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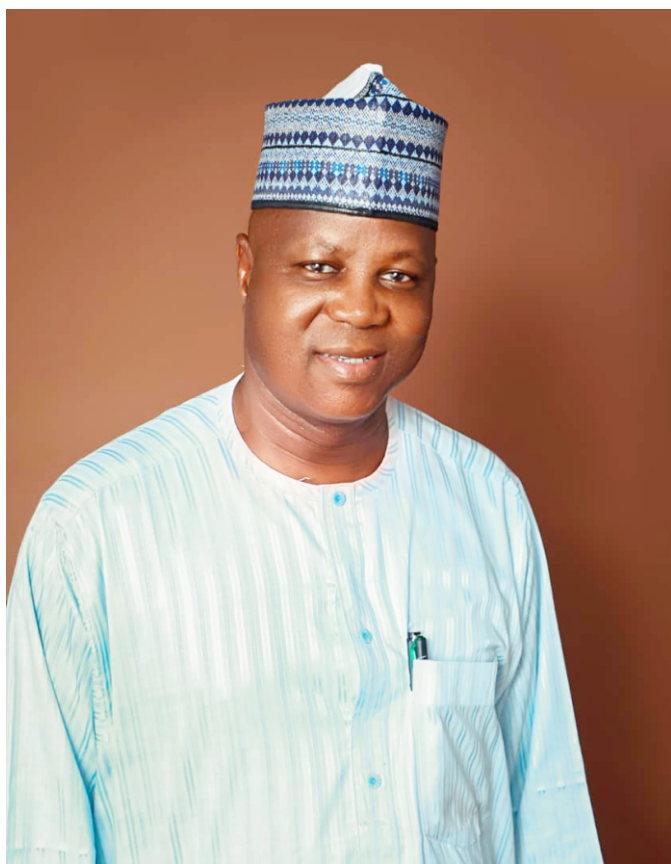
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF SOKOTO STATE UNIVERSITY

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**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
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**JAGABAN OF NEW SOKOTO**  
VISITOR TO THE UNIVERSITY

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# Editorial

It is with immense delight that we introduce Vol. 2 of the SSU News Bulletin, which features His Excellency, The Executive Governor of Sokoto State, and visitor to the University, Dr. Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto **FCNA, ACIT**. This news bulletin will continue to serve as a medium for information dissemination and showcasing activities of the University. The editorial committee urge members of the University community to kindly share their research breakthroughs, short

academic stories and academic fictions that can educate members of the public. The Vice Chancellor encourages active researchers to share their research outcome for dissemination through this medium. In this era of healthy competition among Universities in terms of ranking and visibility, it become necessary for researchers to share their research effort and be more visible to the world. This is an aspect of behavioural architecture that sells you to funders. Please remember that there are a number of grants that are waiting for you. It is not only the case, that you have to look for them, they also look for you.

## MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL TEAM

S/N	Name	Department/Position	Designation
1	Prof. M.B. Yerima	Microbiology/Vice-chancellor	Chairman
2.	Dr. Godwin Onuh Odeh	History & International Studies/HoD	Member
3.	Dr. Zainab Abdulkarim	English Language & Linguistics/HoD	Member
4.	Dr. Anas Tukur Balarabe	Computer Science/Dean	Member
5.	Ailyu Abubakar Kware	Registry	Member/Secretary



## Beyond Bricks and Blackboards: The Digital and Social Architecture of Aliyu's Education Agenda

The administration of His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto, *PhD, FCNA, ACIT*, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, commenced in 2023 with clarity of purpose and measurable momentum. Like a well-calibrated tripod, it rests on a 9-Point **"SMART"** Innovative Agenda. Within that framework, education emerges not a peripheral concern but as a foundational pillar. This essay set out to dissect that pillar—to assess its architecture, interrogate its outcomes, and locate its place in Sokoto's long march toward a higher plane of civilization. Education, though universally acknowledged as the bedrock of human capital and societal progress, has often been relegated to political platitudes in Nigeria's sub-national governance. Thus,

Governor Aliyu's approach invites scrutiny. It is instructive to recall that in 2015, the administration of Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal declared a state of emergency in the education sector upon assumption of office. By 2023, the consensus among Sokoto's citizens was that the emergency had not delivered the transformation promised. That declaration itself was an indictment: it suggested the administrations of Attahiru Bafarawa and Aliyu Maagatakarda Wamakko had left critical gaps. To be fair, their governments recorded visible or tangible investments—schools were established, buildings renovated, some facilities digitized, budgetary allocations improved, and instructional materials procured. Yet, the human core of the system—teacher's welfare, professional dignity, and motivation—remained largely unaddressed. The point is, without the teacher, the classroom is an empty shell. This is precisely where Aliyu's Administration marks a departure. He moved swiftly to restore power (electricity) to schools and public institutions upon assumption of office. He equally implemented the national minimum wage and wage award for civil servants, including teachers, restoring a measure of dignity to the profession. More pointedly, his approval of the 25 per cent and 35 per cent upward review of salaries for academic and non-academic staff in Sokoto State University and Shehu Shagari University of Education signaled a recognition that infrastructure without motivation is an exercise in futility. In addition, it is voiced in some quarters that arrangements are underway for the completion of the Sokoto State University Teaching Hospital, which the previous administration started but could not complete. Expectations, therefore, remain high. The recent joint press statement by the ASUU chapters of the two state-owned universities drew attention to outstanding third-party deductions, domestication of the 2025 ASUU-FG Agreement, and unpaid Earned Academic Allowances. A

