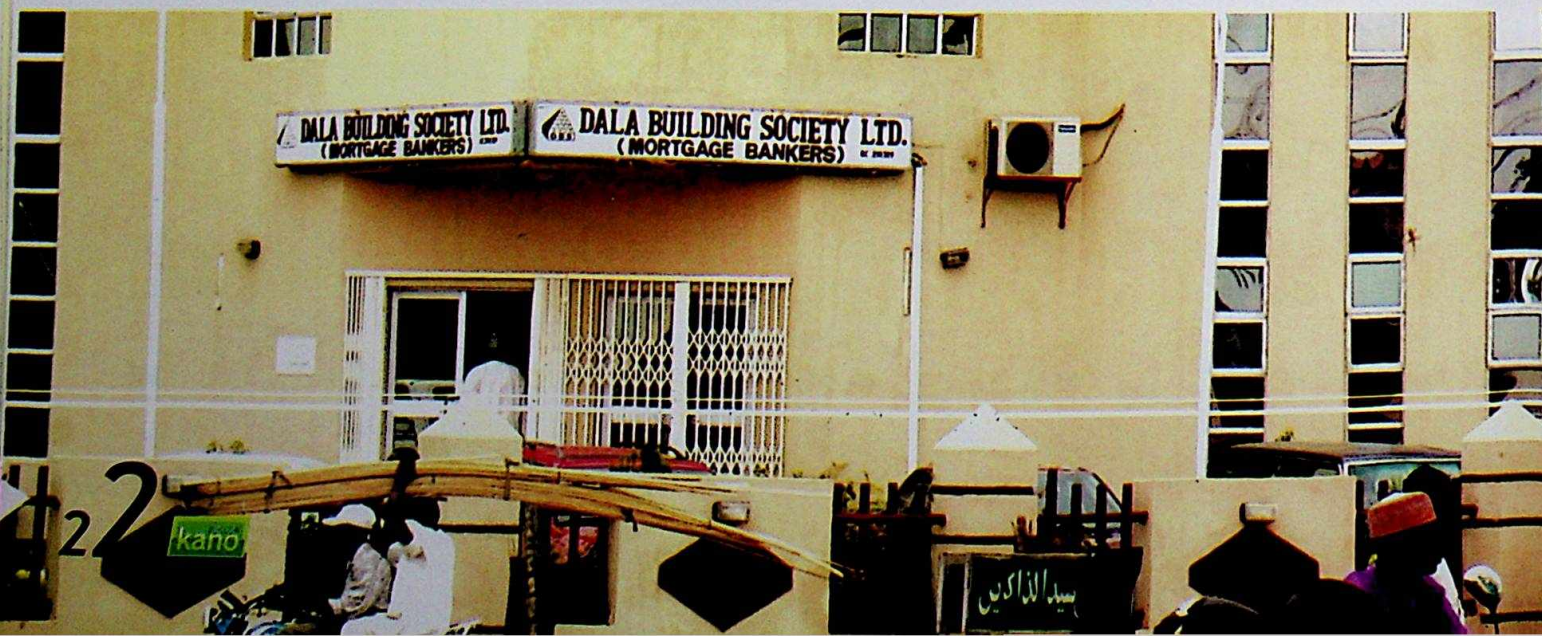
**T**he Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Cooperatives is charged with the responsibility of registration, supervision, inspection and auditing of all types of Cooperative Societies in the state. The Ministry also conducts public enlightenment programs to sensitize the public on the advantages of cooperative organizations.

In its effort to establish a just and equitable distribution of farm inputs, the Shekarau administration recognized the relevance of cooperative associations as one of the best ways of evolving reasonable agricultural inputs supply system in Kano State because they involve practicing farmers. This is necessary because it is one of the best ways of improving the socio-economic status of peasant farmers. Through the engagement of these cooperatives, the farmers' level of awareness has been raised and they are now aware of the benefits of participation in cooperative groups. Positive responses have been received resulting in the formation and registration of one hundred thousand (100,000) new members into various types of Agricultural Cooperative Societies throughout the State.

