

# **KATSINA COLLEGE**



**The First College In Northern Nigeria  
That Produced The First And Several  
Other Sets Of Northern Leaders**

**Prof. Sani Abubakar Lugga, MFR  
The 5th Waziri of Katsina**

**Katsina College has been described as, “A Bastion of Excellence”, which was established in 1921 and subsequently transformed into Barewa College, Zaria, in 1949. It is in appreciation of the very significant role Katsina College played in the Nigerian Nation that this Book is authored. It gives an account of Islamic and Western Education Developments in Northern Nigeria from around 1100 AD to the establishment of Katsina College in 1921. The Book also dwells on the life at the College and its contributions to Northern Regional and National Developments. A brief is also given on the lives and times of some of the most prominent Graduates of Katsina College and its appendage Schools and Colleges that were established by the Graduates of the College all over Northern Nigeria. No College in Nigeria had directly or indirectly produced such a calibre of political, academic, economic, military and subsidiary leaders as Katsina College.**



## IMAGES FROM KATSINA COLLEGE



**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



**Alhaji Sir Abubakar  
Tafawa Balewa  
Prime Minister  
of Nigeria**



**Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello  
Sardaunan Sakkwato  
Premier of Northern  
Nigeria**



**Alhaji Sir Kashim Ibrahim  
Wazirin Borno, Governor  
of Northern Nigeria**



**Alhaji Aliyu Makama Bida  
Finance Minister of  
Northern Nigeria**

**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



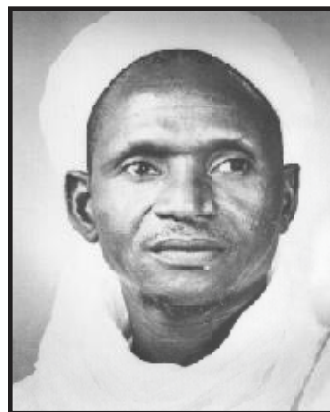
**Alhaji Haruna AbdulRashid  
Sarkin Gwandu President  
Northern Nigeria  
House of Chiefs**



**Alhaji Muhammadu  
Bashar Wambai Daura  
Northern Minister  
For Economic Affairs**



**Alhaji Isa Kaita, Wazirin  
Katsina Northern  
Nigeria Minister  
For Education**



**Alhaji Musa Yar'adua,  
Mutawallin Katsina,  
Federal Minister  
For Lagos Affairs**

**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



**Alhaji Yahaya Orioko,  
Madawakin Ilorin  
Northern Nigeria  
Minister for Transport**



**Alhaji Aliyu, Turakin  
Zazzau Northern  
Nigeria Minister for  
Economic Development**



**Alhaji Umaru Gwandu,  
First Indigenous  
Speaker of Northern  
House of Assembly**



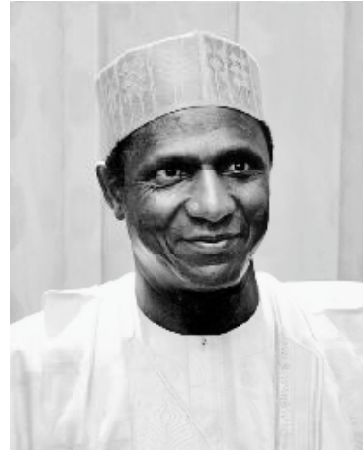
**Alhaji Abubakar,  
Madawakin Sokoto  
No. 1 on Katsina  
College Register**



**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



**Alhaji Shehu Shagari  
First Executive  
President of Federal  
Republic of Nigeria**



**Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua  
First University Graduate  
President of Federal  
Republic of Nigeria**

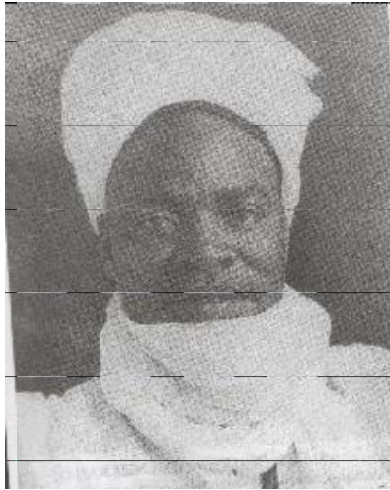


**Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki,  
The Sultan of Sokoto  
and Spiritual Head  
of Nigerian Muslims**



**Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad  
Abubakar III,  
The Sultan of Sokoto  
and Spiritual Head  
of Nigerian Muslims**

**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



**Alhaji Tako Galadima  
Galadiman Bida  
Minister of Defense  
Of Nigeria**



**Alhaji Sulaiman Mai  
Bade, Deputy President  
House of Chiefs and First  
Pro-Chancellor of ABU**



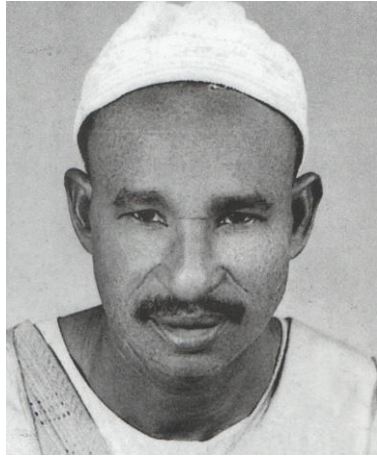
**Alhaji Aminu Kano  
Prominent Politician  
of the Opposition  
and Nationalist**



**Alhaji Sa'adu Zungur  
Founding Member of  
NPC and a Later  
Opposition Leader**



**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



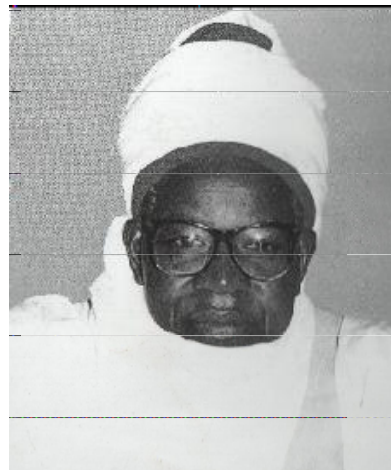
**Engineer Muhammad  
Urwatu Armiya'u  
First Northern  
Civil Engineer**



**Alhaji Muhammadu  
Ngileruma First  
Nigerian Permant  
Representative at UN**



**Justice Muhammad  
Bello Among First  
Northern Lawyers And  
Chief Justice of Nigeria**



**Justice Mamman  
Nasir Among First  
Northern Lawyers And  
President Court of Appeal**

**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



**Prof. Umaru Shehu**  
**First Set of Students at**  
**University of Ibadan 1948**  
**Professor Emeritus Medicine**



**Prof. Iya Abubakar**  
**First Prof. in Maths at**  
**ABU 1963 and First**  
**Northern PhD Holder**



**Chief Sunday Awoniyi**  
**Northern Aro of Mopa**  
**Secretary to the North**  
**Executive Council**



**Doctor Joseph**  
**Adetoro First Nigerian**  
**to Obtain PhD Degree**  
**in Education Foundation**

**SOME OF THE GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE  
TRAINED AT “KATSINA COLLEGE”**



**General Yakubu Gowon  
Head of State and  
Commander in Chief  
Nigerian Armed Forces**



**General Murtala Mohamed  
Head of State and  
Commander in Chief  
Nigerian Armed Forces**



**General Zakariya Maimalari  
First Nigerian Commissioned  
Military Officer and First  
Senior Northern Officer**



**General Hassan Usman  
Katsina First and Only  
Military Governor of  
Northren Nigeria**



**BELOW ARE SOME PUPILS OF THE IYATANCI PRIMARY SCHOOL, KATSINA CITY, IN 1958 WHO INHERITED THE BUILDINGS OF THE FAMOUS KATSINA COLLEGE. THE PUPILS THAT YEAR INCLUDED THE 5TH WAZIRI OF KATSINA PROF. SANI ABUBAKAR LUGGA, THE FIRST HAUSA MEDICAL DOCTOR HALIMA ADAMU AND THE ACADEMIC, POLITICIAN DR USMAN BUGAJE**



**Prof. Sani  
Abubakar Lugga**



**Dr. Halima  
Yalwa Adamu**



**Dr. Usman  
Bugaje**



**By:**  
**Professor Sani Abubakar Lugga, MFR**  
**The 5th Waziri of Katsina**  
Professor of Management Studies  
Doctor of Philosophy in Conflict Management  
Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management  
Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants (Nigeria)  
Fellow of the Institute of Professional Financial Managers (UK)  
Fellow of the London Graduate School, London, United Kingdom  
Key Founder and former Senior Lecturer, Al-Qalam University, Katsina  
Visiting Prof., Ecole Supérieure Universitaire, Cotonou, Benin Republic  
Visiting Professor at St. Clements Private Swiss University, Switzerland  
Committee Member, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs  
Committee Chairman, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Kaduna, Nigeria  
Member of Sultan Foundation for Peace and Development  
Executive Member, Interfaith Initiative for Peace, Nigeria  
Ambassador of Universal Peace Federation, New York  
Member of Professors World Peace Academy, Korea

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

All gratitude is to Allah (SWT), who gave me the strength, health, endurance and foresight to write this Book on the first College in Northern Nigeria, the famous Katsina College (Katsina Training College).

As is expected of a work of this magnitude, many people, who are too numerous to be individually mentioned, contributed to its success. From idea generation and articulation, to research, analysis of data, documentation, typesetting and publication, several people gave in their helping hands. As it is impossible to list each one of them here, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of them collectively.

However, I would like to register my special appreciation to my several friends and associates who always stand by me. I must acknowledge the contributions of Mallam Ahmed Usman Saulawa, a Principal with Katsina State Ministry of Education, who donated to me a well reserched private manuscript he compiled on the early days of Katsina College. Mallam Abubakar Ibrahim Zaria of Ahmadu Bello University and the former Director of Katsina State History and Culture Bureau, Alhaji Bello Abdu Rimi assisted with the fieldwork and analysis of the data so collected. My sincere appreciation also goes to Engineer Aliyu Jari, Barrister Nurudeen Mashi and to my able Managers and personal staff who assisted.

I wish to extend my thanks to all those who responded to our interviews and all those who tirelessly filled in the questionnaires given to them, which added substance to the quality of the work. They included the oldest living teacher in Katsina, Alhaji Mamman Kankiya and Alhaji Yahaya Gusau, the only living old boy of old Katsina College resident in Kaduna.

Lastly, but by all means not the least, I extend my love and profound gratitude to my wives, Hajiya Binta and Hajiya Umma, my children and other members of my family for their continued loyalty, patience and understanding. May Allah bless us, pardon our sins and grant us peace, ameen.

**Prof. Sani Abubakar Lugga, MFR**

**Waziri of Katsina.**

October 2004.

## PREFACE

In a well-researched and articulated article in the March 1986 edition of the Africa Events Magazine, Jean Boyd described Katsina College as “A Bastion of Excellence” and gave a graphic picture of the establishment of the College in Katsina in 1921 and its subsequent transformation into Barewa College Zaria in 1949

The Governor of Northern Nigeria, Sir Hugh Clifford had this to say while commissioning the Katsina College:-

*“It is very necessary that the youths who will receive their training in this College and who will thereafter carry the torch of learning and knowledge to all parts of the Mohammedan Emirates in order thereby to enlighten the ignorance of the Countrymen, should concentrate all their energies and all their attention upon the task that is set them during their period of training.*

Katsina College, the first College in Northern Nigeria, was established in Katsina after due consideration of the City’s educational and commercial significance in Hausaland. That significance was recognised as early as 1853 when the famous traveller and explorer, Dr. Henry Barth visited Katsina and wrote as follows:-

*“... In fact, Kat-sena, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries of our era, seems to have been the chief city of this part of Negroland, as well in commercial*



*and political importance as in other respects; for here that State of civilization which had been called forth by contact with the Arabs seems to have reached its highest degree... the manners of Kat-sena were distinguished by superior politeness from those of other towns of Hausa... Muslim scholars provided advisers, viziers, judges and councillors in courts of Emirs”.*

It is in appreciation of the very significant role Katsina College played in the Nigerian Nation that this book was authored. It gives an account of Islamic and Western educational developments in Northern Nigeria from 1100 AD to the establishment of Katsina College in 1921. The book also dwelt on the life at the College and its contributions to Northern Regional and National developments. A brief was also given on the lives and times of some of the most prominent graduates of Katsina College and its appendage Schools and Colleges.

No College in Nigeria had directly or indirectly produced such a calibre of political, academic, economic, military and subsidiary leaders as Katsina College.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **PRE-WESTERN EDUCATION**

Before the British conquest and colonisation of the area known previously as Sokoto and Borno Caliphates and later as Northern Nigeria and the introduction of Western Education, Islamic Education was pre-dominant in the area. Prior to the advent of Islam, Traditional Education sustained the various component societies in the Region. Islam modified traditional education, blending it with Islamic tenets to produce a very refined and civilised educational system. When a child was born, his first teacher was his mother. She taught him the art of speaking, walking, etc. The child was also taught to differentiate between the appropriate language of address and that of abuse. Polite words were differentiated from those, which are rude. As the child grows older and starts to interact with other people in the vicinity, like the other siblings, the do's and don'ts of the community were taught to him or her.

The methods of control and discipline at home involved rebukes, ridicule and sometimes beating by the elders of the house to bring conformity with the right attitude and habit. Sisters and brothers are all partners towards the education of the child in an African society. As the child grew, initiation ceremonies are held thereby indicating sex roles and time for specific activities. Folklores, and tales were

told to the child which helped in shaping his/her attitudes. Stories of illustrious sons of the community who had shown bravery and wisdom were told for the child to take after. The age groups had their own system of instilling discipline on their members in an African community. Indeed ridicule and “ex-communication” from the group were some of the methods.

The older family members pass on skills and trades to the child. The knowledge of these skills will help the child in his future life. That sort of education was strictly utilitarian and meant to serve the immediate community. The African societies of the pre-colonial era were relatively small and so the need for skills to serve beyond a person’s community hardly arose. In the field of physical training, children practiced plays and games especially at night at the village playground where songs were chanted and displays of physical fitness ensued. That ensured the physical development of the child within the community.

In the traditional pre-Islamic and pre-colonial period, the use of the supernatural powers helped in controlling the conduct of the members. In the pagan areas of Africa and Hausaland in particular, members of the community were advised to conform with the norms of the society or face the wrath of the “god” that was “*Bagiro*” in Hausa or other lesser spirits called “*Iskoki*”. All those were means of bringing conformity to the behaviour of community



members. The fear of that “god” was so much among the entire Hausa pagan community that it turned into a religion. Bad habits like stealing, adultery and telling lies were all abhorred by the “god” and so a taboo for any member of the community. That transparent honesty is still evident in any original Hausa settlement inhabited by the “*Maguzawa*” (pagan Hausa people). It was on this foundation of fear of the supernatural that the communities in Hausaland immediately embraced Islam.

Interpersonal relations among the pre-colonial Hausa communities were of prime importance. For example, any awful approach by a child towards an elder was blamed on his parents and the family in general. That meant all members of the family were charged with the education of the young. Any failure was not the failure of parents alone but the entire family, which might lead to the ostracisation of the whole family and might make it impossible for any member of the community to marry from such a family. The pre-colonial Hausa communities placed great emphasis on character formation. Any girl of questionable integrity would be put to ridicule and subjected to various forms of embarrassment if the husband discovered that her chastity had been freely violated. That would bring disgrace to her family who would be considered as having low integrity. A thief was an outcast and stood the chance of being isolated from the community. People dared not to go close to him and his family’s name dragged into the mud. All

those were methods of social control, which brought sanity to the pre-colonial Hausaland and made life easy for its members. There was no place for laziness and street begging in a pre-colonial Hausa community. Apart from specific skills mastered by every youth in the community, farming was compulsory for everybody. Education in the Hausa community involved good upbringing and acquisition of skills for survival. Every family had a large agricultural land out of which every member of the compound was given a piece to cultivate. The society had no place for the lazy man. A lazy person was often denied a wife in his community. A married woman was expected to perform her household chores and help on the farm. She also took part in the upbringing of the young. Indeed, in a typical Hausa society if a woman was viewed as somebody who was incapable of bringing up her child in the most desirable manner, a relative (e.g. a sister or a mother or even a grandmother) would take such a child away for proper upbringing, where he/she would not be 'spoilt'.

However, as the society grew bigger and more complex and knowledge expanded, education became more than a family affair. A specialist on any given trade became necessary and organized training and expanded curriculum mandatory. The advent of Islam perfectly fit that requirement as it provided organised educational systems that completely covered human life, from cradle to grave.