government that has the political will to adjust salary structure is naturally expected to address these residual concerns. The public is watching, and justifiably so. Beyond remuneration, Governor Aliyu has pursued a deliberate policy of inclusion. His administration has awarded local and international scholarships to indigent students, absorbed the cost of JAMB (UTME), WAEC, and NECO registrations for secondary school candidates, and provided free Direct Entry forms for aspiring undergraduates. These interventions are not tokenism. They remove the financial barbed wires that has historically excluded poor and rural children, especially girls from the education ladder. Across Sokoto's three senatorial districts, new classroom blocks have risen while dilapidated ones are being rehabilitated. But the agenda transcends cement and roofing sheets. The administration is aligning the state with national policy by inspecting and accrediting secondary schools even tertiary institutions as CBT centers for WAEC and NECO. State workshops have been held, underscoring this shift. The 250 –seat Bakhita ICT/CBT Centre, allegedly inspected for state collaboration, further underscore the commitment to digital transition. Perhaps the most innovative strand of the agenda is its financing model. Under the World Bank–supported AGILE Project, 240 secondary schools received School Improvement Grants, ranging from N23 million to N46 million, with larger tranches that were earmarked for 2025. Funds were transferred directly to school accounts for boreholes, desks, toilets, and renovations, bypassing the bureaucratic bottlenecks. School heads now receive monthly cash allocations to run their schools, ending decades of dependence on PTA (Parent Teachers Association) levies. The Governor has also prioritized Islamic education, announcing plans to construct and renovate islamiyya schools to inculcate sound moral values. Coupled with prompt payment of salaries—a routine duty that critics dismiss, yet one that restores predictability to thousands of households –these measures suggest a government that understand education both as social contract and economic strategy. By way of conclusion therefore, what emerges from Governor Aliyu's first two to three years is an education agenda that refuses to be confined to the bricks and blackboards. It is an attempt to build a dual architecture: the digital–CBT centers, ICT labs, and technology–driven assessment; and the social–teacher dignity, girl–child education, direct school funding, and scholarship access. Despite the above giant strides in the education sector, the task is far from finished. Outstanding ASUU–SSU and SSUES demands, learning outcomes, and quality assurance must remain on the front burner. By tackling the human element that previous administrations neglected, while simultaneously modernizing facilities and financing them, Governor Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto, the famous visitor of two varsities is repositioning education sector from a state of emergency to a state of emergence. On the closing note, Governor Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto, Ph.D., FCNA, ACIT, is not merely building schools but building a system where teachers can teach, children can learn, and poverty is not a disqualification.



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# PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES (PCSDI) PAID A VISIT TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The leadership of Productive Community for Sustainable Development Initiatives has on Thursday 8th January, 2026 visited the Vice-Chancellor of Sokoto State University, Prof. M. B. Yerima in his office.

The leader of the team informed the Vice-Chancellor that they were in his office to identify with him, seek for collaboration as well as solicit for the consent of the University to initiate a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the Centre in Sokoto State University. Accordingly, he informed the Vice-Chancellor that PCSDI activities (empowered by the Canadian Education Council) focuses on Health, Education and Climate Change. Also, they emphasised on enhancing female education and their participation in governance.

The Centre if established in Sokoto State University, will be first of its kind in Nigeria. The centre is aimed at mentoring female gender in the University towards leadership so that they help in the community building. The Vice-Chancellor was overwhelmed by the visit and commended the PCSDI for their initiative. He revealed that educating a female is like educating the whole society. He reiterated that Sokoto State University operates based on gender friendly policies. Many female staff are appointed into many administrative positions and they are doing their best in their respective positions for the development of the University. The University is committed to protecting the dignity of both female staff and students. Furthermore, the Vice-Chancellor applauded the PCSDI and revealed that Sokoto State University is open to collaboration and informed them that the management will look at their proposal and a Memorandum of Understanding can be possible.





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# Sokoto State University Founder's Day Lecture:

## A Historical Review for Resuscitation

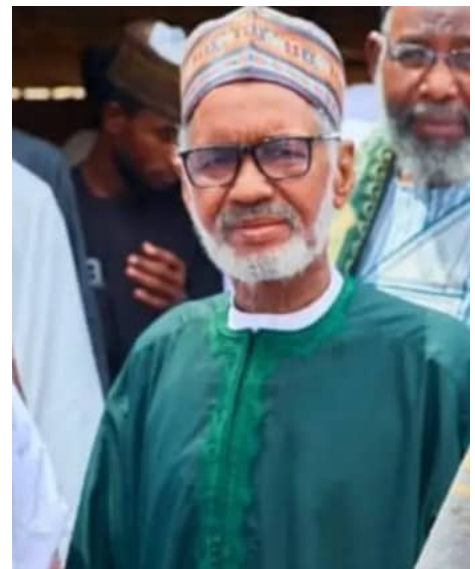
Essentially a University Founder's Day Lecture is meant to honour the institution's founding father and reflect on its mission, values, and future direction. This reflection naturally brings to the fore the utilitarian value of history— a reminder of the past in view of the journey ahead. Founder's Day Lecture is one of the key annual ceremonies, alongside convocation, for an established university like Sokoto State University.