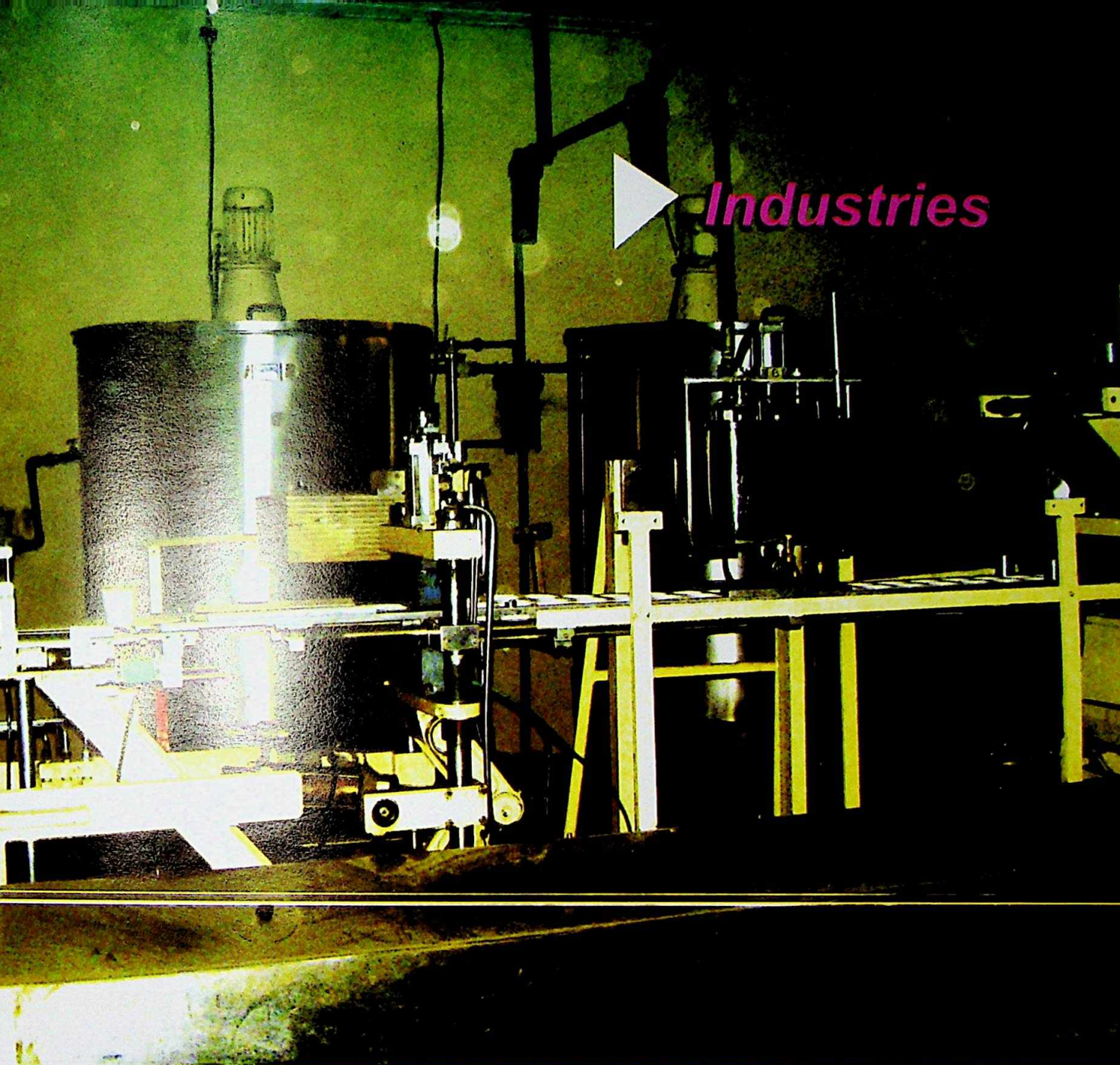
Another important milestone in the development of cooperative groups in the state is the area of the formation of associations by workers in both public and private sectors. These associations have proved to be very successful. Basically, they cater for workers economic welfare through provision and encouragement of savings.