Literacy education in the form of Islamic education came to Hausaland in the 10th century. Arab traders and preachers brought with them the religion of Islam from North Africa along with their wares and merchandise through the Trans-Saharan Trade routes. Katsina became so great an Islamic Educational Centre that scholars came from as far as Timbuktu, Jenne and other North and West African States to learn the Qur'an and the Hadith from great Islamic Sheiks in Katsina. Islamic jurisprudence was not left behind. By the 17th century, two prominent scholars have risen from Katsina. They were Sheik Muhammad bin al-Sabbagh al-Kashinawi (Danmarna) and Sheik Muhammad bin Ahmad al-Kashinawi al-Barnawi (Danmasani). Those scholars had written extensively on Islam.

Ancient Islamic Nations had an advanced civilization, which had surpassed that of the West. They had evolved the art of writing long before the invention of Roman scripts. They propagated the knowledge of Mathematics, Physics, Arabic Letters and Numerals, Geometry, Algebra and Trigonometry. Indeed the curriculum of the Islamic scholars included the following, which were Islamic education's legacy to western civilization:-

**Annahwy (syntax); Al-hisab (Arithmetic); Al-mantiq (logic) Al-jahrwal muq'abalah (Algebra); Al-fiqh (Jurisprudence); Al-Tafsir (Commentaries of the Qur'an)**

## CHAPTER TWO

### EARLY WESTERN EDUCATION

Most of Northern Nigeria had a long tradition of literacy, which dated back about nine hundred years. As early as the 11th century, Islamic Scholars in the areas of Katsina and Borno were writing poetry and exchanging letters. Some of the manuscripts are available in foreign Libraries and Archives. That development placed Hausaland about seven hundred years ahead of its Southern counterparts in terms of literary education and the writing culture.

The existence of Islamic religion in the Northern parts of Nigeria made the direct imposition of western education impossible by the Christian missionaries and colonial rulers. That was because western education, in its earlier stages, was monitored and managed by Christian Missionaries, which caused suspicion among the Hausa States. Indeed Fafunwa (1974) had this to say about the reason for the reluctance of the Hausa States to accept Western education:-

*“Muslim education in Nigeria was retarded not because the Muslims were unprogressive or because their religion was opposed to formal education but because ‘education’ in those days tended to mean ‘Bible Knowledge, Christian Ethics, Christian moral instructions, Christian Literature, some arithmetic, language and crafts –all geared to*

*produce Christians who could read the Bible...*”

One of the flag bearers of Western education in Northern Nigeria, the Sudan Interior Mission (S.I.M.), boldly wrote in its constitution that students must join the Christian Practice. Article No. 1 says:

“The tradition of the Centre shall be that of Evangelical Christianity adhering to the doctrinal statement in the Principles and practices of the S.I.M.”

In Article No.3 the Constitution says:

“All students shall join in the regular corporate worship of the Centre.”

The Islamic Religion embraced by the people of Hausaland in the 10th century came with it a complete way of life. It provided the Muslims with social etiquettes as well as basis for interpersonal relations. The religion acts as a guide for proper conduct. Islamic jurisprudence helped to establish courts where cases were heard and disputes resolved according to the Shari’ah. Indeed explorers writing about Hausa States had written extensively about the prominence of Katsina. One of such explorers, Dr. Henry Barth wrote about Katsina town in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as thus:-

*“... In fact, Kat-sena, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries of our era, seems to have been the chief city of this part of Negroland, as well in commercial*



*and political importance as in other respects; for here that State of civilization which had been called forth by contact with the Arabs seems to have reached its highest degree... the manners of Kat-sena were distinguished by superior politeness from those of other towns of Hausa... Muslim scholars provided advisers, viziers, judges and councillors in courts of Emirs”.*(Hodkin 1974)

As Islam brought with it literacy and the art of writing using Arabic letters and numerals to Hausaland around 1100 AD, the Southern parts of present day Nigeria gained the art of writing or literary education in the 1840s with the arrival of the Christian missionaries who established schools in the Badagry and the Lagos areas (Ikime 1977).

In general, the history of western education in Nigeria could be traced to the activities of Christian missionaries in the Southern parts of the Country in the 1840s. There exists records mentioning the informal teaching by some Portuguese in 1515 in Benin, but that was only restricted to the King’s court, where interpreters were taught to help in business transaction during the slave trade era. However, the arrival of western education in the northern parts of present day Nigeria was delayed by almost fifty years because of the existence of the Islamic religion.

## **WESTERN EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA**

As indicated earlier, the history of western education could not be complete without mentioning the missionaries.

While the missionaries started to establish schools in the 1840's it was not until the 1880's that the colonial government started to intervene and show interest in the education sector. Western education in the Western parts of Nigeria was formally introduced through the efforts of freed slaves from Sierra Leone. People like, Thomas Birch Freeman arrived in Nigeria around 1840 and settled in Badagry, several miles from Lagos town. In 1842, he and Samuel Ajayi Crowther established a Bible School in Badagry (Lagos area) purely to teach the Christian religion. As at the time the school was established, Lagos was embroiled in a bitter struggle for power between Kosoko and Akitoye, which led to a civil war. The atmosphere led to instability and a breach of the peace, which warded off Christian Missionaries from the area. After the struggle, Akitoye became the King and signed a treaty with the British, which abolished slave trade in 1851. The development brought in many ex-slaves from Sierra Leone and the Caribbean, who came and developed the area. By 1878, there was a school for boys and girls. The Church Missionary Society (C.M.S.) delegated preachers like Crowther, Townsend and Golmer. Between 1846 and 1863, several schools were established in Lagos, Badagry, Abeokuta and Ibadan. (Fajana, 1976).

In the Riverine areas, missionaries like Reverend Hope Waddel under the United Free Church of Scotland established a School in Calabar in 1895, which later

became the Hope Waddel Institute. The American Baptist Convention that had earlier set up a school in Abeokuta in conjunction with the Roman Catholic Mission established Schools in Lagos in 1872.

In the Eastern parts of the country, a missionary body established a school in Asaba in 1885. The Church Missionary Society was the first to introduce post primary education in Igboland. It established a school at Awka in 1904. The Catholics on the other hand established schools at Igbariam and Onitsha respectively around 1928. The Methodist opened the first Secondary School at Uzuakoli in 1932. Ummuahia got its first College in 1925 established by the Church Missionary Society - C.M.S. (Esichei, E. 1977). In 1932, the Catholics opened Christ the King College Onitsha. They also established a school at Asaba (1944) and the Queen of Rosary Enugu (1942). However, the curricula of those schools were not tailored towards the needs of the natives. In most cases, the emphasis was on religion (Christianity). Indeed the proselytizing mission was of sole importance while education of the natives was subsidiary. English was the medium of communication.

The C.M.S. in the 1860s dominated the area around Onitsha, Akassa and Bonny. The Qua Iboe Mission, a protestant body from Northern Ireland established its station around the Qua Iboe River. In spite of the above efforts by those voluntary agencies, it was not until the

1880s that the colonial government started to show interest in the education of the natives. That gave rise to the promulgation of some education codes and the Ashby Report as could be seen below-

### **EDUCATION CODE OF 1882**

That was the first education code in Nigeria. It provided for the establishment of a General Board of Education and the setting up of government financed schools. It also provided for the setting up of an Inspectorate Unit headed by an Inspector whose duty was to ensure the funding and running of the established schools. Mr. Metcalfe Sumter was appointed as the first Inspector. (Colonial Annual Reports 1911).

In 1896, the first government school was established in Lagos for the Muslim population. However, the instruction was to be in English and not in the vernacular Yoruba. In the words of Mr. Sumter, English was “...the language of commerce and the only education worth a moments’ consideration.”

### **EDUCATION CODE OF 1887**

That code was designed for the use of the Lagos colony and the Gold Coast (Ghana). It provided for four levels of education divided into infant, primary, secondary and industrial. The industrial schools were to provide vocational training. Nine standards were established, namely two years in infant classes and seven years in

primary schools. The code also provided a detailed analysis of grants provision with industrial schools taking the lion's share. Teachers were classified into four groups namely:-

1. School Masters,
2. Assistant Teachers,
3. Pupil Teachers,
4. Monitors.

### **EDUCATION ORDINANCE OF 1948**

That ordinance was the first nation-wide law on education in Nigeria. Four Regional Boards were created (North, West, East and Lagos) and Local Education Committees were established. Local Education Authorities were also set up. No new schools would be set up without the consent of the Deputy Director of Education. Junior Secondary Schools emerged, which replaced Middle Schools in the North.

### **EDUCATION ORDINANCE OF 1956**

The ordinance provided for the merger of all Local Education Departments with the Ministry of Education. The post of Deputy Director of Education was replaced by that of an Adviser and Chief Inspector of Education. The ordinance also replaced the 4-year primary and 3-year middle school with a 4-year Junior and 3-year Senior Primary School.

## **ASHBY REPORT OF 1959**

A Commission under Sir Eric Ashby was set up to conduct a study on the manpower needs in the field of higher education in Nigeria. The Commission recommended for the even expansion of educational facilities all over the country and the development of full 7-year co-educational primary schools and the raising of their standards.

The Commission also recommended that at least 25% of Nigerian children should complete Primary Education, at least 10% of them should proceed to Secondary Schools and at least 30% of those completing Secondary Schools should go for higher training including Universities. The Commission found out that, 90% of school teachers were not well qualified and that there was gross educational imbalance between the North and the South. The Commission therefore recommended for the establishment of three Universities in Lagos, Nsukka and Zaria. The minority report of a member of the Commission, Late Professor Sanjo Onabamiro, recommended for the establishment of the University of Ife, which the Western Region strongly supported.



# **CHAPTER THREE**

## **WESTERN EDUCATION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA**

Western education was introduced to Northern Nigeria around the early 1900s. There seemed to be about fifty years gap between the North and its Southern counterpart in western education as there was about seven hundred years gap between the North and the South in Islamic education. The main reason for the initial rejection of western education in the Muslim North was that the North already had an established system of education, which was Islamic education. That made it difficult for the Muslims to readily accept western education, which was being introduced and promoted by the Christian Missionaries.

Even though western education was not fully established in the North until the 1920s to 1940s, records showed that as early as 1865 Christian Missionaries ventured into the Region and established a school at Idah and another at Lokoja. In 1901, the Sudan Interior Mission (S.I.M.) advanced into the Niger Valley and established a Mission station among the Nupe and Yoruba of Pategi. Later on, they established a station at Wase near Muri. Those missionaries later ventured into the areas of the Northern highlands like Bauchi, Benue and Plateau. The Cambridge University Missionary Party (C.U.M.P.) worked mostly in

the non-Muslim areas of Bauchi. The C.U.M.P. also moved along the Northern Plateau of Jos and established their stations among the Angas, Sura, Rukuba and Kabba tribes. The Mennonite Brethren of Christ (M.B.C.) worked at Shonga in the Ilorin area.

In 1865, Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther, on the invitation of the Colonial British Consul, Mr. Fell, moved from Lagos to Lokoja and established a school. Reverends Richardson, J.C.D. Ryder, J.K. Burgin and Dr. W.R.S. Miller requested Governor Lord Lugard to allow them into the new Protectorate in order to establish Missions in Kano and Ilorin. The permission was granted but the Mission, which was led by Mr. Tugwell in 1899, was rebuffed by the Emirs of Kano and Ilorin. The mission therefore moved to Zaria where they were allowed to remain at Girku and later at Wusasa. Dr. Miller established a boy's school to enable him educate the sons of the Emirs for the purpose of Lord Lugard's Indirect Rule policy.

The above areas where the missionaries made some headway were mainly habited by non-Muslims who easily accepted the Christian faith and attended the schools established. However, in the Muslim dominated areas of the North the Christian missionaries were rejected, so the colonial government stepped in and established schools.

### **THE HANS VISCHER SCHOOL IN KANO**

Government involvement in education in Northern Nigeria

started with elementary education in Nasarawa, Kano in 1908. That school was placed under Mr. Hans Vischer, a Swiss national who studied in Britain and came to Nigeria as a Christian missionary. He later took up appointment with the Colonial Office and was posted to the Education Department. He had earlier travelled widely in North Africa where he became fluent in Arabic in addition to English, Italian, German and French languages. He also mastered the Hausa language, which led to the Kano school being called “*Makarantar Dan Hausa*”.

The school curriculum was designed to last for four years in order to teach reading and writing in the Hausa language. Pupils from all over the Northern Region trooped into Kano in order to attend the school. Majority of them were sons of Emirs, District and Village Heads, Emirate Councillors and people close to Royalty. The success recorded allowed for enlarging the curriculum of the school. General Knowledge, Hygiene, Drawing, Arithmetic, Religion, English and Geography were added to the earlier Reading, Writing and Hausa. As the School progressed, Agriculture was introduced and an experimental farm was established, but curiously, only to train pupils on the production of cash crops meant for exports to England, like groundnuts and cotton.

A class for the “*Mallams*” (Muslim scholars) was opened and technical instruction, which included Carpentry, was

introduced and supervised by Mr. Vicher himself. By 1911, there were 80 *Mallams* in training and 97 sons of Emirs and 102 pupils in the Elementary and Vernacular sections as well as 41 in various technical workshops.

Most of the graduates of the school went back to their various Provinces and embarked on a teaching career at both Elementary and Provincial Primary Schools. Malam Bello Kagara (Walin Katsina) went to teach at Zaria Provincial School while Mallam Nagwamatse went to Bida Provincial School, before they were chosen to join Katsina College when it was established in 1921.

## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

In the early part of 1910s, elementary schools were established in various Districts of the Northern Regional Provinces. The schools were offering limited subjects like Reading, Writing, English, Hygiene and Religion and the graduates of “*Makaratar Dan Hausa*” staffed them.

## **PROVINCIAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

The government, in a bid to provide the necessary manpower for the colonial administration, established Provincial Primary Schools which superseded the Elementary Schools. Between 1912 and 1918, Provincial Schools were established in Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Bida, Zaria and Birnin Kebbi. Up to 1925, the teachers in those schools were graduates of *Dan Hausa* School in Nasarawa, Kano. However, in 1925 when the first graduates of the

Katsina College passed out and took over the Provincial Schools, the *Dan Hausa* graduates had to be posted to various Elementary Schools.

## **EMERGENCE OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

A change in educational policy in Northern Nigeria brought about the establishment of Middle Schools to replace the Provincial Schools. By 1931, with the commissioning of the Bauchi Middle School, the establishment of Middle Schools was completed in the Region.

The Middle School was placed between the Elementary School and the College. The Middle Schools were based on academic excellence with a weeding exercise for the weak ones. It had a duration of four years plus a compulsory remedial class called “remove class” of one year. That made the school calendar to be of five years. After those five years, a successful candidate would go straight to the Katsina/Kaduna College. The financing of the Middle Schools came from the Native Authority Treasuries and their grants from the Regional Government were merged with those of the Native Authorities. Graduates of the old Katsina College made up the staff of the Middle Schools.

**SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS** In 1953, the colonial government education department decided to phase out the Middle School System and introduced the Secondary School System in its place. In order to facilitate the change, boarding Senior Primary Schools were introduced

in various Provinces. In Katsina Province for example, Kankia, Dutsinma, Mani and Malumfashi boarding primary schools were commissioned around 1956. The pupils attended the Senior Primary Schools for duration of three years after a four-year Junior Primary school education.

## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Secondary School education in the North started with the establishment of Katsina College in 1921. The College was entirely run by expatriate staff except for two indigenous staff who graduated from the Hans Vischer School in Kano and who were teaching Arabic and Islamic Studies. In 1938, it was transferred to Kaduna and named Kaduna College. It was again transferred to Zaria as Government College Zaria and later renamed Barewa College Zaria. However, in 1949 the Northern Government decided to open one more College with a view to alleviating the suffering of students from distant areas of the Middle Belt who had to travel to Zaria for their Secondary Education at the only college sponsored and established by the Government. Thus, Government College Keffi was established in 1949. Another reason for the establishment of the Keffi College was to provide access to Secondary education to the non-Muslim population of Ilorin, Kabba and other areas of the Middle Belt. Christian Missions also made efforts to establish Secondary Schools in the North. St John's College Kaduna (now Rimi College) and Offa



Grammar School were established by Missionaries before 1950. Therefore, as at 1950, there were only four (4) Secondary Schools in the North as opposed to one hundred and fifty six (156) in the South.