To avoid the risk of over-flogging the issue, the historical evolution of Sokoto State University will not be rehearsed here again, it has been handled in the previous volume (*Vol.1 No.1, SSU News Bulletin, August–December, 2025*). What will be done here is basically a historical consideration of lectures, particularly, Founder's Day Lectures, since the inception of the University.

From 2013 to date (*May 2026*), the University has had three Founder's Day Lectures. The initial lecture was the Commissioning Lecture titled, "*Ownership and Management of University in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*", delivered by Professor S.A. Galadanci on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The lecture heralded the full-force take off of the academic activities in the University with the commissioning of the present Campus by the former Military Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar (Rtd.), GCFR, on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The lecture highlighted major aspects of University education in Nigeria, noting that the University of Ibadan, which began academic activities on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1948 and was initially an affiliate of the University of London, was the door-opener to University education in Nigeria. Different generations of Universities were noted by the lecturer. Equally highlighted during the lecture were the challenges facing Nigeria's Universities in the century, such as inadequate facilities, and deteriorating facilities, poor funding and management, declining falling of education standards, along with suggested ways out for the apex intuitions. The lecturer concluded that the establishment of Sokoto State University is a clear manifestation of the torch light of the administrative and intellectual capability of the caliphate established by Sheikh Usmanu Danfodiyo.



Consequently, in 2014, what may be authoritatively described as the First Founder's Day Lecture was delivered by the true and respected Founder of the Sokoto State University, His Excellency Senator (Dr) Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko. The title of the lecture was, *"Universities in the Development of their Societies: The Role of the Sokoto State University in the Development of Nigeria"*. It pointed to prominent universities in Africa, Americas, Asia, and Europe and how those universities brought about tremendous development to their host communities and nations at large. While recognizing teething challenges Sokoto State University is bound to face, he charged it to take development and progressive cues from prominent universities across the globe and successful ones in Nigeria. In his conclusion, he was optimistic that SSU would not be among the league of Universities in Nigeria experiencing recurring industrial actions. This should be taken into consideration in the current economic reality, in which the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Sokoto State University (ASUU-SSU), is making a frantic appeal to the Visitor, His Excellency, Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto, *PhD, FCNA, ACIT*, to improve their working conditions. The Second Founder's Day Lecture, with the theme *"Educational –Crisis or Cultural Crisis Writ Large in Northern Nigeria? Consequence of Indirect Rule"*, was delivered by Professor G.V. Ardo on 29th October 2015. The lecture took a cursory look at the history of colonial rule in Nigeria and maintained that Fredrick Lord Lugard was an intelligent administrator who meant well for northern Nigeria (p.3). He eloquently surveyed the educational crisis in South-East Asia particularly, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and even Iran and China, arguing that the region previously lagged behind in educational ratings (p.5). Similar educational challenges, as he argued, were also noticeable in the defunct USSR, Japan, and USA after World War 11. However, they navigated through and are doing well today. The lecturer painstakingly noted how fallouts of colonialism, with cultural mix-ups, affected all levels of education in the North, manifesting in enrollment and students' performance. He piercingly concluded that the crisis which northern Nigerian states misconstrued as educational is, in fact, a cultural crisis, and thus, charged stakeholders to consciously confront poverty and its culture. The Third, which has been the last since 2016, was delivered by Alhaji Sahabi Isa Gada on 29th December 2016. The theme of the lecture was, *"The State of*



*Emergency in Education in Sokoto State*". It maintained that the nexus between education and development is well established. He further contended that schooling improves productivity and health and reduces the negative features of life in all ramifications. The lecture tersely examined challenges facing the education



enterprise across the globe, with emphasis on the state of affairs in Sokoto State, arguing in favour of the declaration of a state of emergency in the sector, describing it as "statistics on education was not only worrisome but regrettable" (p11). He looked at the role of Sokoto State University within the context of research and partnership, arguing that it could ameliorate the deplorable state of affairs in the education sector in the State. As easy and laudable as the "state of emergency" might be in the eyes of analysts and observers, it fell victim to policy summersault. In the final analysis, he opined that if development goals are to be achieved in Sokoto State, Sokoto State University must take the driver's seat for the state of emergency to

succeed. Unfortunately, throughout the administration, nothing tangible was achieved in the education sector—not because the State University was not on the drivers' seat, but the lack of conscious investment in the only state University. In short, instead of consolidating on the achievements of his predecessor by heavily investing in Sokoto State University, the administration, to the shock of many, went on to establish Shehu Shagari University of Education, thereby, unnecessarily duplicating courses already existing in SSU.

By way of conclusion, one thing that stands out in this review is that all the Founder's Day Lectures were held during the time of eminent Professor Nuhu O. Yaqub, **OFR**, underscoring the great importance he attached to this significant University tradition. The non-observance of Founder's Day Lecture for about ten years (December 2016 – May 2026) now speaks volumes about the state of affairs in the University that started on a very bright note. The good news is that Professor M.B. Yerima, the Vice Chancellor of the University, is poised to reverse this negative trend and restoring this cherished and respected University tradition as he prepares for the Fourth Founder's Day Lecture in the upcoming convocation ceremony.