## **Cooperative Development**



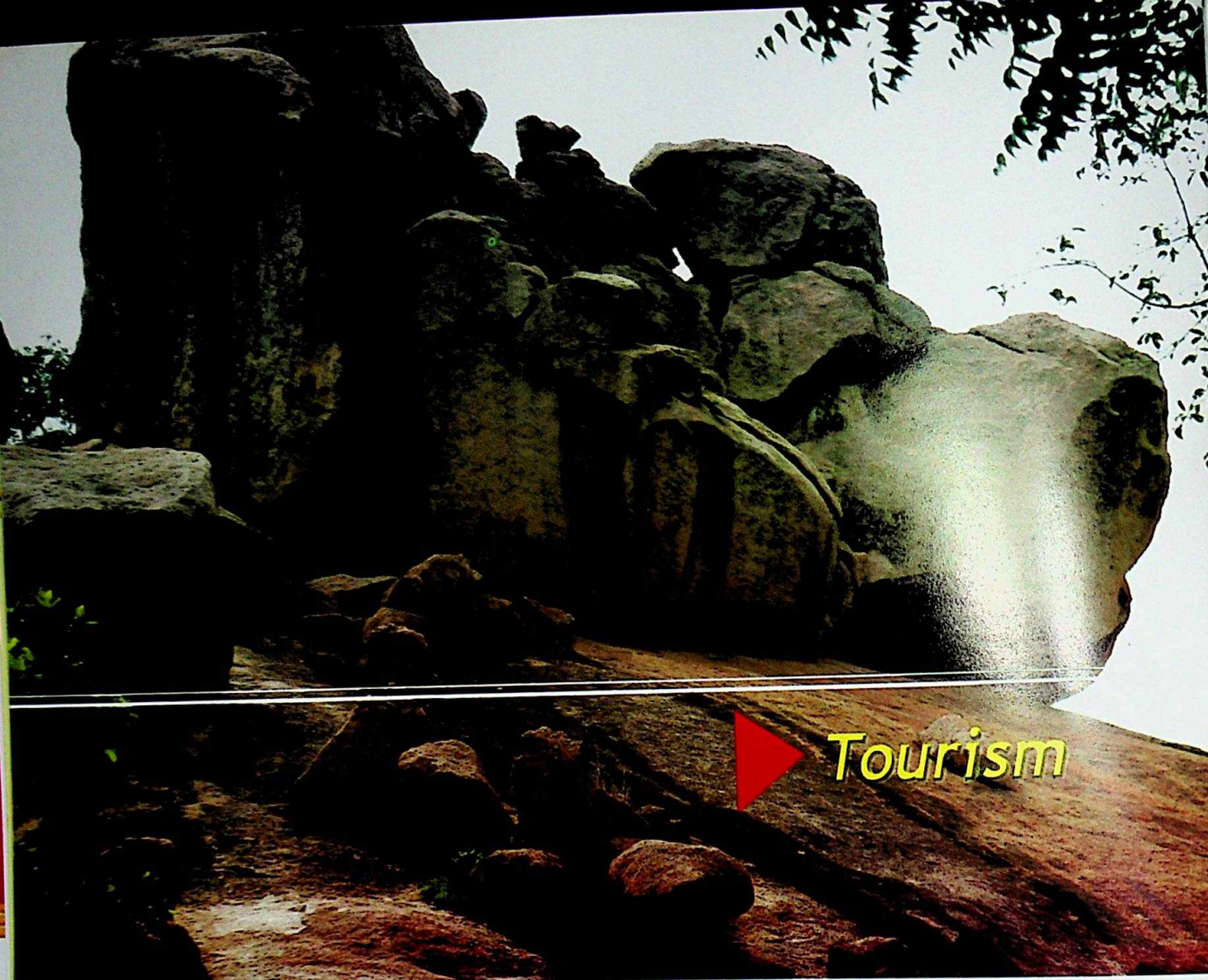




**K**ano State is the second largest industrial center in Nigeria and the largest in the Northern Nigeria. There are at present over 400 privately owned medium and small scale industries in the state producing various items, such as textile materials, tanned leather, foot wears, cosmetics, plastics, enamel ware, pharmaceuticals, ceramics, furniture and bicycles. Others include agricultural implements, soft drinks, food and beverages, dairy products, vegetable oil, groundnut oil, animal feeds, etc.