## **TEACHERS' COLLEGES**

By 1930, three Elementary Teachers' Training Colleges were established in Bauchi, Maru and Katsina. Graduates of Provincial as well as Elementary Schools were admitted to undergo a teachers' training course for a period of three years in order to qualify for a Teachers' Grade III certificate. In 1949, the curriculum for those Colleges was expanded and the certificate awarded upgraded to a Teachers' Grade II certificate. The establishment of the Teachers' Colleges was because of the report of the Phelps Stokes Commission that recommended the establishment of Teachers' Colleges as well as grants to be given to Voluntary Agency run schools.

Graduates of those Teachers' Colleges were placed on a salary of £3 (N6) per month. The curriculum included Arithmetic, Hausa, History, Geography, English, Religion, Hygiene, Gardening, and Principles and Practice of Teaching. Later on, many of such Colleges were opened by Voluntary Agencies all over the Northern Region. The government also stepped up efforts towards that direction. In 1961, a Women Teachers' College was opened in Kano to cater for the female pupils. Indeed, the Sardauna of

Sokoto noted that, in 1952 there were only two Government Secondary Schools in the Region, but by 1963 there were about fifty three and almost an equal number of Teacher-training Colleges (Paden 1986).

## **HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA**

The activities of voluntary agencies in the North caused some unease with respect to the imbalance in the educational system of the Region. As far back as 1914, the imbalance caused by the activities of voluntary agencies was noticeable which swelled their enrolment figures to almost three fold that of government owned schools. In that year, the government provincial schools had 527 pupils as opposed to 1,682 pupils in the missionary schools operating in the non-Muslim areas of the North.

By 1950, the North had four Secondary schools, two for the government and two for the missionaries, while there were 156 secondary schools in the South, mainly owned by the missionaries. In 1948, the University College Ibadan was opened. That was because of the Elliot Commission Report, which recommended the setting up of a university to be located in Ibadan.

The Commission was set up in June 1943 and its report was handed over in June 1945. However, as at 1953, out of 630 students at that new University, only seven were Northerners.

The situation was alarming and frightening. It called for

action. Therefore, in 1954, a College named Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology was set up in Zaria. It offered A-level Courses preparatory to University entry. As the then Director of Education Mr. A. A. Shillingford noted in his 1954 annual report, “The road from Secondary School to University College lies through the Zaria branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology”.

Hence, Northerners like Colonel Ahmadu Ali from Kabba Province, Dr. Datti Ahmed from Kano Province, Professor Jibril Aminu from Adamawa Province and Dr. Isyaku Aliyu, from Katsina Province all passed through the Zaria College to the University College Ibadan to study medicine.

In April 1959, the Federal Government set-up a Commission to look into Nigeria’s needs in Higher Education under Sir Eric Ashby, Master of the Clare College, Cambridge. The Commission recommended the expansion of the existing University at Ibadan, the setting up of a National Universities’ Commission as well as the establishment of Universities in Lagos and the North. That report led to the establishment of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in 1961.

Prior to the establishment of the Ahmadu Bello University, an Institute of Administration had been established in Zaria in 1946, which offered courses to Administrative, Clerical

and Accountancy staff, especially from the Native Authorities. The Institute was later merged with the University.

In order to complement the Institute of Administration Zaria, a Staff Development Centre was established in Kaduna, which later became the Kaduna Polytechnic in 1968. It was the largest Polytechnic in Africa and it offered technical, commercial and administrative courses at National and Higher Diploma levels for students from all over the Northern Region.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **NORTHERN NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL POLICIES**

From 1908, when the Northern Nigerian colonial government started formulating policies on education, various reports were received from several commissions and many Ordinances were promulgated. Below are some of the important commission reports and ordinances, both Regional and National, which influenced educational development in Northern Nigeria.

#### **PHELPS-STOKES COMMISSION 1925**

The Phelps-Stokes Commission was an American based Organisation that produced a report on education in Africa. In Northern Nigeria, the Commission advocated for the central control of education that included both supervision and formulation of policies. It also recommended for the establishment of Teachers' Colleges as well as Women education. Education, the Commission pointed out, should be adapted to local needs and grants should be given to the Missionaries for the running of their schools.

#### **ELLIOT COMMISSION REPORT 1943**

The British Secretary of State for the Colonies set up the Elliot Commission on 13th June, 1943. It recommended the establishment of a University in Ibadan. That recommendation led to the setting up of the Ibadan



University College in 1948.

### **EDUCATION ORDINANCE OF 1948**

That ordinance instituted changes in the administrative structure of the Department of Education. It made it mandatory for people to seek for permission before any new school was established. The permission was to be granted by the Deputy Director of Education. Senior Secondary Schools were to replace the Middle Schools. Provincial Secondary Schools were to be set up.

### **EDUCATION ORDINANCE OF 1956**

The 1956 ordinance made the Education Department to be merged with the Ministry of Education. The Deputy Director was replaced with the Chief Inspector of Education. A 7-year primary school syllabus was introduced to replace the 4-year primary school and 4-year middle school curriculum. The new syllabus would involve a 4-year Junior Primary and a 3-year Senior Primary education.

### **ASHBY COMMISSION 1959**

The Commission examined Nigeria's needs in higher education for the years 1960 to 1980. It recommended the setting up of Universities in Zaria, Lagos and Nsukka in addition to the Ibadan University and that Nigerian Universities should accommodate certain courses including a Bachelor's degree in Education. It also recommended for

the setting up of a National Universities' Commission. That report led to the establishment of the first university in the North, the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

### **OLDMAN REPORT OF 1961**

As a result of the financial commitment needed to execute the recommendations of the Ashby Report of 1959, the Northern Regional government invited Mr. H. Oldman (Chief Education Officer for the City of York in England) to study the Region's educational system and make recommendations. He examined the nature of Native Authorities' financial contributions and their management of primary schools as well as the government's system of grants-in-aid. A study of the educational imbalance between the North and the South revealed that, as at 1957, there were only 205,769 children in primary and secondary schools in the North as against 2,242,104 in the South. Mr. Oldman submitted his report in 1962 in which he advised that Local Educational Authorities should be established. He also advised that the Local Education Authority should be divorced from excessive control by the parent Native Authority so that it would be self-accounting in order to enhance its productivity and accountability.

### **EDUCATION ORDINANCE OF 1962**

Based on the Oldman Report, the Northern Nigerian Education Ordinance was promulgated in 1962. A total of 46 Local Education Authorities were set up in the Northern

Region and only the right to inspect religious teaching was left to the missionaries while the control of all schools were transferred to the government. A special course for educational administrators was introduced at the Institute of Administration, Zaria in order to train education supervisors. Government grants were based on per-capita basis and not on teachers' salaries as was the case. Those moves brought a significant increase in primary school enrolment in the North from 150,912 in 1959 to 534,200 in 1965. That was about 350% increase in about six years.

### **NEW EDUCATIONAL POLICY (6-3-3-4)**

In 1976, the Federal Military Government introduced a Universal Free Primary Education policy. That led to the proliferation of primary schools all over Nigeria and enrolment figures soared. The policy eventually brought about a mass rate of dropouts and unemployment. In 1981, the new Civilian Federal Government introduced the "6-3-3-4" Educational Policy. The pupil would spend 6 years in the Primary School and 3 years in the Junior Secondary School after which he would sit for an examination in about twelve subjects before proceeding to the Senior Secondary School to spend another 3 years. On successfully passing the prescribed examinations, the student would proceed to the University to spend another four years.

The "6-3-3-4" Educational Policy set out the following:-

#### **1. PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (NURSERY)**

This is the education given to children of ages between 3 and 5 years before enrolling into the primary school. Purposes of such an education included:-

1. Effective transition from home to school.
2. Preparing the child for entry into primary school.
3. Caring for the child in the parents' absence.
4. Inculcating good social norms and habits
5. Promoting co-operation at an early age.
6. Teaching the basics of numbers, shapes, forms, letter, and colours e.t.c.

## 2. PRIMARY EDUCATION

This is the education given to children between the ages of 6 and 11 years. This is the most vital of all the educational levels. The objectives of primary education are as follows:-

1. To impart permanent literacy
2. To form the basis for scientific thinking.
3. Citizenship education.
4. Character and moral training.
5. Adaptation to environment.
6. Development of manipulative skills.
7. Preparation for trades and crafts and to promote educational advancement.

### 3. SECONDARY EDUCATION

This education is received after the completion of Primary education before the entry into tertiary institutions. Some of its objectives as stated by the National policy included: -

1. Providing qualitative education.
2. Providing effective curriculum for entry into higher institutions.
3. Equipping students to live in the age of technology.
4. Developing Nigerian culture and arts.
5. Inculcating the spirit of teamwork and respect for the dignity of labour.
6. Fostering unity.
7. Inspiring students for personal development and self reliance.

### 4. HIGHER AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

This covers post-secondary education, which is given in Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Universities and other Te Colleges. The aims of higher education are-

1. To impart value orientation for the survival of both the individual and the society.
2. To encourage individuals to appreciate their environments.
3. To acquire skills leading to the development of a useful member of the society.

## 5. TEACHER EDUCATION

The purposes of teacher education are:

1. To produce conscientious and efficient classroom teachers.
2. To promote creativity among teachers.
3. To help teachers to adapt into various communities.
4. To make teachers responsive to change in an ever changing world and become dynamic.
5. To enhance the teachers' commitment to their responsibilities.

Teacher training would be given by Teachers' Training Colleges, Advanced Teachers' Colleges, Institutes of Education at the Universities, National Teachers' Institute and other Teachers' Centres. The desire to improve the teaching profession led to the introduction of Distance Learning Programmes in order to promote teachers efficiency. Teachers with National Certificate of Education (N.C.E.) would be required to obtain a degree in 2 years instead of the former 3 years. In a bid to achieve the desired teaching qualities, some States had made the N.C.E. as the minimum teaching qualification in the primary schools.

The distance learning programme has now been introduced in degree courses with the establishment of the National Open University.

## 6. SPECIAL EDUCATION



Special education was introduced for the handicapped in line with the government's policy of providing education to all and sundry as well as correcting the educational imbalance. Special Education Departments were opened in some Higher Educational Institutions and teachers were encouraged to go and specialize. A system of integration was designed whereby pupils on leaving special education schools could join their counterparts in regular schools. However, those who needed full-time special classes had schools established for them e.g. the deaf, mentally retarded e.t.c.

## 7. CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

One major feature of the 1981 New National Policy (6-3-3-4) was the introduction of Continuous Assessment. The "one-shot" examination had come under criticism for a very long time and educationists no longer believed in the reliability of the traditional end of term final examinations.

The Continuous Assessment system entails tests or assignments at regular intervals, which would form a certain percentage of the overall total marks a student would have to obtain before passing an examination. The System emphasized record keeping of tests and assignments. It also took into cognizance other domains of the individual, which were assessed as opposed to the former system, which laid emphasis only on the knowledge of subjects (cognitive).

Continuous Assessment examines the three domains of learning as follows: -

1. Cognitive domain (dealing with the acquisition of academic knowledge).
2. Affective domain (dealing with habits, attitudes and character development).
3. Psychomotor (dealing with the acquisition of skills).

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF KATSINA COLLEGE**

Katsina had been recognized for a very long time as a seat of learning by many notable educationists, colonial administrators and the public at large. Many historians as well as adventurers as far back as the 15th century had reported the influx of Islamic Scholars from West and North African regions to Katsina. Those scholars came all the way from towns like Jenne, Timbuktu, Gao and from other North African towns and states. The scholars did not only acquire or impart knowledge of the Islamic religion but also documented aspects of history connected to events that had taken place in Hausaland.

Lord (Sir) Frederick Lugard who was the colonial British Northern Nigerian High Commissioner (1900-1906) acknowledged the importance of Katsina as a seat of learning as amply demonstrated in his annual reports.

#### **THE ORIGIN OF THE COLLEGE**

With the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern colonial Protectorates to form “Nigeria” in 1914, the British Governor General, Lord Frederick Lugard saw the need to establish a Secondary School with staff from either Britain or the Caribbean. He started by requesting permission to establish a Technical Institute near the new

capital, Kaduna. However, the London Colonial Office was opposed to the site (Boyd, 1986). In a memorandum he submitted to the Colonial Office in August 1915, Lord Lugard posited that:-

*“...As the scheme progresses, the central school might accommodate 200 or 300 pupils before it became necessary to found a second of the same kind. The general method of education would be the same as that now existing, namely the model would be the English public school... Since the boys in this school will be aspirants for government service they must be taught a thorough knowledge of English”.* (Ahmadu Bello 1962)

However, Lord Lugard never stayed long enough to see to the establishment of the College as he resigned as Governor General of Nigeria in 1918.

The idea of establishing a College in the North to provide manpower for the colonial administration was not restricted to Lord Lugard alone. The new Governor General, Sir Hugh Clifford understood the dire need for manpower for the government of the Northern Region as he declared in 1919 that:-

*“...After two decades of British occupation, the Northern Provinces have not yet produced a single native who is sufficiently educated to enable him fill the most minor clerical post in the Office of any government department”.* (Indabawa, 1992).

On the need to site the College in Katsina, Sir Clifford had this to say:-

*“...Katsina was held in high repute... as a seat of learning and piety... (and was also) not as yet so close to the railway and to the commercial centres of Nigeria as to make it unsuitable for that quite and tranquillity and that freedom from distractions which are so necessary for young men who are devoting their lives to study.”* (Ahmadu Bello, 1962)

In a letter to the colonial secretary, the then Acting Director of Education for the Northern Region, Mr. Urling-Smith, who was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and had worked with Mr. Hans Vischer at Nassarawa in Kano, had this to say:-

*“... Katsina town had traditionally been the home of learned and devout scholars.”* (Indabawa, op. cit).

In another letter he wrote, he emphasized his support for establishing the College at Katsina as follows:-

*“... I still favour Katsina as the site... While no parent will shy at that place on any grounds, except that it is away from home, many of them whom themselves we cannot sophisticate, will be reluctant to sent their sons to Zaria.”* (Ahmadu Bello op. cit.)

Governor Hugh Clifford wrote to the Secretary of State for the colonies informing him of the need for a Training

College after inspecting Schools at Kano, Zaria, Ilorin, Bauchi and Maiduguri, which were all in need of manpower. Such a Training College he pointed out should be recognized as a government institution and not for the Native Authority. The expenditure for the College should be defrayed from General Revenue. The acting Director of Education, Mr. Urling-Smith, further wrote and sought the approval of the colonial office and the Education Department for the establishment of the College. The provincial schools, he argued, could not be run effectively without the necessary manpower which such a college would provide. English Language, he pointed out would be the medium of instruction.

Finally, an approval was given in 1920 and the Katsina College was built in 1921 and officially commissioned by Sir Hugh Clifford on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1922. At the commissioning ceremony, Sir Clifford said:-

*“It is very necessary that the youths who will receive their training in this College and who will thereafter carry the torch of learning and knowledge to all parts of the Mohammedan Emirates in order thereby to enlighten the ignorance of the Countrymen, should concentrate all their energies and all their attention upon the task that is set them during their period of training. That they should cherish no other desire or ambition than that of training for the great work of teaching others the things which they will*

*learn. And that while living in this college the ordinary lives of young Mohammedan men of birth and standing they should be subjected to no influences which might tend to make them careless about the observance of their religious duties, forgetful of the customs and traditions of their fellow countrymen or lacking in the respect and courtesy which they owe to their parents and to all who occupy positions of authority and to all people. To these young men will hereafter be entrusted the duty of training and instructing the boys who attended the provincial schools in which they will later be employed. And it will fall to them the teaching of those boys, not only the lessons from books which they will have acquired, but the way that good Mohammedans should live, the good manners, good behaviour and the courteous deportment without which mere book learning is of little value". (Ahmadu Bello 1962).*

The College took off in October 1921 with thirty-four students out of whom ten dropped out. Katsina College came to be associated with academic excellence throughout Nigeria. It was referred to as the “*Eton of Nigeria*”.

## **THE COLLEGE LOCATION**

Katsina College was sited at Rafukka quarters of Katsina city on a piece of land donated by the Emir, Alhaji Muhammadu Dikko. The staff offices, classrooms, students' hostels and staff houses were all built with red

earth and clay in a typical Hausa architecture on what was hitherto Sarki Dikko's farmland when he was the Durbin Katsina and lived at the nearby Kofar Sauri quarters. The site was chosen due its serenity and therefore most suitable for studies.