# HON. HADIZA ALHAJI:

## THE FACE OF THE NEW APC NORTHWEST WOMEN LEADER

Honourable Hadiza Alhaji is the face of a new political order emerging in Northern Nigeria—where technocratic excellence meets grassroots mobilization. A native of Sokoto South LGA, born 22 February 1971 into a pious and industrious family, she represents the Sokoto legacy of moral leadership under modern statecraft. She was educated at Nizzamiya Primary School and Nana Girls Secondary School, earning her First School Living Certificate and Senior Secondary School Certificate. She proceeded to Waziri Umaru Polytechnic, Birnin Kebbi, for her National Diploma (ND) and Higher National Diploma (HND), and later obtained a Diploma in Accounting and Auditing from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Her pedigree secured her entry into the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the nation's financial nerve center. At the CBN, she rose from Assistant Manager to Senior Supervisor and Deputy Manager across Sokoto and Abuja, voluntarily retiring as Manger in December 2024. Her record was defined by “integrity and honesty, good interpersonal skills, and ability to deliver results in a team”. She left the boardroom with a reputation for fiscal discipline and incorruptible service. On 27 March 2026, the APC Northwest Zonal Convention in Kaduna delivered a decisive verdict: Hadiza Alhaji was elected as Zonal Women Leader. This was not patronage. It was a political investment in competence. They entrusted her with mandate to convert the Northwest's women from electoral spectators into political stakeholders. She brings to the field the same managerial rigor that distinguished her decades of career at the apex bank.

Her Five-Point Political Agenda for the Northwest are as follows:

- i. Unity as Political Capital: Consolidating Northwest women into a unified, disciplined voting bloc ;



- ii. Economic and Political Empowerment: Moving women and youth from margins to the center of party structures;
- iii. Institutionalizing Gender Inclusion: Demanding seats at the table, not just seat in the hall;
- iv. Political Enlightenment: Equipping women with the ideology and strategy to contest and win; and,
- v. Peace as a Statecraft: Stabilizing homes to stabilize the polity—because national security begins in the family, and women are its first intelligence corps.

She is one of the frontline advocates for “reserved seats for women”, the constitutional project championed by Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. For Hadiza Alhaji, Sokoto State is ground zero. The Northwest comprises of Sokoto, Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Kebbi, Zamfara, and Jigawa States. But as proverbs insists, “charity begins at home”. Her mission launches in Sokoto—before and beyond the 2027 general elections—to prove that gender inclusion is not rhetoric but results. Her political creed is clear: “to whom much is given, much is expected. Politics is not a career; it is stewardship for the common good”. As Northwest Women Leader, she intends to weaponize that creed against poverty, exclusion, and tokenism. An Associate Member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Nigeria, Hajiya Hadiza Alhaji is married, a mother, and an avid reader of leadership literature and motivational books. Her emergence signals a new era: more women party structures across the Northwest, and Sokoto producing a female lawmaker come 2027. Congratulations and best wishes.

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# CHILD STREETISM AS A “TIME BOMB” IN SOKOTO METROPOLIS, NIGERIA: A CALL FOR URGENT INTERVENTION

Child streetism has become a growing social and developmental challenge in Sokoto Metropolis, Northwestern Nigeria. Across major roads, markets, motor parks, and urban intersections, increasing numbers of children are seen engaging in begging, hawking, scavenging, and other forms of street survival. These children mostly boys, though increasingly girls are exposed to multiple risks including exploitation, abuse, malnutrition, drug use, and recruitment into criminal activities. What was once considered a poverty-related issue has now evolved into a complex problem linked to insecurity, family breakdown, educational exclusion, and weak social protection systems. A key driver of child streetism in Sokoto Metropolis is the rising insecurity in parts of Sokoto State and neighbouring northwestern states. Frequent cases of banditry, kidnapping, communal violence, and cattle rustling in local government areas such as Sabon Birni, Isa, Goronyo, and Rabah have led to the displacement of many rural households. As affected families migrate to urban centres in search of safety and survival, many children are left without adequate care, education, or economic support. Some are separated from their families during violent attacks, while others are sent to cities to reduce household burdens. This displacement dynamic has significantly increased the number of vulnerable children on the streets of Sokoto Metropolis. Poverty and economic hardship further intensify the phenomenon. High unemployment, inflation, and low household income levels limit parents' ability to provide basic needs such as food, healthcare, and education. As a coping strategy, some children are encouraged to engage in hawking or begging to contribute to family income. In addition, aspects of the traditional Almajiri system, when affected by