The strategy put in place by the State Government to boost the growth of industries was to provide large industrial areas such as Sharada industrial areas (Phase I, II, and III) the Challawa Industrial Area and Tokarawa Industrial layout. More of such industrial estates are being envisaged in the very near future.





## Tourism

**K**ano is blessed with abundant tourism resources which include historical monuments and sites, as well as unique places of great interest, such as Kurmi Market established in the 15<sup>th</sup> century is in the heart of Kano City, the centuries-old city wall with some of its gates still standing. The Gidan Rumfa (Emir's Palace) is the oldest and largest traditional palace in Nigeria. It is the oldest continuous sit of the authority in Nigeria. It was established by Sarkin Kano Muhammadu Rumfa (1463-1499) and it has been in continuous use since that time. Although the Sarki's authority has been transformed to community leadership, his influence is still profound and everyday common people seek solace in his leadership for his intervention in some of their predicaments. The famous Kano Mosque, a modern architectural masterpiece constructed by Sarkin Kano Abdullahi Bayero (1926-1953) at the site designated by Shaykh Abdullahi Danfodio is also close to the palace. It was a tourist attraction in the 1960s and 1970s when there were few such mosques in Nigeria. Other places of interest for relaxation and picnicking abound in the state. They include the Rock Castle, strategically located, over looking the famous Tiga Dam, Rurum Tourist





Lodge, Kano Zoological Garden, Gidan Makama Museum, etc. Tourists to Kano should not miss witnessing the Durbar, unique in the world because it is the largest procession of colorful horses and also portrays the Emir's Regalia which is one of the most impressive dating back to Sarkin Kano Muhammadu Rumfa. This Durbar is held during the both Eid-el-Fitr at the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan and Eid-el-Kabir which is an event marking the 10<sup>th</sup> day of DHUL HAJJ (the 12<sup>th</sup> Month of the Islamic Calendar).

The Kano State Tourist Camp, located just near the Central Hotel is an important transit point for European trans-Saharan visitors, a central venue for students and cultural groups. It offers excellent and affordable accommodation for tourists who prefer not to lodge in the many luxurious hotels in the city.