The Wazirin Katsina, Sheikh Alhaji Haruna, donated his farmland for the College's sports field. The field was located at the present livestock market just outside the Kofar Waziri (near the Dantakum cemetery), which was a gate cut out of the town wall by Waziri Haruna to provide access to the field. The British teachers chose the site because of its beautiful scenery overlooking a marshy land. (Interviews with Alhaji Isa Kaita, Wazirin Katsina).

## **COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION**

Students in Katsina College lived in mud houses. The rooms were very small containing corn stalk beds (*gadon kara*) and a mat. In some cases, a local bed was designed from mud with wooden legs locally called "*tumurgudu*". In every room a rope was provided which the student would hang his clothes. There were four hostels at the initial stage namely North, South, East and West. Later two more hostels were added. They were Hankaka (crow) and Illela. The names were attempts to make the school a regional one without connotation. (Paden, 1986)

Uniforms were not specified or provided to the students. However, as Muslims, they all used white kaftans, trousers



and caps to match for normal classes and outings. They used smaller native dresses for games.

## **THE COLLEGE CURRICULUM**

Katsina College had a simple curriculum geared towards the training of teachers in the initial stage. The subjects taught included English, Mathematics, History, Geography and Education (Principles and Practice). The final examinations were based on those subjects. The students, in their respective Provinces, undertook a teaching practice, which was supervised by colonial officers resident in the Provincial Headquarters. Games were included in the school activities as well as Hygiene, Agricultural Practice and Hiking. The school games included fives, cricket, football (soccer) and athletics. (Interviews with an old teacher, Alhaji Mamman Kankiya).

Right from the onset, the Acting Education Director who fought vigorously for the establishment of the College emphasized the importance of English language as a medium of instruction. English, therefore, was particularly emphasized and correct pronunciation and intonation observed. Lord Lugard had remarked in a memorandum he submitted to London in 1915, that “...*Since the boys in this school will be aspirants for government service they must be taught a thorough knowledge of English.*” (Boyd, 1986)

Mr. F.M. Urling-Smith, the then Acting Education Director also echoed the need for a thorough knowledge of the

English Language when he said:- “...*I believe that the English Language must be the medium of instruction, with Arabic as subsidiary*”. (NAK, 1919).

It was not surprising therefore, that the Oxford accent of English came to be associated with the graduates of the old Katsina College. An ex-student, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the late Prime Minister of Nigeria during the first Republic, was noted for his excellent pronunciation in English Language which earned him the nick-name “*Golden Voice of Africa*”.

The College’s daily routine (Mondays to Saturdays) was as follows:-

- 5:00 a.m. - Prayers and cleaning
- 7:00 - 7:30 am - Physical exercise
- 7:30 - 9:00 am - Classes(45 Minutes each)
- 9:00 - 10:00 am - Break fast
- 10:00 - 1:30 pm - Classes
- 1:30 p.m. - Prayers/lunch/Prayers
- 4:00 - 6:30 pm - Games
- 7:00 pm - Prayers/dinner and Evening Study.
- 9:00 pm - Closing of the gates
- 10:00 pm - Room to Room check

The Friday routine differs from the rest as it involved Juma'at prayers in the afternoon and a one and a half miles hike as exercise. The rest of the day was free. (Paden, 1986)

## **THE COLLEGE DISCIPLINE**

The life styles of former students of Katsina College as well as documentary evidence confirmed a strict discipline of a military nature at the College. Some of the former students of the College who were interviewed confirmed the high level of discipline at that school. Others who confirmed same included a retired Chief Education Officer for Katsina Emirate Alhaji Jabiru Abdullahi and Alhaji Mamman Kankiya, a retired Headmaster who started teaching way back in the late 1930s. The late Alhaji Abubakar Imam, a former student of the College and a one time Editor of *Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo*, Hausa newspaper, narrated some incidences in his memoirs, which brought out the extent to which discipline was maintained at the College (Mora, 1989).

In 1927, The Reverend A.G. Fraser, Principal of the Prince of Wales College at Achimota, Ghana, had this to say about the College in terms of discipline and performance:-

The College “... *is not only famous, it deserves its fame. The staff are united and keen... Obviously the place is well organized, initiative is developed in the pupils and character cultivated. The class teaching is remarkably well*

*thought out.*” (Boyd, 1986).

In a speech at the meeting of the Old Boys Association in 1976, Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari who later became the President of the Federal republic of Nigeria in 1979, had this to say concerning discipline in the College:-

*“... the standard of discipline was so splendid that the words of a house prefect had more force of law and were more effective than (today’s) decrees and edicts of the Military Regime. Teachers too were so devoted and so involved in their jobs that one can only compare the degree of their involvement with that of the present day soldier in the trenches. The standard of learning in the Old Barewa (Katsina) College was so high that it could only be compared with that of some universities in these days.”* (Ibid.)

## **FEEDING AT THE COLLEGE**

Cooking was not permitted in the College premises, therefore food vendors were invited into the premises of the College to sell food. The then Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Muhammadu Dikko forced food sellers to go and display their items for the students to buy.

As a result, a mini-market emerged called “*Kasuwar Dole*” (a forced market). During the Sallah Celebration of Eidel-Kabir, the Emir used to send some rams to the students. Likewise, during the Muslim Zakkat or alms giving to the poor after the month of Ramadan, the Emir Alhaji

Muhammadu Dikko sent food items to the students.

## **THE COLLEGE ADMISSION POLICY**

Since the dawn of the colonial administration, several administrators as well as colonial educationists emphasized the need for traditional rulers or those close to the courts or palaces to ensure that their sons were enrolled into the Western type of schools. Indeed, that became the official admission policy, which continued for a considerable period.

The colonial administration never meant to bring some class conflict between the two groups as such, but rather, it was the only way they deemed fit to make the native people embrace Western education (Mora, 1989). The traditional rulers were to set an example, which their subject were expected to follow. The situation ensured the entrenchment of the sons of nobility in the forefront of Western Education in almost all parts of the North.

Attempts were later made to remedy the situation by the Acting Director of Education for Northern Nigeria, Mr. F. M. Urling-Smith in a letter he wrote to the colonial office in 1920, which read in part:-

*“Pupils for the Training College should not necessarily be drawn from the ruling class, but from pupils at the Provincial Schools, whatever their ranks provided that they show promise, that their parents are willing for them to enter, and that they are not going to be required later to fill*

*hereditary posts under Native Administration*” (Paden, 1986)

The early intake of Katsina College was composed of students from the Muslim areas of Northern Nigeria. That was the policy as indicated by Sir. Hugh Clifford in 1922 when he said:-

*“This College is designed to serve all the Muhammadan Emirates in Nigeria... and you are aware (that) the young men who will receive in it their training are drawn from every part of the Muhammadan States.”* (Boyd, 1986)

With that policy, the colonial government proceeded to admit students from mainly the “Muhammadan Emirates” as they called the Muslim Emirates of Northern Nigeria. However, a few students featured from the areas where the Muslim population was negligible and Emirates never existed e.g. Plateau, Benue, Kabba and the Northern Trust Territory (Cameroon).

It was however interesting to note that the Katsina College students were not the age-type in today’s colleges. The youngest amongst them were about 15 years old while the oldest often reach the age of 18 years. For example, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sardauna of Sokoto was 17, Alhaji Isa Kaita was 15 and Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa was 16 when they enrolled at the College. In fact, some of the students were married men and therefore not “college boys” in today’s sense.

A summary of the overall enrolment figures between October 1921 and March 1938, when the College transferred to Kaduna was as follows:

<b>PROVINCES</b>	<b>ENROLLMENT</b>
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1. Sokoto	32 Students
2. Kano	40 “
3. Zaria	29 “
4. Niger	28 “
5. Bauchi	24 “
6. Bornu	36 “
7. Ilorin	19 “
8. Katsina	30 “
9. Adamawa	18 “
10. Plateau	5 “
11. Kabba	4 “
12. Benue	2 “

TOTAL	267 Students
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The Emirates composing the above Provinces were :-

Katsina — Katsina and Daura Emirates

Kano — Kano, Kazaure, Gumel and Hadejia  
Emirates

Sokoto — Sokoto, Argungu, Gwandu, and Yauri

## Emirates

Zaria – Zazzau, Birnin Gwari and Jema'a Emirates

Niger – Bida, Agaie, Kontagora, Lapai, Abuja Emirates.

Bauchi – Bauchi, Gombe, Misau, Katagum and Jama'are

Bornu – Bedde, Borno, Fika and Dikwa Emirates

Ilorin – Borgu, Ilorin, Lafiagi Pategi Emirates

Adamawa – Yola Emirate

Plateau Nil.

Benue – Keffi, Nassarawa and Lafia Emirates

Kabba Nil

In 1957, the Northern Regional colonial government passed a circular, which emphasized the admission policy of Katsina College, even though now transferred to Zaria as Government College Zaria.

It re-affirmed the colonial administration's willingness to make the College a predominantly Muslim one. The circular stated that: -

*“Government College Zaria should in future recruit Muslims from Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Bornu, Niger, Zaria, Bauchi, Adamawa and Ilorin Provinces. Christians from all these Provinces should go to Government College Keffi.”* (Boyd, 1986).



One of the opponents of such an admission policy was Alhaji Abubakar Imam who served on the Advisory Board of the Zaria College. He was quick to point out to other members the need to liberalize the admission policy. Keffi, he asserted was established to ease the issue of distance and not to separate the Muslims from the Christians.

Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sarkuna of Sokoto who was also on the Board, pointed out that the admission policy of the Zaria College should be liberalized to include other non-Muslim areas of the North. They had their way as the policy was reversed.

### **THE COLLEGE FINANCE**

Each of the affected Provinces paid a sum of £5:00 monthly to the school authority for the upkeep of the College as well as the visits of the College students on vacation to Lagos. Students were given Thirty Shillings each (30s) by their respective Provinces every month. That was for their feeding and other expenses. The Colonial Administration solely financed the College. (Interview with Alhaji Isa Kaita, Wazirin Katsina).

### **GRADUATE SALARY STRUCTURE**

On graduation, the students had automatic employment awaiting them. Their monthly salaries vary with the marks obtained on graduation which were matched with special grades as follows:-

<u>Marks</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Salary</u>
94 –100	I	£12:10s
76 – 93	II	£ 7:10s
50 – 75	III	£ 5:00s
0 - 49	Failure	£ 4:00s

The above salary structure was for those who accepted to teach in their respective Provinces. Those who opted to join the Native Authority Administration or the colonial administration were paid less. That was a deliberate attempt to encourage “teaching” against “office work”. (Interview with Alhaji Isa Kaita Wazirin Katsina).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The College operated the following administrative structure:-

- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- Subjects Heads
- Teachers
- Administrative Staff
- Bursar
- Labourers, cleaners, etc

The Principal reported to the Provincial Education Officer who in turn reported to the Director of Education at the Regional Education Ministry in Kaduna.

## **PRINCIPALS OF THE COLLEGE**

### **1. MR. G. A. J. BIENEMAN**

He was the first Principal of the College in 1921 and he retired in 1929. He was born in England in 1889 and died in 1963.

### **2. MR. M. W. OAKES**

He was a British and Acting Principal from 1929 to 1931. He taught English.

### **3. MR. T. S. PHILLIPS**

He became the Principal in 1932 and retired in 1934. He taught English and was British.

### **4. MR. W. E. NICHOLSON**

Mr. Nicholson taught both English and Geography. He was appointed as Principal in 1934 and he resigned in 1935.

### **5. MR. TOM BALDWIN**

He was British and was a Principal in 1936.

### **6. MR. EVIC MORT**

He was the Principal from the time the school was transferred from Katsina in 1938 to 1946 when he retired.

### **7. MR. A. W. A. SPICER**

Major Spicer was initially a teacher who was promoted to replace Mr. Mort who left in 1946.

## **MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF**

Most of the Katsina College teachers were expatriates and mainly British. A few Nigerians were employed to teach in the College and they served either as auxiliary teachers who graduated from the College with good results and remarkable conducts or as Hausa and Islamic Studies teachers. Some of the teachers included the following:-

### **1. MR. P. G. S. BAYLIS**

He was a British national and he taught Mathematics and English.

### **2. MALLAM BELLO KAGARA**

He was one of the few Nigerians recruited to teach at the Katsina College. He was born in Kagara town in present Niger State. Mallam Bello Kagara taught Islamic Religious Knowledge at the College until he retired finally at the Kaduna College in 1945. On leaving the Colonial Service, he joined the Katsina Native Authority as the Emir's (Alhaji Usman Nagogo) scribe and later the "*Alkali*" of Katsina. The Emir gave him the title of Walin Katsina. He wrote two books, titled, "Gandoki" (1935) and "Sarkin Katsina, Alhaji Muhammadu Dikko" (1951). He received some awards among which were the M.B.E. He died in Katsina in November 1971.

### **3. MR. K. B. BILL**

He was a British national who taught Science.

#### 4. MR. C. R. BUTLER

He was a British citizen who taught Geography up to the year 1926. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin.

#### 5. MR. CRAIG

He was a British citizen who taught English up to 1926.

#### 6. MR. HAMMOND

He was a British national.

#### 7. MR. S J HOGBEN

He was a British national who taught Mathematics. He was an ardent Polo player and had keen interest in the game of Fives. He stayed very long in Nigeria and wrote a book on the history of Northern Nigeria titled, *The Emirates of Northern Nigeria*.

#### 8. MALAM UMMARU NAGWAMATSE

Malam Ummaru Nagwamatse was from Sokoto and had attended the Hans Vischer's School at Kano after which he was posted to teach at Bida Elementary School. When the Katsina College was opened he was chosen to join its teaching staff as an Islamic Studies teacher.

#### 9. MR. GERALD POWER

He was a British citizen who taught English. The Oxford accent for which the school was famous was very much the effort of Mr. Gerald Power. He was the power behind the Katsina College Graduates' excellent English.

#### 10. MR. SHILLINGFORD

He was a British national who taught English at the College. He was also described as one of the most dedicated teachers at the College.

#### 11. MR. A. W. A. SPICER

Mr. Spicer was a British military officer who had attained the rank of a Major and later deployed to the Education Department. He succeeded Mr. E.L. Mort in 1946 as Principal and served for eight years.

#### 12. MR. C. E. J. WHITTING

Mr. Whitting was a British national and a graduate of St. John's College Oxford. He distinguished himself in the teaching of the English Language, which the College was noted for.

#### 14. MALAM YAZIDU KATSINA

Malam Yazidu was an indigene of Katsina. When he graduated from the College, the authority requested him to remain in the school to teach English and Mathematics due to his excellent result.

### **THE TRANSFER OF THE COLLEGE**

It was during the time of Mr. E. L Mort as Principal that the College was transferred to Kaduna in the year 1938. Kaduna was chosen most likely because of the availability of houses for European Staff. However, no reason was formally advanced by the colonial administration for the

transfer. Mr. E. L. Mort, the then Principal of the College had this to say on the transfer

*“... We were never told why we had to move to Kaduna: Perhaps it was for the greater glory of the Capital”.* (Boyd, 1986).

As the Second World War began in 1940, the students had to give up their buildings in Kaduna North to soldiers and move to the Railway Quarters at the Kaduna South. Some of the teachers joined the army and the College staffing became a problem.

The transfer of Katsina College came with it a new admission policy. Non-Muslims came to be admitted from the boarder Provinces. Boys now came to be admitted instead of young married men. The College curriculum was also expanded.

When the World War ended, Mr. Mort fought very hard to avoid going back to the old buildings in the Kaduna North. The present site in Zaria was subsequently chosen. The Katsina College, which was opened in 1921 in Katsina was transferred to Kaduna as “Kaduna College” in 1938 and again transferred to Zaria with the name “Government Secondary School Zaria” in January 1949. That name was later changed to “Government College, Zaria” in 1955 and finally “Barewa College Zaria” in 1972.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **THE FRUITS OF THE COLLEGE**

Below are some students of Katsina College (1921 to 1938) with their years of admission in brackets. A brief on them was also given. The Author regrets the inability to mention various deserving students of the College from all over Northern Nigeria whose names or bio-data were not entered due to unavailability.