welfare or supervision. Family instability also plays a significant role. Broken homes, divorce, large family sizes, and inadequate parental supervision increase the likelihood of child neglect and street migration. In some cases, children leave home due to abuse or domestic conflict and eventually settle in urban street environments where survival becomes their primary concern. Cultural tolerance of child begging in certain communities further reinforces the persistence of the problem. The consequences of child streetism in Sokoto Metropolis are severe and far-reaching. Street children are highly vulnerable to criminal exploitation, drug abuse, trafficking, and recruitment into gangs. Their lack of protection exposes them to physical violence and emotional trauma. Educational deprivation is also widespread, as continuous involvement in street survival activities limits access to formal learning and skill acquisition, thereby perpetuating cycles of poverty and unemployment. Health risks are equally alarming. Many street children suffer from malnutrition, infectious diseases, poor hygiene conditions, and lack access to basic healthcare services. Psychologically, they are often exposed to trauma, neglect, and social exclusion. Collectively, these conditions not only undermine child development but also contribute to long-term urban insecurity, as poorly educated and socially excluded youth may become involved in antisocial or criminal behaviours in the future. Child streetism therefore represents a serious violation of children's rights to education, protection, healthcare, and dignity. It also poses a long-term threat to human capital development and social stability in Sokoto State and Nigeria at large. In conclusion, child streetism in Sokoto Metropolis is not merely a visible social concern but a "time bomb" with serious humanitarian, developmental, and security implications. Addressing it requires urgent and coordinated action from government institutions, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and communities. Priority must be given to strengthening security, improving access to education, reducing poverty, supporting vulnerable families, and reforming child protection systems. Without decisive intervention, the increasing population of street children may continue to undermine sustainable development and urban stability in Sokoto Metropolis.

The time to act is now.

### Lauwali Barau

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**TRIBUTE TO PIONEER VICE CHANCELLOR OF SOKOTO STATE UNIVERSITY****PROFESSOR NUHU OMEIZA YAQUB, OFR  
(1951 – 2025).**

Sokoto State University (SSU) pays tribute to its pioneer Vice Chancellor, Professor Nuhu Omeiza Yaqub, whose vision and stewardship were instrumental in the establishment and early development of the institution. As a renowned administrator, educationalist, and Professor of Political Science, his legacy will continue to inspire generations not only in SSU but in the country's academic landscape. As a pioneer Vice Chancellor, Professor Yaqub steered the delicate work of translating an Act of Parliament into active university operations. He led the pioneering staff, established faculties, set academic standards and gave SSU its present identity and direction.

He did not only start it, but he left a legacy that translated SSU motto of 'it all begins here.' As the first Vice Chancellor of SSU, from 2012/2013 academic session, who assumed leadership at a critical formative stage, he provided a purposeful direction in defining the academic framework, administrative structures, and instructional values that continue to underpin the University's organizational and procedural landscapes. He approached to university administration with wisdom, courage, discipline, transparency, foresight and profound belief in the transformative role of higher education in the society. Professor Yaqub's remarkable contribution to administration and academic activities to SSU are a testament to his dedication to excellence, whose sway left a long lasting impact on University academic policies and development. A first class graduate of Bayero University Kano (B U K, 1980), Professor Yaqub's distinguished academic career and tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja (2004 – 2009) and as pioneer Vice-Chancellor at SSU was characterized by intellectual depth, integrity, and service to national development. His career as Political Scientist includes roles at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, where he served as Head of Department, Dean of the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences and Doubled as the Coordinator of four Faculties (comprising Art and Islamic Studies, Education, Law and Social and Management Sciences) under a collegial system. Later, he was appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor by the Governing Council of the University. His vast knowledge and expertise were a treasure to cherish, and

his willingness to share it with others was a testament to his generosity and humility. Beyond his academic prowess, Professor Yaqub's impact on students, colleagues and co-workers is profound. His passion for teaching, research, community service and mentoring has inspired countless individuals, leaving a lasting legacy that will continue to shape the nation's future. To many in the University Community and beyond, Professor Yaqub was more than just an educator – he was a father figure, a mentor, and a guiding light. Those who work with him, recall a leader of principle, patience and quiet resolve. The senior management staff of the Sokoto State University, academic and non-academic, supporting staff as well as host community of the institution and its environs, that knew him in one way or the other, will forever cherish the memories they shared with him. His love, care, and wisdom continue to inspire them, even in his departure. The legacy of Professor Yaqub is firmly embedded in the foundation of Sokoto State University. The institution remained indebted to his contributions and reaffirms its resolve to uphold the standards of excellence he set during his time in office.



# FROM MOSQUE TO STATE HOUSE, ULEMA IN NIGERIAN POLITICS

من المسجد الي سدة الحكم: العلماء في مجال السياسة النيجيرية

By Ghazali Bello Abubakar

In recent years, the presence of Ulema (Islamic scholars) in Nigeria's political space has become increasingly pronounced. Although religion has long shaped the country's public life, the current moment reflects a more direct and structured form of engagement. Ulema are no longer confined to the role of observers or moral commentators; they now participate actively in political debates, electoral mobilization, and, in some instances, governance itself. This evolving role raises a pressing question: does their growing influence advance the ideals of good governance—so strongly emphasized in Islamic thought—by guiding the emergence of capable and ethically grounded leaders, or does it, more quietly, narrow the political space by privileging particular religious perspectives over others? It is tempting to answer this question in simple terms, either by celebrating religious actors as a source of moral guidance or by criticizing them as a threat to democratic neutrality. But such a binary misses what is really happening on the ground. Ulema can play a constructive role in democratic life, yet the same authority that enables participation can also be used in ways that limit it. To make more sense, I opt to use idea of creedal gatekeeping: a way of describing how religious authority, once it enters politics, can begin to shape who belongs, who is trusted, and who is left out. On one hand, Ulema often serve as a bridge between political institutions and citizens. In many communities, especially in northern Nigeria, they are among the most trusted figures. When they speak about politics—whether in sermons, public gatherings, or informal settings—they translate complex political issues into language that people understand and relate to. This can make politics feel less distant and more meaningful. In places where trust in government is fragile, such engagement can encourage people to vote, participate, and pay attention to public affairs. In this sense, ulema can help deepen democracy by making it more accessible. At the same time, their influence does not stop at mobilization. It can also shape the terms on which political participation takes place. This is where the idea of creedal gatekeeping becomes especially useful. Rather than focusing only on whether religion is present in politics, it draws attention to how certain interpretations of religion can become informal benchmarks for political legitimacy. In such situations, support for a candidate or access to political opportunities may depend, even if indirectly, on how closely one aligns with dominant religious views. This process does not usually happen in obvious or dramatic ways. More often, it unfolds quietly through everyday political practices. For example, when ulema publicly endorse particular candidates, their support often carries moral weight that goes beyond policy debates. Voters may feel that choosing a candidate becomes not just a political decision, but a religiously guided one. Similarly, when religious actors maintain close ties with political leaders, their perspectives can find their way into