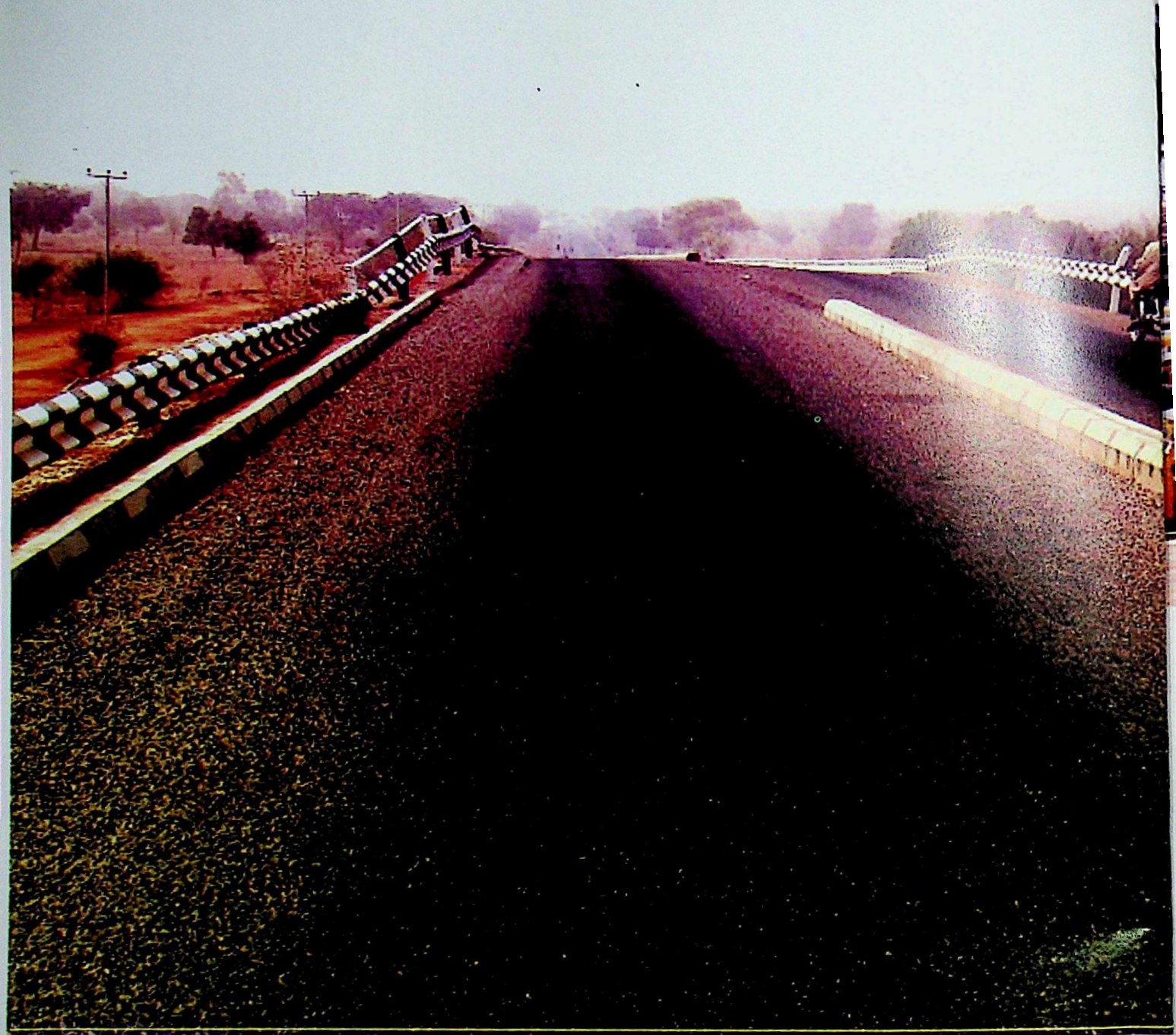
The marketing and promotion department of the Tourism Board situated at the Tourist Camp provides visitors with both written and oral information on Kano City and its surroundings, as well as all information on tourism in the State.

Package tours can also be arranged by the Tourism Board, ranging from 3-hour city tour to an all-inclusive tour to places of interest within the state such as Rurum, Tiga and Falgore Game Reserve, as well as outside the state to places such as Yankari Game Reserve the largest in West Africa. The Kano State Tourism Board has an advantage because of its experience in handling international travelers.





# KANO.



*Transportation*



# Transportation



**K**ano State has good road network linking it with major cities and towns in Nigeria. Most of the urban and rural centers of the state are linked with roads. The Shekarau Administration has also committed over N20 billion for roads development and rehabilitation covering over 700 kilometers of rural and urban roads and bridges from 2003 to 2008.

**AIRPORT:** The Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport serves as a gateway to the Northern States from the outside world. With the recent commissioning of rehabilitation work on the Airport, it is believed that more international air traffic for both passenger and cargo will utilize the airport as a gateway to Nigeria.

**URBAN MASS TRANSIT:** The Shekarau Administration has committed more resources to urban mass transit than most previous administrations. Urban mass transit is a necessity in a commercial city where there are several commuters in a day moving from the peri-urban residences to the markets in the central business districts and to factories in the industrial estates. The Shekarau Administration has so far provided 150 buses and 1500 tricycles for the urban mass transit scheme operated by the Kano State Transport Authority (Kano Line).