Abubakar, Madawakin Sokoto (1921)

Abba Masta Dikwa (1926)

Abdu Dikko (1930)

Abdullahi Dutse (1933)

Abdurrahman Mora (1933)

Abubakar Imam (1927)

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (1928)

Ahmadu Rabah, Sardaunan Sokoto, (1926)

Ahmadu, Wazirin Yola (1922)

Ahmed Talib (1934)

Aliyu, Turakin Zazzau (1923)

Aliyu Dan Magaji, Makaman Bida, (1921)

Abu Dan Alkali (1921)

Abu Jika, Wazirin Ayyuka Katsina (1929)



Abdulkadir Mai Daura (1933)  
Abdulmalik Atta (1929)  
Adamu Dikko (1927)  
Baraya Gombe (1927)  
Bawa Azare (1938)  
Bello Kano (1921)  
Bello Dandago (1927)  
Bukar Dipcharima (1933)  
Danmallam Dan Gazobi (1921)  
Gajere Dan Sarkin Gozaki (1921)  
Gado Dan Danjari (1921)  
Hassan Rafindadi (1931)  
Haruna Gwandu, Emir of Gwandu (1929)  
Ibrahim Tako (1933)  
Inuwa Wada (1931)  
Iro Dan Iya (Talban Katsina) 1921  
Iro Yamel (1926)  
Isa Koto (1928)  
Isa Kaita, Wazirin Katsina (1927)  
Isa Zaria (1938)  
Ismaila Damale (1933)  
Jibir Daura (1926)

Jumare Zaria (1931)  
Kashim Ibrahim (1925)  
Labo D.O. (1931)  
Muhammad Ngileruma (1926)  
Muhammad Wule (1936)  
Mamman Daku (1928)  
Muhammadu Danmallam, Wambai (1924)  
Mamman Dan Dandada (1921)  
Muhammad Habib (1928)  
Muhammadu Armiya'u (1935)  
Musa Jibrin (1934)  
Musa 'Yar'adua, Mutawallin Katsina (1925)  
Musa Gashash (1934)  
Mamman Sani Kontagora (1938)  
Nuhu Bamalli, Magajin Garin Zazzau (1931)  
Sa'adu Zungur (1929)  
Sa'adu Alananu (1929)  
Shehu Yabo (1931)  
Shehu Dogondaji (1933)  
Sule Kaita (1933)  
Usuman Iya-Iyai (1928)  
Yahaya Gusau (1931)

Yahaya (Madawakin Ilorin) (1922)

Yazidu Katsina (1928)

### **ABUBAKAR (MADAWAKIN SOKOTO)**

He was born in Sokoto in 1906 and had his early education at the Sokoto Provincial School. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1921 and was the first on the College register. On graduation, he taught Geography, History, General Knowledge, Geometry and Arabic at the Sokoto Middle School. He became the first Visiting Teacher in Sokoto Province in 1932. He was appointed the Chief Scribe to His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto in 1934. He later served as a councillor in Sokoto Emirate overseeing several Departments. He was appointed the first indigenous Chairman of Gaskiya Corporation in 1959. He was a member of both the Federal Parliament and the Northern House of Assembly. The Queen of England awarded him an MBE medal in 1956. His College number was 1 (one).

### **ABBA MASTA DIKWA**

He was at the Katsina College between 1926 and 1931. He went back to Bornu Province after graduation and took up appointment with the Native Authority. He held various positions there before being appointed the District Head of Dikwa. His College number was 97.

### **ABDULMALIK ATTA**

Born in Okene in 1906 and had his early education at

Okene and Bida before enrolling at the Katsina College in 1929. He taught at the Okene Central School before joining the Native Authority administration as Administrative Secretary. He joined the NPC and became its first National Treasurer. He was in the Northern House of Assembly when he was appointed as the Northern Nigerian Agent General in the UK in 1955. The Governor General appointed him as Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK in January 1959. He was also a one time Nigeria's Ambassador to France.

### **ABDU DIKKO**

He was the son of the Emir of Katsina Alhaji Muhammad Dikko. He was popularly known as Abdu 'S'. After College, he joined the Pharmacy School in Zaria. However, he later left the school and joined the Veterinary Services of the Federation. He worked in the Eastern Region before joining the services of the Katsina Native Authority. He was appointed as the Village Head of 'Yandaki by the Emir of Katsina. He died in November 1993. His College number was 192.

### **ABDULLAHI DUTSE**

He was born in 1915 in Kano. His father was the Sarkin Dutse of Kano (now in Jigawa State). He enrolled into Katsina College in 1933. Abdullahi was once the Sardauna of Sokoto's Parliamentary Secretary and later succeeded the Sardauna as the Minister of Local Government in 1957.

Prior to that time, he had worked under the Kano Native Authority as Central Office Clerk, Senior Assistant Chief Clerk and Hospital Supervisor. His college number was 226.

### **ABU DAN ALKALI**

He was born at Tsohuwar Kasuwa in Katsina town. He joined the Katsina College in 1921 as one of the pioneer students. He descended from an *Alkali* family in Katsina town. He served as *Alkali* in Funtua town after which he joined the services of the Northern Region. He rose to the rank of a Visiting Teacher. Alhaji Abu pioneered Adult Education classes in Kankia town, a move, which was emulated by other Native authorities. That earned him the nickname “Organiser”. During the World War II, he was recruited to teach the Nigerian soldiers how to read and write in Korea, Japan and Burma. After the war, he was posted to Zaria to join Northern Literature Agency (NORLA). He was later posted back to Katsina where he retired in the late 1950s. His College number was 39. He was among the first set of five Katsina indigenes to graduate from the College.

### **ABUBAKAR IMAM**

He was born in Kagara town of Kontagora Emirate in present day Niger State. He spent his early childhood in Kagara town before being sent to Katsina to join his elder brother Malam Bello Kagara who was a teacher at the

Katsina College. On his arrival in Katsina, he was admitted into Class IV of Katsina Provincial School in 1922. He gained entry into Katsina College in the year 1927.

Alhaji Abubakar's College report recommended that he should teach English at the Katsina Middle School. He was interested in literary activities at an early age and in 1933 he wrote a book, "Ruwan Bagaja" and in 1937 wrote another book, "Magana Jari ce". Those writings endeared him to one Dr. East of the Zaria Literature Bureau who immediately requested for his transfer to Zaria. Therefore, in 1938 he joined the Education Superintendent Dr. R. M. East who was in-charge of the Bureau. He became the Editor of the only Hausa Newspaper at that time, "Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo". In 1943, he was among the West African Press Delegation to London for the self-rule struggle. In 1950, he was selected to serve in the Northern House of Assembly. He later served in the Federal Legislature. He was a Member of various Committees at the House of Representatives. He was a member of Northern Peoples' Congress (N.P.C.), Hausa Language Board, Northern Self Development Fund, and the West Africa Institute of Trypanasomiasis Research. He was the Honorary Vice Chairman of Nigerian Institute of Journalists (1956), Member Higher Muslim Education, Member Advisory Board of Government College Zaria (Barewa), Chairman Interim Common Services Agency (ICSA) and Commissioner for the Public Complaints Commission. He

was a prolific writer who had written almost twenty books. He died in June 1981 at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Zaria. His College number was 110.

### **AHMADU RABAH (SARDAUNAN SOKOTO)**

Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello (Ahmadu Rabah in school) was born in Rabah town of Sokoto Emirate in 1910. His father was Mallam Abubakar, the District head of Rabah. His grandfather, Sarkin Musulmi Atiku, was the eighth (8th) Sultan of Sokoto. He was educated at the Provincial School and the Middle School at Sokoto. The Sardauna joined Katsina College in 1926 and graduated in 1931. On graduation, he went back to Sokoto Province and taught for three years at the Sokoto Middle School. In 1934, he was appointed as the District Head of Rabah to succeed his father. In 1938, his cousin, Sultan Abubakar III, appointed him as the Sardauna of Sokoto. In 1948, the Waziri of Sokoto, Mallam Abbas, who was representing Sokoto at the House of Assembly died. On the death of Abbas, the Sardauna was nominated by the Resident to replace him. In 1951, he joined the Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) and became the Northern Minister of Works. In 1953, he became the Minister of Local Government. In 1954, he became the President General of the N.P.C. and the Premier of the Northern Region in 1955. He attended the Constitutional Conferences of 1953 and 1954 in London. He was knighted by the Queen of England with the title of

K.B.E. in 1959. He was the first Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University. The Sardauna was associated with the general development of Northern Nigeria and was undoubtedly the best leader the Region ever had. He commanded no wealth but was endowed with piety, dedication to duty and rare management skills. Almost everybody in the entire Northern Region and other parts of Nigeria still mourn his brutal murder through a military coup in January 1966. His College number was 87.

### **ADAMU DIKKO**

Alhaji A. B. Dikko was born in Zaria in 1911. He was admitted into Katsina College in 1927. He was among the first batch to attend the Pharmacy School in Zaria which was transferred there from Katsina in 1930. He was later at the Yaba School of Pharmacy, Lagos where he became the first Northerner to teach there. After retirement from teaching, he was appointed as a councillor with the Zaria Native Authority. He was the first Chairman of the Kaduna Capital Development Board and a one time Chairman of the Kaduna State Scholarship Board.

### **AHMADU (WAZIRIN YOLA)**

He enrolled in Katsina College in June 1922. He was made the Waziri of Yola and was Nigeria's envoy to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He was later posted to Kano as the Pilgrims Affairs Officer. His College number was 57.



## **AHMED TALIB**

Ahmed Talib who was registered as “Kaumi” at the College came from a family of Chief Imam’s in Maiduguri. He was born in 1918 at Yerwa, Borno Province and attended Borno Middle School. He enrolled into the Katsina College in 1934. On completion, he returned to Bornu and was with the Native Authority Treasury up to March 1946. He was at the Institute of Administration Zaria in 1946 as an Instructor of Native Authority Accounting. He later joined the government service at the end of 1947. He left for the United Kingdom to study Community Development in the late 1952. Back in Nigeria in 1953, he was posted to the Finance Secretary’s Office in Kaduna as Assistant Secretary for Native Authority Finances. He was promoted to Administrative Officer I in 1959. He was an elder statesman of high repute. His college number was 254.

## **ALIYU (TURAKIN ZAZZAU)**

Born in 1908 in Zaria City, Alhaji Aliyu enrolled into Katsina College, after completing Zaria Provincial School, in 1928. After completing his course at the College, he was seconded to government service and posted to Katsina Elementary Training Centre (E.T.C.) to teach in 1931. He also taught at Zaria and Kano Middle Schools. In 1937, he was promoted to Senior Accountant in the Native Authority Treasury Zaria and in 1940, he was appointed as the

Superintendent of Works. He later joined the N.P.C. and became the Zaria Branch President. In 1954, he was elected to represent Zaria at the House of Assembly and in 1955; he was made a regional Minister and Chairman Northern Region Development Corporation. His College number was 58.

### **ALIYU DAN MA'AJI (MAKAMAN BIDA)**

Born in Doko (Niger Province) in 1906, he received his education in Bida town. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1921 and graduated in 1927. He went back to teach in Bida at the Bida Middle School where he was later made the Headmaster. In 1938, he was turbaned as the Makama of Bida. In 1946, he attended a local government course in England under the sponsorship of the British Council. He was an athlete during his College days. He was the Finance Minister up to January 1966 when the military took over power. In 1979 when the National Party of Nigeria was formed, he was made the Grand Patron. He died in 1980. His College Admission Number was 8.

### **ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA**

Born in 1912 in Lere District of Bauchi Province. He attended Bauchi Provincial School (1925/28) and Katsina College (1928/1933). He studied privately and obtained Senior Teachers' Certificate. He was posted to Bauchi Middle School where he became the Headmaster in 1942. Between 1945 and 1946, he studied at the London

University Institute of Education for a Professional Teaching Certificate. He was appointed Provincial Education Officer in 1947. In 1948, he represented Bauchi Province at both Regional and Federal Legislatures. He was also Vice President Northern Teachers' Association, an organisation that he helped in founding. In 1951 he joined the N.P.C. and was made the first Nigerian Prime Minister in 1957. In 1960 he was knighted by the Queen. He was noted for his eloquence, simplicity of life, honesty and hard work. Way back in 1933 he wrote a book titled "Shaihu Umar" which was made into a film. He was murdered in a military takeover in January 1966. His College number was 145.

### **ABU JIKA (WAZIRIN AYYUKAN KATSINA)**

Born in Katsina town in 1906 and from the Waziri Haruna family. He attended Katsina Provincial School between 1923 and 1927. He enrolled into the College in 1928. He attended the Works Department Technical School Kaduna in 1933 and graduated in 1936. He joined Katsina Native Authority in 1937 and rose to the post of Works Manager of Katsina Native Authority (Wazirin Ayyuka) in 1940. He retired from the Native Authority service in 1956, joined the Northern Nigerian Public Works Department and worked in various areas of the Region. That same Department later became the Ministry of Works. He specialized in road construction and maintenance. He

served the North-Central State government in the capacity of Senior Works Superintendent (Roads).

Between 1937 and 1956, he supervised many road construction projects e.g the Daura-Katsina road (1939-1956). Between 1956 and 1957, he supervised roads building for the Ministry of Works Kaduna in New Bussa, Kaiyama and Ilorin. From 1962 to 1964, he supervised roads building in Plateau (i.e. Gboko and Wukari). Between 1964 and 1965, he supervised road construction in Bauchi Province (i.e. Azare Division). From 1965 to 1968, he supervised Zaria Road Construction. Between 1968 and 1979, he supervised Road Construction at Funtua, Dutsinma and Malumfashi. In 1979, he joined the Funtua Agricultural Project and retired in 1984. In 1979, he received a National Award of M.O.N. (Member of the Order of the Niger) from the then Head of State General Olusegun Obasanjo. His College number was 149.

### **ABDULKADIR MAI DAURA**

He was born in Daura town but had his early education up to the Middle School in Kano. In 1933, he was admitted into Katsina College. He later studied Agriculture at both the College of Agriculture, Samaru Zaria and abroad. He rose to the rank of Head of Department of Agriculture in Daura Emirate. He was at one time the Chairman of Daura Local Government. He succeeded his late father as the Waziri of Daura.

## **ABDURRAHMAN MORA**

Born in Kaigama (Borgu Emirate) of present day Kwara State, on 19th July 1916. He attended Kaigama Elementary School in 1924 and from 1928 to 1933 he attended Ilorin Middle School. In May 1933, he enrolled into Katsina College. On completion, he taught English, History and Geography at the Zaria Middle School in 1938. Between 1945 and 1946, he attended a Course at the Institute of Education, University of London under a Federal Government Scholarship. He left the services of the Northern Regional Government and was seconded to the Federal Government. At Federal level, he was posted to Saudi Arabia as a Consul and Pilgrims Officer. After one year, he was posted to Lagos in 1961 as acting Permanent Secretary, a post he was confirmed in 1962. When the Military took over in 1966, he was appointed as Nigeria's High Commissioner to Pakistan. He retired in 1971. He edited a book written on the late Alhaji Abubakar Imam, titled "Abubakar Imam Memoirs" in 1989. He was among the founding fathers of Northern Teachers' Association and served as its Assistant Secretary in the year 1948. He was also among the founding fathers of Northern Peoples' Congress. Abdurrahman Mora was also among the founders of Kaduna Old Boys' Association (present Barewa Old Boys' Association) and attended its first and second meetings in 1939 and 1940. His College number was 233.

## **BELLO KANO**

He was born in Kano in 1906 and enrolled into Katsina College in 1921. He taught at the Kano Middle School where he rose to become its Headmaster. In 1948, he was appointed as the first publicity secretary of the Jam'iyyar Mutanen Arewa, which later became the NPC. In 1952, he became the first Kano personality to become a Minister with his appointment as the Northern Minister for Community Development. He later resigned to become the Dan Amar of Kano and District Head of Dawakin Tofa.

## **BELLO DANDAGO**

Born in Kano in 1908 and was admitted into Katsina College in 1927. He taught at the Kano Middle School between 1932 and 1941. He and Alhaji Isa Kaita (Wazirin Katsina) were selected to serve as BBC broadcasters in Accra, Gold Coast (Ghana) between 1941 and 1944. They were thus the first international broadcasters from Nigeria. He was turbaned as the Sarkin Dawaki Mai Tuta and District Head of Gwarzo in 1952. He was elected into the Federal House of Representatives under the platform of the NPC where he served as the Deputy Speaker.

## **BUKAR DIPCHARIMA**

Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, as he was popularly known came from Dipcharima Village in Dikwa Emirate of Borno Province where his father was the village head. He attended Elementary School Dikwa and Bornu Middle

School before finally enrolling at the Katsina College in 1933. He worked as a teacher and later as a businessman with John Holt. He first joined the N.C.N.C. in 1947 and later the N.P.C which led to his becoming a Minister in Lagos. He was the Federal Transport Minister up to 1966. He died in a plane crash in Kano in 1969. His College number was 230.