policy decisions or administrative practices, sometimes privileging certain beliefs over others. Over time, this can create subtle boundaries around who is seen as a legitimate participant in the political space. What makes this dynamic, particularly important is that it does not necessarily undermine democracy in a formal sense. Elections still take place, institutions continue to function, and political competition remains visible. Yet beneath this surface, the range of acceptable voices may begin to shrink. Those who hold different religious views—or interpret the same faith differently—may find themselves less represented or less able to influence outcomes. In this way, democracy remains intact, but its inclusiveness becomes uneven. Understanding this dual role of Ulema helps move the conversation beyond simplistic assumptions. Their involvement in politics is not inherently good or bad; it depends on how their authority is used and the context in which it operates. When their engagement remains open and inclusive, it can enrich democratic life by connecting political processes to shared moral concerns. But when it becomes tied to a single dominant interpretation of belief, it risks closing off the very diversity that democracy is meant to protect. Nigeria's context makes this issue significant. The country's religious diversity, combined with its federal political structure, creates both opportunities for inclusion and pressures that can lead to division. In such an environment, influential figures like Ulema play a powerful role in shaping not just political outcomes, but the broader tone of public life. Their words and actions can either encourage coexistence or reinforce boundaries, often in ways that are not immediately visible. At the end, the growing involvement of Ulema in Nigerian politics points to a deeper challenge facing not only democratic societies but also deeply Islam's flexibility. The question is not whether Islam should have a place in politics—it already does—but how to ensure that its presence does not come at the expense of openness and fairness. The idea of creedal gatekeeping helps bring this challenge into focus by showing how easily influence can shift into exclusion. If democracy is to remain meaningful in such a context, it must find ways to accommodate religious participation without allowing any single creed to define the limits of political belonging. This is not a simple task, but it is an essential one. The strength of a democratic system lies not only in its ability to include, but in its willingness to remain open to difference—even when that difference is grounded in deeply held beliefs.



## Joint Council Committee (JCC) of the Student Unions visits the Vice-Chancellor.

The Chairman, Joint Council Committee, Comrade Abdulrahman Abubakar Dingyadi, Led a team of student Union Leaders from all Tertiary Institutions in Sokoto State to meet with the VC, Sokoto State University. The chairman stated the purpose of the visitation, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the University management and student leadership, as well as the need for support in facilitating JCC activities. In his response, the Vice Chancellor expressed appreciation for the visit. He acknowledged the importance of student leadership and granted all the requests presented to him. Key among the requests are support for logistics of traveling to attend their national conference and the provision of office accommodation to serve as JCC secretariat. He also encouraged unity, active participation in leadership, and responsible student engagement. He reiterated that the University management will continue to shape the future of students by way of guiding them academically and morally. He also informed them any act of anti-social activities will not be condoned.



The meeting was productive and impactful, strengthening the relationship between the University Management and the student body. The approval of key requests marks a significant step forward in supporting JCC activities and student welfare.

# SSU ANTHEM UNVEILED

**Georgina Ijachi**, an alumnus of SSU launched a project entitled **ELEVATE PROJECT** in Sokoto State University. This project is aimed at empowering female gender and the like in leadership. The Programme was well attended by management, staff and student. The representative of UNICEF and other organisations were also in attendance. The Management of the University commended her for this wonderful initiative. During the event the SSU Anthem was unveiled (**See the inner cover**). All staff and students are encouraged to memorise it and sing it during major events.



# PROMOTION

## Dept: ICT

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	SALIM YUSHA'U SP: 20053	1st October, 2022 Principal Hardware Specialist I, CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Chief hardware Specialist on CONTISS 13
2	NAFISA GARBA SP: 20021	1st October, 2022 Principal Hardware Specialist I, CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Chief hardware Specialist on CONTISS 13
3	ABDULMUMINU TIJANI SP: 20011	1st October, 2022 Principal Hardware Specialist I, CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Chief hardware Specialist on CONTISS 13
4	KARIMAT SADIQ SP: 20027	1st October, 2022 Principal Hardware Specialist I, CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Chief hardware Specialist on CONTISS 13
5	ASMA'U SANDA ADAMU SP: 20041	1st October, 2022 Principal Programmer I, CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Chief Programmer on CONTISS 13
6	SALISU GARBA SP: 20216	4th January, 2022 Senior Programmer CONTISS 8/2	Promoted to the rank of Principal Programmer II on CONTISS 9