## Water Resources

**K**ano State is blessed with abundant water resources. Dams were constructed all over the state as part of the government's effort to utilize the abundant water resources for dry season farming and potable water supply to urban and rural areas.

At present, the available water resources in the state, if properly harnessed, could irrigate over 400,000 acres and could produce nearly two million tons of crops that include vegetables such as tomatoes, onion, pepper, etc, annually. The most important irrigation projects are the Kano River Project and Hadejia Valley Project, both of which depend upon Tiga Dam for their water supply. Other Dams located in the State supplement Tiga by supplying water to increase total cultivatable land under irrigation, thus facilitating production of several thousand tons of wheat and rice annually. ■■■



# Structure of Government

**K**ano State as noted earlier is one of the thirty six states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and like all states of the federation its government has three arms, the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary.



## ▶ The Executive Council

The Executive Council is the highest policy making body of the state. It is made up of the elected Governor, his Deputy and Commissioners who head the various ministries whose appointments are ratified by the State House of Assembly, the Secretary to the State Government and the Head of the Civil Service are appointed by the Governor without confirmation of the State House of Assembly they are always in attendance at the State Executive Council.

His Excellency the Governor Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau Chairman

His Excellency the Deputy Governor Engineer Abdullahi Tijjani Muhammad  
- Deputy Chairman and Honorable Commissioner for Water Resources

Barrister Aliyu Umar- Attorney General and Honorable Commissioner of Justice

Nour Sani Hanga- Honorable Commissioner for Planning and Budget

Salihu Sagir Takai- Honorable Commissioner for Local Government

Garba Yusuf Abubakar- Honorable Commissioner of Environment

Musa Sulaiman Shanono- Honorable Commissioner of Agriculture

Ibrahim Garba- Honorable Commissioner for Projects Monitoring

Ahmed Ibrahim Yakasai- Honorable Commissioner of Commerce and Industry

Dr. Mustapha Namadi- Honorable Commissioner of Higher Education

Surajo Abubakar Karaye- Honorable Commissioner of Finance

Engineer Sarki Labaran- Honorable Commissioner for Works

Barrister Haruna Isa Dederi- Honorable Commissioner for Information and Culture

Yakubu Albishir- Honorable Commissioner for Land and Physical Planning

Musa Salihu- Honorable Commissioner for Education

Maimuna Kabir Khalil- Honorable Commissioner for Women Affairs

Aisha Isiyaku Kiru- Honorable Commissioner for Health

Musa Illiasu Kwankwaso- Honorable Commissioner for Rural Development

Abdulkarim Hassan- Secretary to State Government

Rabiu Zakariya'u Head of Civil Service

## ▶ Legislature

The State House of Assembly is the Legislative arm of the Government that makes laws and it is made up of forty elected members from the forty constituencies of the state.

The Speaker of the State House of Assembly is Rt Honorable Alhaji Abdulaziz Garba Gafasa

The Deputy Speaker is Honorable Alhaji Aliko Shuaibu Muktar

For more information visit [www.kanohouseofassembly.org](http://www.kanohouseofassembly.org).

## ▶ The Judiciary

This is the third arm of government. It is the arbiter that ensures justice and the rule of law. It has a High Court which is a superior court with certain original jurisdictions and it is headed by a Chief Judge. There is also a Shari'ah Court of Appeal headed by a Grand Kadi. The other courts are the Magistrate and Shari'ah Courts.

The Chief Judge is Honorable Justice Shehu Atiku

The Grand Kadi is Honorable Kadi Dahiru Rabiu



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## Some Useful Addresses:

1. Ministry of Commerce  
Post Office Road  
Kano  
Telephone numbers 234-64-634020, 234-64-208120, 234-64-634010
2. Ministry of Planning and Budget  
Audu Bako Secretariat  
Kano
3. Ministry of Information Youth Sports and Culture  
Audu Bako Secretariat  
Kano
4. Special Adviser Education and Information Technology  
Audu Bako Secretariat  
Kano  
[www.kanostate.net](http://www.kanostate.net)

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