### **BARAYA GOMBE**

He joined the College in 1927. On graduation, he worked briefly in Bauchi before going back to Katsina to teach. In 1956, he was sent to open the Senior Boarding Primary School in Kankia. He rose to the rank of a Visiting Teacher before he finally retired in 1961 and went back to his hometown, Gombe in Bauchi Province where he died. His College Number was 102.

### **DANMALLAM DAN GAZOBI**

Mallam Danmallam was born into the Gazobi family, rulers of ancient Karofi. He was among the first set at Katsina College in 1921. He taught at the Katsina Middle School and at various other schools in Katsina Province. He also worked as an Education Officer with the Katsina Native Authority. He championed female education, which saw to the admission of females to primary schools. He was a highly respected educationist who spent all his life in teaching even at late hours in his personal residence.

## **GADO DAN DANJARI**

Malam Gado was from the family of the first Wazirin Katsina Mallam Haruna. He attended Katsina Provincial School from where he proceeded to Katsina College in 1921 as one of the pioneer students. He taught English at Katsina Middle School where he was noted for his command of the Language which earned him the nickname, “dictionary”. However, in 1931 he left the teaching profession and went to work at the Katsina Native Authority Workshop. On leaving the Native Authority Workshop, Malam Gado went and took up a teaching appointment with the Sokoto Native Authority at the Sokoto Middle School. He later retired and came back to Katsina where he died. His College number was 45.

## **GAJERE DAN SARKIN GOZAKI**

Malam Gajere attended Katsina Provincial School from where he enrolled into the Katsina College in 1921 as one of the pioneer students. He taught at the Katsina Provincial School for some years. He was later promoted to a Visiting Teacher before finally resigning to become a District Head of Faskari. He was popularly known with the traditional title of Kogon Faskari Abdu. He was among the first five Katsina people to graduate from Katsina College. Malam Gajere’s College Number was 38.

## **HASSAN RAFINDADI**

He was born in Rafindadi quarters of Katsina town in the



year 1916. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1931 and graduated in 1936. He taught Science and Mathematics at the Katsina Middle School for fifteen years rising to become its Headmaster in 1951. He was appointed as the Chief Supervisor of Primary Schools in Katsina Emirate and a Councillor for Education in Katsina Native Authority. In the first Republic, he was elected as a Senator. Between 1966 and 1976, he was the Commissioner of Education in North Central State. He was the Chairman of Katsina Emirate Education Fund in the 1960s. He was a Permanent Member of Kaduna State Local Government Service Board. Alhaji Hassan was also a Member of the Planning Committee, which organised the setting up of the National Universities Commission. He was a Member of the Council of the University of Port Harcourt and a Member of Hausa Language Society with its Headquarters in Kano. In 1982, he received the National Award of O.F.R. He retired in the late 1960s. He was first appointed as the Sarkin Malaman Katsina and later as the Sarkin Yakin Katsina. He died in the year 1985. His College number was 202.

### **HARUNA GWANDU (Emir of Gwandu)**

His Royal Highness, the Emir of Gwandu, Alhaji Haruna AlRashid, was born in 1913. After his elementary school in Birnin Kebbi he attended the Sokoto Middle School from where he enrolled into Katsina College in 1929. He stayed

in Katsina and taught at the Katsina Elementary School before joining the Sokoto Middle School as a teacher. He was appointed as the Treasurer of Gusau Native Authority in 1943 and later transferred to Gwandu Native Authority as its Treasurer. He was turbaned as the District Head of Kalgo from where he was appointed as the 18<sup>th</sup> Emir of Gwandu in January 1954. He served as the Deputy President of the Northern House of Chiefs and later became the President of the House from 1958 to the military coup of 1966. He served the country in many capacities including that of Acting Governor of Northern Nigeria in 1965. He was awarded many medals and an honorary Doctorate Degree by the University of Calabar in 1980. He died in August 1995.

### **IBRAHIM TAKO**

Alhaji Ibrahim enrolled into Katsina College in 1933 and after graduation; he went back to his native Niger Province and started a teaching career. However, he later found his way into politics and rose to the rank of N.P.C. Federal Minister in the Federal Cabinet in 1965. He served as Commissioner for Civil Duties in the defunct North-Western State in 1974. He was appointed as the Galadiman Bida in Niger State. He was also a one time Federal Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence. His College number was 243.

## **INUWA WADA**

Alhaji Inuwa Wada was born in Kano town. He attended Kano Elementary School and later Kano Middle School. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1933. He taught at the Kano Middle School between 1938 and 1947. In 1947, he was a Scout Commissioner and in 1949, he was the Chief Clerk of the Kano Native Authority. In 1951, he was the Information Officer and Adult Education Officer of the N.A. In the same year, he was nominated to the House of Representatives in Lagos. In 1954, he was made the Parliamentary Secretary to the Northern Premier and he left for Kaduna. He campaigned for the primary elections as a Presidential candidate in 1992. His College number was 199.

## **IRO DAN IYA (TALBAN KATSINA)**

Born in 1906 in Katsina town. He attended Katsina Provincial School from 1914 to 1921 and Katsina College from 1921 among the pioneer students. He was a Classroom Teacher (1927/1928), Head Teacher at Malumfashi Elementary School (1928/1929) and Senior Teacher Katsina Provincial School (1929-1932). From 1932-1949 he was the Headmaster of Katsina Middle School. In 1947, he attended British Council Summer Course in London. Between 1944 and 1946, he served as Secretary in the Katsina Native Authority. He served as a Member in the Northern State House of Assembly (1946-

1950). He was the District Head of Mashi from 1949 to 1968 when he was appointed as Talban Katsina and relocated to Katsina. He was a Member of Parliament (1953-1966). He served the Cotton Board from 1956 – 1960. Between 1965 and 1975, he served the Katsina Native Authority (Local Government) as Councillor for Social Welfare, Works, Local Government and Community Development and Finance. He also served as the Chairman of Katsina Education Development Fund (1971-1972) and a Member of the Federal Scholarship Board (1973-76). From 1976 until his death, he was a Member of the Katsina Emirate Council. He received the National Awards of M.B.E. in 1951 and M.O.N in 1963. He died on the 6th of March 1990. His College number was 42.

### **ISA KAITA (WAZIRIN KATSINA)**

Alhaji Isa Kaita was born in Katsina town in the year 1912. He attended Quranic School up to 1920 and was admitted into Katsina Provincial Primary School in 1923. It took him only three years to complete his Primary Education. He was admitted into Katsina College in 1927. His father was the first Wazirin Katsina, Alhaji Haruna. On graduation from the College, he taught English, History and Geography at the Katsina Middle School. In the 1940s, he studied Public Administration in Exeter, U.K.

At the beginning of the Second World War, he was chosen to go to the BBC transmission station at the Gold Coast

(Ghana) to mount a Hausa Broadcast Propaganda against the German leader Adolf Hitler. This he did together with Alhaji Bello Dandago from Kano. Alhaji Isa Kaita returned to Nigeria in 1944 and acted as Private Secretary to the newly installed Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Sir Usman Nagogo. In 1946, he was appointed Chief of Staff of Katsina Emirate at the Central Office. In 1948, he went to study in the U.K., came back in 1950 and was appointed as the Development Secretary for Katsina Emirate.

In 1951, he was elected to the Kaduna House of Assembly. In the same year, he was made the Financial Secretary of Northern People's Congress. In 1954, he was appointed as the Minister of Works for Northern Nigeria and in 1956 was appointed as the Minister of National Resources for the Northern Region.

In 1957, he took over the Education Ministry from Alhaji Aliyu Makaman Bida where he served up to the 1966 coup. It was during his tenure as the Minister for Education that the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria was established in 1961; and he was credited with the presentation of the memo for the University's establishment to the Northern Parliament.

He participated in the 1959 debate for the Northern Cameroon in the United Nations. In 1962, he was awarded a C.B.E. medal by the British Queen and the Federal Government awarded him a C.O.N medal in 1965. In the

same year, the Ahmadu Bello University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate Degree. He was made the Waziri of Katsina in 1962. Alhaji Isa Kaita was also awarded another Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Bayero University, Kano. In 1975, he was made Chairman of the Kaduna State Housing Authority, a post he held for one year. He served in various Committees, Boards of Directors etc. They included those of Challarams (1969); U.B.A. and United Trust Bank; U.A.C. and others. He was Chairman Code of Conduct Bureau from 1981 to 1983. He retired and was engaged in various functions and attended Islamic religious and philanthropic activities. His College number was 111.

### **ISA KOTO**

After schooling in Bida, Niger State, he enrolled into Katsina College in 1928. He was noted for his unique intelligence, which led to his graduating with a Second Grade Certificate, which was the highest in those days. He rose to the post of a Federal Permanent Secretary and later Nigeria's Ambassador to Ivory Coast. He was among the founding fathers of Northern Teachers' Association as well as Jam'iyyar Mutanen Arewa, which later became the N.P.C. He retired from public service in 1968. His College number was 142.

### **ISMA'ILA DAMALE (SARKIN FADAN KATSINA)**

Born on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 1919 into the family of

Waziri Haruna and entered the Katsina College in 1933. He obtained a Diploma in Agriculture from Samaru College of Agriculture Zaria (now part of Ahmadu Bello University). He worked with the native Authority Agriculture Department as its head up to 1970 when he joined the North Central State government as Agricultural Officer in-charge of Katsina Province. He was promoted to the rank of State Chief Agricultural Officer and relocated to Kaduna in 1972. He joined the Federal Government's Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority as its General Manager in 1974. He retired in 1977 in order to join politics, a vocation he once joined as member of the House of Representatives in Lagos in 1957. He was turbaned as the Madawakin Gona in 1943 and Sarkin Fadan Katsina in 1956. He was an elder statesman of high repute and an Emirate Councillor from 1943 up to his death in 2004.

### **JIBIR DAURA**

Alhaji Jibir was born in Daura and had his early education in Kano town after which he joined the Katsina College in 1926. On completion, he joined the services of Kano Native Authority and held various positions. He studied Shari'ah at the Institute of Administration Zaria and joined the Northern Regional Judiciary. He served in various parts of Northern Nigeria. He served as Deputy Grand Qadi, in the then Kaduna State. On retirement, he went back to Daura town, his birthplace, and took up farming.

He was made the Makama of Daura. His College Number was 91.

### **KASHIM IBRAHIM (WAZIRIN BORNO)**

Alhaji Sir Kashim Ibrahim was born in Maiduguri in 1910. He attended Borno Middle School for four years before proceeding to Katsina College in 1925. On graduation, he went back to Borno to teach at the Bornu Middle School. He later served as a Visiting Teacher in 1933. In 1935, he was appointed as the Shettima of Bornu and later promoted to Wazirin Borno. In 1938, he was made the Provincial Senior Visiting Teacher. In 1942, he was the Shehu of Bornu's Representative at the Education Office. In 1946, he was nominated as Bornu's Representative to the House of Assembly in Kaduna.

He studied the Sudanese System of Teacher Training in 1951 after which he joined the House of Representatives in Lagos as a Central Minister of Social Services, which included Education, Health and Social Welfare. In 1958, Alhaji Sir Kashim Ibrahim was appointed as the Chairman of Nigerian College Arts, Science and Technology Zaria. He was elected a Senator in 1960. He was a staunch member of the N.P.C. and a close associate of both Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, who was then, the Prime Minister of Nigeria and Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello the Sardauna of Sokoto. In 1962, when the Sardauna became the Premier of the Northern Region, Sir Kashim Ibrahim



was appointed as the Governor of Northern Nigeria. He died in 1991. His College number was 73.

### **LABO D.O. KATSINA**

Born in Rafindadi Quarters of Katsina City and attended the Katsina Provincial Primary School and later Katsina Middle School. In 1931, he enrolled into Katsina College. He graduated in 1936. On completion, he joined the Katsina Native Authority Treasury Department as a Finance Clerk instead of taking up the teaching job like many of his colleagues. In the 1950s, he was made a Financial Supervisor for Katsina Native Authority. He used to act for the British District Officer in his absence and that earned him the nickname “the second D. O.”. Towards the achievement of the Northern self-government, he was posted to Kaduna as an Administrator. He retired in 1970. In 1974, Districts were created in Kaduna town of which he was made the District Head of Gabasawa, a post he held up to the time of the creation of Katsina State in 1987. The state creation necessitated his transfer to the Katsina Emirate Council. His College Number was 203.

### **MUHAMMAD NGILERUMA**

Born in 1908 in Yerwa, Maiduguri. He attended the Yerwa Primary School and later enrolled with the name Kaka Mallam Borno (which was later changed to Muhammad Ngileruma) at the Katsina College in 1926. After graduation, he taught at Yerwa Provincial School. He

initially worked as a scribe at the Chief Alkali Office. In 1934, he was appointed Chief Scribe at the Central Office Maiduguri. He was made the Wali of Bornu in 1942. In 1947, he joined the House of Assembly in Kaduna and was subsequently appointed as the first Minister of Natural Resources for the Northern Region. Muhammed Ngileruma served as Nigeria's Special Envoy to the Sudan and Saudi Arabia and later to the United Nations and Egypt. He retired and died in a car accident in 1968. His College number was 96.

### **MAMMAN DAN DANDADA**

He was born in Katsina town and attended both Katsina Provincial School and the Katsina Middle School. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1921 as one of its pioneer students. He worked as a Clerk at the College and later rose through the Native Authority hierarchy to become the Cashier for the Katsina Native Authority. He was a sports enthusiast, especially the game of Polo. "Mamman D." (as he was popularly called) was number 44 on the College Register. He died in 1988.

### **MAMMAN DAKU**

Born in Katsina in 1913. Enrolled at Katsina College in 1928. Studied at the Works Technical School Kaduna. Worked with the Katsina Native Authority before transferring his services to the Northern Nigerian Government. He worked as a training officer for technical

staff in Kaduna and later joined the Administrative cadre of the civil service. He studied Public Administration at the University of Ife and in the United Kingdom. He served in several Ministries and Departments and rose to become a Permanent Secretary in the Kaduna State Ministry of Lands and Surveys. He was also a one time Provincial Secretary for Zazzau Province. His College number was 135.

### **MAMMAN SANI KONTAGORA**

Mamman Sani was from Kontagora in Niger Province. He attended the Bida Middle School before enrolling into Katsina College in 1938. After teaching in his home Province, he joined the Broadcasting Corporation of Northern Nigeria. In 1964, he retired from his job as a broadcaster and was appointed as Nigerian Ambassador to Senegal. He was among the last batch of students to register at the College in Katsina but completed their studies in Kaduna.

### **MUHAMMADU DAN MALAM (Wamban Katsina)**

Muhammadu Dan Malam was born in Kafin Soli village of Kankia District of Katsina Province. After Elementary School, he attended the Katsina Middle School and later enrolled into the Katsina College in 1933. On completion, he attended a Community Health Course and became a Sanitary Inspector. He joined the Native Authority Service and became a Councillor in 1946. In 1951, he was among the people elected to represent Katsina at the House of

Assembly and later proceeded to the House of Representatives in Lagos, along with sixty seven others from the North. He served in the Military Government of North Central State as Commissioner for Health in the 1970s. After retirement, he came back to Katsina. His College Number was 241. He died in 1992.

### **MUHAMMADU WULE**

Born in Zaria in 1920 and attended the Zaria Rural School (1928-1930) and Zaria Middle School (Al-Hudahuda College) 1930 –1936. He then proceeded to Katsina College (1936- 1940). On graduation, he joined the Veterinary Department after which he resigned and joined the Zaria Native Authority Works Department as a Technical Assistant. He studied Civil Engineering at the Public Works Department School, Kaduna (1944-1947). In 1962, he joined the Regional Government Services as a Technical Officer where he rose to become the Principal Technical Officer.

### **MUHAMMAD HABIB**

Born in 1914, in Dikwa District of Bornu Province. He attended Bornu Middle School and later Katsina College in 1928. His father was Head of Amchaka District of Dikwa. After graduation from the College, he taught at the Maiduguri Middle School until the World War II, when he was transferred to Kaduna College and later to Zaria College. He left the teaching profession in 1948 to join the

Native Authority services as District Head of Bama. In 1950, he asked to be relieved as District Head to become Secretary in Dikwa Division. In 1942, he joined the Nigerian Youth Congress. He was elected to the House of Assembly in 1952 and appointed a Minister for Trade and Industry. He resigned in 1959. He registered at the Katsina College as Muhammad Habib but was later called Abba Habib. He was appointed the Wazirin Dikwa in 1971. From 1963 to 1966 he was Chairman Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company, in Lagos. In 1972, he was the North-Eastern State Commissioner for Local Government Service Board. In 1974, he was transferred to the Public Service Commission, North-Eastern State. He resigned in 1979 to join politics. Some of the posts he held included the Chairmanship of the Chad Basin Development Authority up to 1979. He was later appointed as the District Head of Dikwa. His College number was 122.