## Dept: Registry

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	INUWA GARBA MOHAMMED SP: 20098	1st October, 2020 Deputy Registrar CONTISS 14	Promoted to the rank of Senior Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 15
2	ABDULLAHI YAHAYA SP: 20153	1st October, 2020 Deputy Registrar CONTISS 14	Promoted to the rank of Senior Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 15

3	MUSA MUHAMMAD <b>SP: 20013</b>	1 October 2022 Principal Assistant Registrar CONTISS 13	Promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 14
4	GOD'S SHEIKH <b>SP:20039</b>	1st October, 2022 Principal Assistant Registrar CONTISS 13	Promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 14
5	ZAYYANU SHEHU <b>SP: 20040</b>	1st October, 2022 Principal Assistant Registrar CONTISS 13	Promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 14
6	ABUBAKAR ZAYYANU <b>SP:20043</b>	1st October, 2022 Principal Assistant Registrar CONTISS 13	Promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 14
7	SHU' AIBU UMAR GADA <b>SP:20050</b>	1st October, 2022 Principal Assistant Registrar CONTISS 13	Promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 14
8	HARUNA ABUBAKAR AHMAD <b>SP:20110</b>	1st October, 2022 Deputy Registrar CONTISS 13	Promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar on CONTISS 14
9	SHAFATU ABUBAKAR CHADI <b>SP:20054</b>	1st October, 2022 Senior Assistant Registrar CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Principal Assistant Registrar CONTISS 13
10	RUQAYYA ABUBAKAR GWANDU <b>SP:20055</b>	1st October, 2022 Senior Assistant Registrar CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Principal Assistant Registrar CONTISS 13
11	YUSHA'U SA' IDU <b>SP:20062</b>	1st October, 2022 Senior Data Processing Officer CONTISS 09	Promoted to the rank of Principal Data Processing Officer on CONTISS 11
12	ABUBAKAR HASSAN <b>SP:20060</b>	1st October, 2022 Senior Data Processing Officer CONTISS 09	Promoted to the rank of Principal Data Processing Officer on CONTISS 11
13	ZULKIFILU SANI <b>SP:20232</b>	1st October, 2022 Supervisor CONTISS 06	Promoted to the rank of Administrative Assistant on CONTISS 07

### Library Department

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	BALA DAN AMO <b>SP: 20064</b>	1st October, 2022 Principal Library Officer 1 CONTISS 11	Promoted to the rank of Assist Chief Library Officer on CNTISS 12

### Bursary Department

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	ABDULLAHI ADAMU ISA <b>SP: 20014</b>	1st October, 2022 Chief Accountant CONTISS 13	Promoted to the rank of Deputy Bursar on CONTISS 14

### Department of Physical Planning and Maintenance

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	UMAR TUKUR <b>SP: 20056</b>	1st October, 2022 Principal Technical Officer CONTISS 09	Promoted to the rank of Principal Engineer on CONTISS 11
2	AMINU TUKUR <b>SP: 20056</b>	1st October, 2022 Chief Technical Officer CONTISS 12	Promoted to the rank of Chief Engineer on CONTISS 13
3	ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD MAZARE <b>SP: 20220</b>	1st October, 2022 Foreman Driver/Mechanic CONTISS 6/2	Promoted to the rank of High transport Supervisor on CONTISS 7
4	BELLO SANI <b>SP: 20219</b>	1st October, 2022 Foreman Driver/Mechanic CONTISS 6/2	Promoted to the rank of High transport Supervisor on CONTISS 7
5	RILWANU ABUBAKAR <b>SP: 20218</b>	1st October, 2022 Foreman Driver/Mechanic CONTISS 6/2	Promoted to the rank of High transport Supervisor on CONTISS 7
6	AUWALU ABDULLAHI <b>SP: 20237</b>	1st October, 2022 Foreman Workshop Supervisor (Electrical) CONTISS 09	Promoted to the rank of higher Technical Officer Electrical on CONTISS 07
7	ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD <b>SP: 20223</b>	1st October, 2022 Principal Technical Officer CONTISS 09	Promoted to the rank of higher Transport Supervisor on CONTISS 11

### Geography Department. (Technologist)

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD <b>SP: 20184</b>	1st October, 2022 Technologist 1 CONTISS 8/2	Promoted to the rank of Senior Technologist on CONTISS 09

## FACULTY OF ARTS

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	SALAMATU RABIU MOIRIKI	Oct. 2021, L/II	Promoted to the rank of Lecturer 1 with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
2	FARIDA UMAN MAGAWATA	Oct. 2021, L/II	Promoted to the rank of Lecturer 1 with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
3	RABIA SHEHU FODIO	Oct. 2018, L/I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
4	BELLO USMAN LIMAN	Oct. 2022, L /II	Promoted to Lecturer I with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
5	MURTALA MARAFA	Oct. 2020, S/L	Promoted to Reader with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
6	ABBAS MUHAMMAD WURNO	Oct. 2022, L/I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
7	HABIBU ABUBAKAR YAGAWAL	Oct. 2020, L/I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
8	ABUBAKAR TUKUR MUHAMMAD (SP.10258)	Oct. 2022, L/II	Promoted to the rank of Lecturer 1 with effect from 1st Oct. 2025