### **MUHAMMADU ARMAYA'U**

The first Northern Nigerian Civil Engineer. He was born in Katsina in January 1919. Had his early education at Katsina Elementary School (1928-31) the Katsina Middle School (1932-34) and the famous Katsina College where he passed out the year it was relocated to Kaduna in 1939. He was admitted to study civil engineering in 1940 at the Public Works Department Technical School, Kaduna and

completed the studies in 1943. He was given a Federal Government scholarship to study civil engineering at Loughborough University of Technology, United Kingdom in 1949. He became the first Northerner to become a civil engineer on graduation in 1953. He served this Nation meritoriously as an Engineer, a Permanent Secretary, a Civil Commissioner, etc. His honesty earned him the post of Commissioner for Finance of the former North Central State between 1972 and 1975. He was a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers and a recipient of the National Award of OON. He retired and was appointed to the Board of several engineering companies. A Foundation was established by an engineering company in his memory in order to assist young engineering students. He died in November 2000.

### **MUSA JIBRIN**

Born in Bornu in 1917 and attended both Provincial and Middle School in Maiduguri. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1934. From 1949 to 1951, he attended St. John's College, Oxford and studied Forestry. On his return, he became Senior Assistant Secretary in 1959 and was posted to Jos. Musa Daggash, as he was popularly known, travelled extensively in Europe. After retirement, he joined politics along side his business associates and was based in Kano. He was initially among the opponents of the N.P.C. but later joined the party. He was among the

first generation of Northern Nigerian Civil Servants. His College number was 256.

### **MUSA YAR'ADUA (MUTAWALLEN KATSINA)**

He was born in 1912 in Katsina town. He attended Katsina Provincial and Middle Schools. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1925 and on completion; he worked briefly in Kano before being called upon to teach at the Katsina Elementary Training Centre from 1930 to 1945. He worked as a License Officer in the Agriculture Department of the Katsina Native Authority from 1945 to 1953. In 1959, he joined the N.P.C. and became the Federal Minister of Establishments. From 1960 to 1966, he was the Federal Minister for Lagos Affairs. He retired in 1966 after the military coup. He later served as the Chairman of Katsina Local Government Council. He was also a senior member of the Katsina Emirate Council. He was turbaned as the Mutawalle of Katsina by the Emir, upgraded from his previous title of the Tafidan Katsina. He was a strong political pillar and an elder statesman.

### **NUHU BAMALLI (MAGAJIN GARIN ZAZZAU)**

Born in Zaria town and attended the Zaria Provincial and Middle Schools. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1931 and later joined the Zaria Native Authority service. In 1938, he joined the Literature Bureau (a body charged with the responsibility of writing Hausa books for Primary School Pupils). He was trained as a Translator and he

translated the Government Rules and Regulations in 1945. When Gaskiya Corporation was set up, he shifted to writing of books and in 1953, wrote a book titled “Bala da Babiya”. Subsequently in 1957, he wrote “Abdulkadir Salahidin” and in 1954, he wrote “Abdul-aziz Ibn Saud”. In 1952, Alhaji Nuhu Bamalli joined politics and became the National Organising Secretary of the Northern Peoples’ Congress (N.P.C.) between 1953 and 1959. He was described as a good orator. In 1954, he joined the Federal House of Representatives. He was elected as a Senator in 1961 and was later appointed a Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, a post he held up to the January 1966 coup. He was made the Magajin Garin Zazzau and was a one-time District Head of Kaduna. In the late 1974, he contested for the Emir-ship of Zaria after the death of the then Emir, Alhaji Aminu. He held the membership of many Committees. His College number was 213.

### **SA’ADU ALANANU (BALOGUN OF ILORIN)**

Mallam Sa’adu enrolled into Katsina College in 1929. At Katsina College, he led a very respectable life and was made assistant compound head of Ilela House. After a teaching career back in Ilorin, he joined politics the very year the ‘Jam’iyyar Mutanen Arewa’ (NPC) was proclaimed a political party i.e. 1951. He was simultaneously elected into both the Houses of Assembly



and Representatives. At the Regional level, he became Recruitment Secretary under the Public Service Commission. In 1960, he went to London as Secretary to the Agent General and later became the Agent General between 1960 and 1963. He retired from the Northern Regional Public Service and joined the Federal Service as Managing Director of Nigerian Product Marketing Company. He retired in 1968. He held the title of Balogun of Ilorin.

### **SA'ADU ZUNGUR**

Born in 1915 and enrolled into Katsina College in 1929. He was described as an intelligent leftist and a poet. He was one of the founding fathers of the N.P.C. and Northern Teachers' Association (N.T.A). He was the first Northerner to study at the Yaba College, Lagos. Mallam Sa'adu Zungur wrote a Hausa poetry, which brought him to lime light, preaching against moral decadence. He died in 1958.

### **SHEHU DOGONDAJI**

After completing his Elementary Education and Middle School in Sokoto, he enrolled into Katsina College in 1933. After completion, he taught briefly at the Katsina Elementary Training Centre, which later became Katsina Teachers' College. He returned to his home Province of Sokoto and embarked on a teaching career at Sokoto Middle School. After leaving the teaching profession, he joined the Veterinary Services and was made Sarkin

Shanun Sokoto. Some of his students at the Middle School, Sokoto included, Alhaji Shehu Shagari the first Executive President of Nigeria, and Professor Halliru Binji. His College number was 219.

### **USUMAN IYA-IYAI**

Malam Usman Iya-Iyai was born around 1912 in Katsina town. He attended Katsina Provincial School and Katsina Middle School. He enrolled into Katsina College in 1928. On completion of the College in 1933, he became a Pupil Teacher, teaching Mathematics at the Katsina Middle School. In 1957, he joined the services of the Katsina General Hospital and rose to the rank of Executive Officer. He retired in the year 1967. However, in 1975 he took another appointment with the Northern Nigeria Marketing Board as Area Manager, Gusau Depot. He came back to Katsina after leaving the service and died in Katsina town. His College number was 136.

### **YAHAYA ORIOKO (MADAWAKIN ILORIN)**

Born in Ilorin in 1907. He completed his Qur'anic, and Primary Education in 1922 and enrolled into Katsina College in the same year. He taught in Katsina from 1928 to 1930, teaching History, Mathematics and Geography. He later went to teach at the Provincial School, Ilorin in 1930. He was made a Headmaster in 1934. He joined politics in 1951 and was appointed as a Minister. In 1955, he was made Madawakin Ilorin. He served with the

Nigerian Railway Corporation from 1960 to 1966. His College number was 54.

### **YAHAYA GUSAU (Shettiman Sokoto)**

Born in Gusau in 1916. He attended Gusau Elementary School between 1927 and 1929, Sokoto Middle School from 1929 to 1931 and enrolled into Katsina College in 1931. Alhaji Yahaya also attended the Institute of Education under the London University from 1945 to 1946. He also studied Comparative Education in Buffalo University, United States of America. He taught in various Schools, which included Kano Middle School (1936-1941), Bauchi Middle School (1941-1945) and Kaduna College from 1947 to 1949. From 1949 to 1950, he taught at the Government College Zaria (later Barewa College). Between 1951 and 1955, he was Education Assistant and Councillor for Education in Sokoto Native Authority. In 1955, he became the Northern Nigeria Education Officer. In 1948, he joined the N.P.C. and became its first General Secretary from 1948 to 1950. He was a member of the House of Assembly (1952-54) and House of Representatives in 1955. He was Permanent Member in the Federal Public Service Commission (1955-1959) and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kaduna in 1960. He was also the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Lands and Survey, Kaduna in 1966. He retired from the Civil Service in 1967.

However, despite his retirement he held several responsibilities as follows: Chairman National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), 1977-1979; Chairman Nigerian Tobacco Company (N.T.C.), 1970-1984. Chairman Board of Directors, Shell Petroleum Development Company 1978-85 and Chairman Kaduna Textiles, 1970-1979. He was also the Pro-Chancellor of the Sokoto University (1984-86). Alhaji Yahaya also received several awards as follows:- O.B.E. (1963), O.F.R. (1965) and honorary Doctor of Law from University of Ibadan and also another honorary Doctorate degree from Ahmadu Bello University, in 1970. He was turbaned as the Shettiman Sokoto by the Sultan. He was President of Barewa Old Boys Association (1985-1986). Alhaji Yahaya Gusau was noted for his transparent honesty. His College number was 207.

### **YAZIDU KATSINA**

Malam Yazidu, from Waziri Zayyana family, was born in Rafindadi Quarters of Katsina town and attended both Katsina Provincial and Middle Schools. He enrolled into Katsina College, in April 1928. On his brilliant completion, he took up a teaching appointment at the College. He continued up to the time the College was transferred to Kaduna in 1938. He later worked at the Northern Region Literacy Agency (NORLA) in Zaria. He died in 1992. His College number was 139.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **KATSINA COLLEGE AND NORTHERN NATIONALISM**

The late 1930s and the early 1940s, witnessed a worldwide economic recession as well as the Second World War. The war brought an upsurge of African Nationalism. Factors, which made African Nationalism more intense after the World War II, included the following:-

1. The defeat of Britain and France in the Far East gave Africans the courage to rise against colonialism. In the dawn of British and French colonialism, the Africans believed in the invulnerability of the white race and especially those two powers. However, that pre-conceived notion was proved wrong when an Asian country, Japan, defeated the two powers in the Far East.
2. The Atlantic Charter that was drawn and ratified after the World War emphasized the right to self-determination of people from all over the World to set up a government of their choice. Britain and France were parties to the Charter; therefore, Africans used the Charter as a weapon to fight British and French colonialism.
3. The United Nations Organization formed after the War was opposed to imperialism in principle and practice. So was the United States, which believed in freedom for all. The British Labour Party, which formed the opposition

in the British parliament, was very critical about British imperialism. These added factors boosted African Nationalist movements.

With those factors working, Nationalist Movements emerged from various parts of the colonized world. In Southern Nigeria, the already existing political parties like the Nigerian National Democratic Party (N.N.D.P.) and the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroon (N.C.N.C.) set out to work. Indeed, the Southern elites who had the advantage of early Western Education formed those parties. The first ingredient for political activities therefore, was education.

### **EDUCATION AS A GATEWAY TO NATIONALISM**

In the North, the need arose for an enlightened and educated group to champion the nationalist cause. Therefore, the graduates of Katsina College not only led the struggle, but also went back to their respective Provinces to train the generation of Northern elites who participated in the Nigerian struggle for Independence. Examples of such graduates who went back to teach at either the Provincial Schools or the Middle Schools, included the following:-

Ahmadu Rabah (Sardauna of Sokoto): Sokoto Middle School (1931-1934).

Abubakar Imam: Katsina Middle School (1933)

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa: Bauchi Middle School (1933).

Danmallam Dan Gazobi : Katsina Middle School.

Aliyu Makama Bida: Bida Middle School (1933).

Abba Habib: Borno Middle School (1934)

Inuwa Wada: Kano Middle School (1938-1947).

Isa Kaita (Wazirin Katsina): Katsina Middle School (1938-1941)

Kashim Ibrahim: Borno Middle School (1930)

Mohammed Ngileruma: Yerwa Provincial School

Turaki Aliyu: Zaria Provincial School

Shehu Dogondaji: Sokoto Middle School (1930s).

Shehu Yabo: Sokoto Middle School (1935)

Musa Yar'adua: Katsina Middle School

Yahaya (Madawakin Ilorin): Middle Schools in Katsina and Ilorin

Yahaya Gusau: Bauchi Middle School (1941–1947).

Yazidu Katsina: Kaduna College and later Katsina Training College.

Muhammad Lapai (Bida Middle School).

Iro Dan Iya (Talban Katsina): Katsina Provincial School and Katsina Middle School (1927-1949)

Majority of all those who graduated from the Katsina College took up teaching appointments thereby supplying manpower to the Provincial and Middle Schools of the

Provinces in the North.

In Sokoto Province, teachers like Mallam Shehu Yabo and Mallam Shehu Dogondaji (all from Katsina College) taught at the Sokoto Middle School and some of their students included Alhaji Shehu Shagari (Nigerian President, 1979-1983), late Professor Halliru Binji (former Grand Qadi of Sokoto State) and Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki (the former Sultan of Sokoto). In Bornu Province, Mallam Abba Habib taught at Maiduguri Middle School in the mid-1930s. That was the school attended by Alhaji Shettima Ali Monguno (one time Federal Minister for Mines and Power). Mallam Yahaya Gusau and Malam Yazidu, all taught at the Kaduna/Zaria College from the late 1940s up to 1950. Some of the prominent men who were at the College during Alhaji Yahaya's sojourn included, Mallam Adamu Ciroma a renowned politician, Colonel Ahmadu Ali, a one time Federal Minister of Education and General Yakubu Gowon, a former Nigerian Head of State. Others were, Mallam Adamu Fika a former Federal Permanent Secretary, Chief Sunday Awoniyi, Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum and General Hassan Usman Katsina.

Indeed, all the first and second generation of Northern Nigerian elites were either graduates of Katsina College, their students or students of those taught by them. The College therefore, set the foundation for African renaissance in Northern Nigeria, the support of which was



vital in the kicking out of colonialists. Nigerian Nationalism would not have succeeded without the support of the North which formed more than 60% of both the population and the land mass of the country.

## **THE MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS AS NATIONALISM TOOLS**

Having educated elite alone was not enough to move a Nation forward, much more that fighting colonialism was involved. The populace must be generally enlightened on the course of action in order to carry them along. Katsina College equally contributed to those regards. The main tools used for public enlightenment were the newspapers, radio broadcasting and general publication of books and other literature.

The first enlightenment strategy adopted by the Northern Provinces was the establishment of “Information Units” in all the Native Authorities. The Units were provided with public address systems, Land Rover vehicles and film show equipment. They traversed all nooks and crannies of the provinces enlightening people on Government and Native Authority programs. They also mobilized the people against colonialism and campaigned for voter turnouts during elections. Katsina College graduates were staffing such information units. They also trained their successors. In Katsina, for example, the first Head of the Enlightenment Unit was Alhaji Iro Gawo (Danburan

Katsina), a Katsina College graduate who started work in 1933. The Assistant Head of the Information Unit in Katsina was Alhaji Abdu Mashi who was a student of Katsina Middle School under the tutelage of Katsina College graduates.

Before the establishment of radio broadcasting stations in Nigeria, The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) established a station in Accra, Gold Coast (Ghana) in 1940. The station was broadcasting in Hausa in order to counter the German propaganda being broadcast over a German radio relay station in the Cameroon on the Second World War. Alhaji Isa Kaita (Wazirin Katsina) and Alhaji Bello Dandago (Sarkin Dawaki Maituta Kano), both of them graduates of Katsina College, were the first two Nigerians to broadcast at that BBC station in Accra between 1941 and 1944. That made them the first Nigerian International Radio Broadcasters.

The earliest Newspaper in the North was the Northern Nigeria Newsletter (*Jaridar Nijeriya Ta Arewa*) which was published in the early 1930s. It was published in both English and Hausa by the Zaria Literature Bureau headed by Dr. R. M. East, the then Senior Education Officer. The paper's function was to enlighten the general populace about the colonial government programmes. In 1938, the paper was discontinued and was replaced by another one called "*Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo*", which was first published in

1939. It was an ex-student of the Katsina College, Alhaji Abubakar Imam that was first chosen to see to its establishment. The paper ran editorials which defended the interest and integrity of the North. It also defended the North from the harsh criticisms of the Southern papers, which grew very hostile to the North, like the West African Pilot, headed by Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. The Literature Bureau served other purposes which included the writing of story books in Hausa language, meant for the Northern populace. That was aimed at developing a reading culture among the people and thereby developing political consciousness and enlightenment among the generality of the people. The Bureau also produced textbooks and all were written by former students of the Katsina College, except those written by Alhaji Bello Kagara who was a student of Hans Vischer School. Writers at the Bureau included, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa whose book 'Shaihu Umar' became very popular and was even made into a film. Alhaji Abubakar Imam worked untiringly at the Bureau defending the North, its people, its culture and integrity. Indeed, he was responsible for many changes at the Bureau.