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

### Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	Dr. Mansur Alhassan (SP. No. 10108)	1st Oct. 2021, Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer on CONUASS 5 w.e.f 1/10/2025
2	Mustapha Suleiman (SP. No. 10157)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to the rank of Lecturer 1 with effect from 1st Oct. 2025

### Department of Mathematics

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	Dr. ANAS SANI MAIHULLA (SP. No. 10108)	1st Oct. 2021, Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
2	DR. ZAINAB ABUBAKAR D/DAJI (SP. No. 10042)	1st Oct. 2021 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025

### Department of Microbiology

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	DR. SHAHIDAH ADAMU AHMAD (SP. No. 10139)	1st Oct. 2022 Senior Lecturer	Promoted to Reader with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
2	DR. MUHAMMAD HIZBULLAHI (SP. No. 10137)	1st Oct. 2021 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
3	SAWA KABIR AHMED (SP. No. 10241)	1st Oct. 2020 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to the rank of Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
4	DR. HAUWA'U BELLO ABUBAKAR III (SP. No. 10051)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer on CONUASS w.e.f 1/10/2025

### Department of Physics

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	DR. SIRAJU ABUBAKAR (SP. No. 10110)	1st Oct. 2022 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
2	DR. ILIYASU USMAN (SP. No. 10024)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025

### Department of Biological Science

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	JAMILU IBRAHIM (SP. No. 10110)	1st Oct. 2020 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025

### Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	DR. MUHAMMAD NURA BELLO (SP. No. 10120)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025

### Faculty of Computing

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	SALISU MODI (SP. No. 10110)	1st Oct. 2021 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025

## Department of Microbiology

S/N	Name & Staff Number	Date & Rank of Last Promotion/Appointment	A &PC Decision
1	ISAH MACCIDO (SP. No. 10151)	1st Oct. 2022 Lecturer II	Promoted to Lecturer I with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
2	NASIRU MUHAMMAD DAGON DAJI (SP. No. 10152)	1st Oct. 2022 Lecturer II	Promoted to Lecturer I with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
3	ABIDA MUHAMMAD DANJUMMA (SP. No. 10241)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
4	HAUWA YARO BODINGA (SP. No. 10179)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
5	ZALIHA NASIRUDEEN BELLO (SP. No. 10161)	1st Oct. 2018 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
6	ZAINAB S. GANDI (SP. No. 10250)	1st Oct. 2020 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
7	MUDASSIR IBRAHIM GATAWA (SP. No. 10226)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer on CONUASS w.e.f 1/10/2025
8	ABUBAKAR JAMILA NASSARAWA (SP. No. 10226)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer on CONUASS w.e.f 1/10/2025
9	MUKHTAR SARKIN KABBI (SP. No. 10015)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer on CONUASS w.e.f 1/10/2025
10	FARUKU USMAN BINJI (SP. No. 10226)	1st Oct. 2020 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
11	HASAN SHEHU (SP. No. 10227)	1st Oct. 2019 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
12	IBRAHIM YAHAYA (SP. No. 10228)	1st Oct. 2019 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
13	SAIFULLAH MUHAMMAD (SP. No. 10297)	1st Oct. 2019 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
14	MANSUR SHEHU (SP. No. 10295)	1st Oct. 2019 Assistant Lecturer	Promoted to Lecturer II with effect from 1st Oct. 2025
15	ABUBAKAR JAMILA (SP. No. 10080)	1st Oct. 2020 Lecturer I	Promoted to Senior Lecturer on CONUASS w.e.f 1/10/2025

# INSTITUTED MONTHLY SEMINAR SERIES

On January 27th, 2026, two experts in computer science and IT, Dr. Anas Balarabe, the Ag. Dean, Faculty of computing and one of our own, Dr. Ibrahim Ruwawuri a scholar in diaspora featured in this month seminar series. It was an exciting moment as the two speakers did justice to their topics. The audience were well educated about internet of things (IoT) The knowledge acquired is not just practical but is something that will live with us. The pictures below indicate the summary of the event

The Vice-Chancellor  
Sokoto State University  
Prof. M.B Yerima, FNSM, FBSN

## 14th WORKSHOP SERIES

Topic

BEYOND SMARTPHONES  
AND LAPTOPS

HOW THE INTERNET REALLY WORKS



Adamu I. Ruwawuri, PMP  
RWR Technology, USA



Dr. Anas Tukur Balarabe  
Ag. Dean, Faculty of Computing

## PHOTO SPEAKS



Dr. Anas Balarabe responding to questions after his presentation



Dr. Ibrahim Ruwawuri making a scintillating and interactive presentation.

# PHOTO SPEAKS



The Vice-chancellor, Librarian and the Director Centre for the study of Sokoto Caliphate were applauding the speaker.



Some members of staff listening attentively to the guest lecturer



One of the student participant asking a question



Participants listening attentively to the speaker



Vice-chancellor presenting a certificate to Dr. Anas Balarabe



Vice-chancellor presenting a certificate to Dr. Ruwawuri



# PHOTO SPEAKS



Participants of the workshop in a listening mood.



# PHOTO SPEAKS



# PHOTO SPEAKS



# PHOTO SPEAKS