The Second World War period (1939 –1945), witnessed a lot of political activities and pressure as well as tension. That led to the sending of the West African Press Delegation to the United Kingdom in 1943. Those on the delegation were Alhaji Abubakar Imam of *Gaskiya tafi*

*Kwabo*, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe of the *West African Pilot*, Mr. Isaac B. Thomas of *Akede Eko*, Mr. R. B. Wuta-Ofei and Mr. D. G. Tackie of the Gold Coast (now Ghana). Also on the delegation were Mr. C. E. V. Jarrett and Mr. T. J. Dephon-Thompson from Sierra Leone and finally from the Gambia was Mr. G. W. Downes Thomas. The Northern Representative, Alhaji Abubakar Imam seized the opportunity to visit Nigeria's former Governor General, Sir Frederick Lugard at his residence in London, where he explained to him the problems encountered by the Northern populace with regards to British rule. (Mora 1986).

In 1954, a body called Northern Regional Literature Agency (NORLA) was established for the production of Hausa books, for the Northern readership and thereby creating a nucleus for a printing industry in the North. Gaskiya Corporation was also established to publish and print the books produced by NORLA. Government Rules and Regulations were also translated and printed by the Agency in order to bring about awareness on government functions to the Northern populace. The main staff of the Agency were former students at Katsina College who were engaged in either writing of Hausa books or translation of government documents or both. They included, Alhaji Abubakar Imam, Alhaji Nuhu Bamalli and Malam Yazidu Katsina.

## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

### **KATSINA COLLEGE AND NIGERIAN POLITICS**

As had been explained earlier, Katsina College was the source of the Northern Region's manpower and the source of its public enlightenment and mobilization. The graduates of the College were also instrumental in the formation of political parties in the North. The parties started as cultural organizations, pressure groups, improvement and development associations as well as social clubs. The situation was not different in Southern Nigeria since the Lagos Youth Movement (later National Youth Movement), Egbe Omo Oduduwa and the Igbo State Union all formed the nucleus of political parties in the South.

Mallam Sa'adu Zungur was a renowned poet, Islamic Scholar, Pharmacist and a teacher as well as a graduate of Katsina College. He was very active in enlightening the general populace about the political situation in the North. Bauchi, where he resided, was an enclave for Nationalists with Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and Alhaji Yahaya Gusau all from Katsina College as leaders. In 1940, Mallam Sa'adu Zungur organized a social club composed of ex-students of Katsina College called "Zaria Friendly Society". Those who attended the maiden meeting of the Friendly Society included Mallam Aliyu Danyari,

Mallam Abdurahman Okene, Mallam Jumare Zaria, Mallam Abdurrahman Mora and Mallam Mohammed Ladan. Mallam Sa'adu delivered the maiden speech for the new Association.

About the same time the Zaria Friendly Association was formed, the Katsina College Old Boys also made another move to enhance the political development of the region. On the advice of the then Principal of the College, Mr. E. L. Mort, an Old Boy's Association was formed and named KOBA (meaning Kaduna Old boys Association). Its first meeting was held in 1940, at the premises of Al-Huda-Huda College (the then Zaria Middle School). All teachers in the Provincial Middle Schools (who were ex-students of Katsina College) were given permission by their respective Residents to attend the maiden meeting of KOBA and forty-eight alumni attended. That was another move towards the political awakening in the North as it brought people with various backgrounds together.

Other organizations that formed the nucleus of future political parties were pressure groups like the Nigerian Teachers' Association (NTA). That organization was founded in the 1930s by Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa in Bauchi. It was later formally embraced by a group of elites led by Malam Yahaya Gusau, Mallam Shettima Ajiran, Mr. Zakariya Dimka, Alhaji Halliru Binji, Mallam Abdurrahman Mora, Mallam Nuhu Bayero,

Mallam Aliyu Mai Bornu and Malam Aminu Kano. Out of the founding fathers of the NTA, only two were not students of Katsina College.

The formation of the Northern People's Congress (NPC) was the result of two simultaneous meetings, in both Kaduna and Zaria. The Zaria meeting was called by Dr. R. A. Dikko and it was aimed at establishing an Association for the Northern elites. The other meeting took place in Kaduna and was attended by Mallam Isa Koto, Mallam Yahaya Gusau, Mallam Aliyu Mai Bornu, and Mallam Halliru Binji. The two groups merged in 1948 to form the '*Jam'iyyar Mutanen Arewa*'. At a later meeting of the new organization which was attended by people from all parts of the North, and mainly graduates of Katsina College, Mallam Sa'adu Zungur suggested that the *Jam'iyya* should be given an English name i.e. "Northern People's Congress" (NPC). It was professed a cultural organization and not a political party, in order to insulate its members who were civil servants from incurring the wrath of the colonial administration. Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sarkuna of Sokoto and Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa joined the organization and it was proclaimed a political party on 1st October 1951. The civil service members withdrew their membership but continued to support its activities secretly. Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sarkuna of Sokoto (an ex-student of Katsina College) was made its President. The party swept the polls at the 1951,

1954, 1959 and 1964 Regional and National Elections. Nearly all of those elected during the 1951 elections to the Regional and Federal Legislatures from the North, were graduates of Katsina College. They included:-

**Katsina Province: -**

Isa Kaita (Wazirin Katsina)

Muhammadu Danmalam (Wamban Katsina)

Jibir Daura

**Niger Province: -**

Muhammadu Lapai

Aliyu (Makaman Bida)

**Sokoto Province: -**

Ahmadu Rabah (Sardauna of Sokoto)

Abubakar (Madaki of Sokoto)

Muhammadu Bida

Yahaya Gusau

Muhammadu Tureta

**Zaria Province: -**

Abubakar Imam

**Bauchi Province: -**

**Muhammadu Jauro Gombe**

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa



**Bornu Province: -**

Kashim Ibrahim (Wazirin Bornu)

Ibrahim Imam

Abba Habib

**Ilorin Province: -**

Sa'adu Alanamu

Yahaya Ilorin (Madaki of Ilorin)

**Kano Province: -**

Bello Dandago

Inuwa Wada

In the NPC hierarchy, former students of the Katsina College dominated the Northern Peoples' Congress. Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sarkuna of Sokoto, who was an ex-student of the College, was the party's President. The Treasurer, Alhaji Abdulmalik Atta, and the First Vice President, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa were also Old Boys of Katsina College.

At the Federal level, the NPC swept the polls with 134 seats, while the NCNC and NEPU, who had an alliance, secured 89 seats. The Action Group secured 73 seats while, other parties secured 16 seats. The total number of seats was 312. In the subsequent elections, the NPC secured more seats than it did in 1951 thereby enjoying a comfortable majority due to the influence of its leadership.

Both at the Northern Regional and Federal levels, ex-students of Katsina College dominated the Ministerial appointments. In cases where they did not hold the posts themselves, the posts went to their Middle School students. For example, out of the thirteen NPC Federal Ministers appointed by the Prime Minister in 1965, six were old students of Katsina College, while three were their students or students of their Katsina College classmates. They were:

1. Alhaji Sir. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa - Prime Minister
2. Alhaji Inuwa Wada -Minister for Works.
3. Alhaji Maitama Sule -Minister for Mines and Power
4. Alhaji Musa ‘Yar’adua -Minister for Lagos Affairs
5. Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima -Minister for Commerce, Industry and Transport
6. Alhaji Nuhu Bamalli –Minister without portfolio
7. Alhaji Ibrahim Tako – Minister without Portfolio
8. Alhaji Shehu Shagari -Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications
9. Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim -Minister for Economic Development

Indeed, Katsina College directly provided the first generation of Northern Politicians and Civil Servants and indirectly, provided the second generation of the Northern Politicians and Civil Servants who were the students of the

former. The College was the live wire of the Northern Administration. It provided firm, honest and reliable top class Administrators. That could be seen from the exemplary leadership of Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sarkuna of Sokoto, Alhaji Aliyu Makaman Bida, Alhaji Isa Kaita, Wazirin Katsina, Alhaji Abba Habib, Alhaji Sir Kashim Ibrahim and a host of others. The Katsina College also subsequently bred leaders who were at the helm of affairs in Nigeria after its transfer to Kaduna and later to Zaria.

As for those leaders who attended the Provincial Secondary Schools and the Barewa College in the 1950s, graduates of Katsina College laid down the foundation of their education in the Middle Schools. Such leaders included, General Yakubu Gowon, General Murtala Ramat Mohammed, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, General Muhammadu Buhari, General Ibrahim Babangida, General Sani Abacha and General Abubakar Abdulsalam, who were all Nigeria's former Presidents or Heads of State. Others were, General Hassan Usman Katsina, General Shehu Musa Yar'adua, HRH Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido (Sultan of Sokoto), HRH Alhaji Umar ibn El-Kanemi (Shehu of Borno), HRH Alhaji Muhammadu Kabir Usman (Emir of Katsina), HRH Alhaji Muhammad Bashir (Emir of Daura), Honourable Justice Muhammad Bello, Mallam Adamu Ciroma and a host of others too numerous to mention.

## **CHAPTER NINE**

### **BAREWA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (BOBA)**

The Old Boys of Barewa College, formerly Katsina College (1921-1938), Kaduna College (1938-1949), Government Secondary School Zaria and Government College Zaria (1949-1972) and Barewa College Zaria (1972 to date), have the uncontested belief that the history of Nigerian leadership since the pre-independence period cannot be complete without mentioning the name of Katsina College. The belief had its roots in the calibre of elites and the socio-political leaders the College produced.

Barewa College as an Institution serving the whole of the vast North was unique in many respects. The first was that it brought together youths from as far as Adamawa and Borno in the extreme North East, Sokoto in the extreme North West, and the distant Kabba and Benue in the Middle Belt to study together. Several of the senior Northern Leaders at the time of Nigeria's Independence had lived, studied and played together at the College during their early formative years. Some of those leaders were Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello the Sardauna of Sokoto from Sokoto (Premier of Northern Nigeria), Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa from Bauchi (the first Prime Minister of Nigeria), and Alhaji Sir Kashim Ibrahim from Borno (Governor of

Northern Nigeria). Others were Alhaji Aliyu Makaman Bida from Niger (Minister of Finance); Alhaji Yahaya Madawaki from Ilorin (Minister of Works) and Alhaji Isa Kaita, Wazirin Katsina, from Katsina (Minister of Education).

The second unique thing about Barewa College was that, whereas other educated Nigerians had almost no emotional affinity to fellow Nigerians outside their immediate tribal confines, those that passed through Barewa College by virtue of their common school background, tended to regard one another as brothers and friends no matter how distant their homes or how different their religions or cultures.

When the Military interrupted the democratic set-up in the mid-1960s, the Barewa tradition was evidently not interrupted as the second and third Nigerian Military Heads of State, Generals Yakubu Gowon and Murtala Muhammad were the College's products. That very tradition continued during the Second Republic when the First Executive President of the Country, Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari also happened to be an old student of the College.

In order to have more affinity and foster more unity amongst them, some of the Old Boys of Katsina College came together in 1939 and resolved to form an Association, which was non-tribal, non-religious and non-political. According to Alhaji Yahaya Gusau (a 1932 student of

Katsina College), the resolution was based on the advice of the College Principal of the period, Mr. E. L. Mort who in 1939 pointed out that they should pursue certain aims such as the freedom, understanding, cooperation, self determination, peace, justice and particularly the general development of their alma-mata, and themselves. (Interview with Alhaji Yahaya Gusau in December 2004).

At that time, the Association was named “Kaduna Old Boys Association” (KOBA) because the College was situated at Kaduna. However, it transformed into the present day “Barewa Old Boys Association” (BOBA) in 1972 when the College was renamed Barewa College Zaria. *Barewa* in Hausa means the “gazelle” and that lovely animal is on the logo of the College.

The first formal meeting of the Association took place in the year 1940 with 48 members in attendance. The members were:-

1. Armaya’u Katsina
2. Isa koto
3. Mamman Daku
4. Abdu Gusau
5. Jima Ilorin
6. Nuhu Zaria
7. Abubakar Imam

8. Abdurrahman Mora
9. Hassan Rafindadi
10. Shu'aibu Na'ibi
11. Mamman (Sule) Zaria
12. Usman Gwarzo
13. Muhammadu Mayo
14. Salahu Fulani
15. Isa Kaita (Wazirin Katsina)
16. Bello Kano
17. Shehu Dogondaji
18. Mallam Bello Kagara (Arabic Teacher)
19. Yahaya Ilorin
20. Ladan (Hunkuyi) Zaria
21. Muhammadu Fate Bauchi
22. Iro Mashi (Talban Katsina)
23. Arike Bida
24. Ade Mbeyi
25. Yazidu Katsina
26. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa
27. Shehu Yabo
28. Abdurrahman Okene
29. Mustapha Kano

30. Ibrahim Tako Bida
31. Sadiq Barno
32. Zanna Maina Bukar
33. Shehu Kano
34. Jumare Zaria
35. Inuwa Kano
36. Aliyu Danyari
37. Garba Bauchi
38. Shehu Ajiran
39. Sule Isa
40. Bello Dandago
41. Umaru Agaie
42. Abdulkadir Zaria
43. Jimada Pategi
44. Mamman Tureta
45. Baraya Gombe
46. Usman Lapai
47. Sanusi Zaria
48. Mahmud Zayam

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The activities of Barewa Old Boys Association could be comprehended by referring to its aims and objectives as



contained its Constitution. The main objects of the Association included, among others:-

- (a) Bringing together the Old Boys of the College irrespective of political affiliations, religion, tribe or creed with a view to fostering unity amongst them
- (b) The promotion of better understanding, justice, harmony, peace and progress amongst its members.
- (c) Assisting to sustain the high academic and moral standards of the College and the general development of its infrastructure and facilities.
- (d) Bringing about peace and harmony in Northern Nigeria in particular and the Nigerian Nation in general.

The activities of BOBA included the holding of Annual General Meetings and visits between its leaders and members and vice-versa. The Association also holds public lectures and paper presentations especially during dinners and luncheons organized occasionally by the Association. BOBA also complements the government's efforts in the development of the College. This was manifested in its frequent participation in the renovation of classrooms and hostels, donation of books and other teaching materials and payment of part-time teachers' salaries to uplift the academic standard of the College.

Most importantly, this popular Association also has the envious task of catering for the needs of its members at any

time and in any lawful manner. BOBA was said to have influenced the appointments of its deserving members to many positions and posts, though strictly on merit.

The Association holds its General Meetings almost every year and on different occasions honoured its members who had made landmark achievements in their various trades and professions. It largely derives its revenue from dues, fund-raising activities such as luncheons and dinners and through cooperative ventures and enterprises.

The Association has a permanent headquarters called “BOBA COMPLEX” at Kaduna. It was built by the Association on a large piece of land. A shopping complex was also situated within the premises and in order to generate some revenue, part of the land (500m<sup>2</sup>) was leased to a private company for a period of 10 years in 2002.

## **CHAPTER TEN**

### **PROMINENT BOBA MEMBERS**

#### **KATSINA COLLEGE (1921-1938)**

Prominent Old Boys who attended the College when it was located in Katsina included those mentioned in Chapter Six titled, FRUITS OF THE COLLEGE. Once more, the author regrets his inability to list all the Old Boys as data on all of them could not be obtained.

#### **KADUNA COLLEGE (1938-1949)**

After the relocation of the College from Katsina to Kaduna (as Kaduna College) in 1938 and before its transfer to Zaria in 1949, it produced several notable personalities including the following:-

1. **Dr. Abu Mawashi.** The first Northerner to become a Veterinary Doctor. He was born in 1921 in Mawashi Village of Kankia District of Katsina Province. Had his education at Kankia elementary school (1931-34), Katsina Middle School (1934-39), Kaduna College (1940-45) and Yaba Higher College Lagos (1945-47). He qualified as a veterinary surgeon from the Veterinary College Vom (1947-51) thereby becoming the first Northern Veterinary Doctor. He served the Northern Nigerian Government as a Veterinary Doctor in Borno and Bauchi Provinces. He was later posted to the Veterinary Department in Kaduna to take over from the British Veterinary Director in-charge of

Northern Nigeria. He was also to ensure the training of more Northerners in the profession. With the creation of States in 1975, he became the first indigenous Chief Veterinary Officer in North Central State.

2. **Malam Hamza Gombe:** Parliamentary Secretary and Federal Minister of Health. He was also a House member for Petroleum and Energy Conservation Committee during the Second Republic. He attended the College between 1936 and 1939, therefore, among the first to graduate at Kaduna.

3. **Mallam Aminu Kano:** Vanguard of the people and leader of the NEPU and the PRP. Born in Kano on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1920 in Kano. Enrolled in Katsina College in 1937 but completed it at Kaduna in 1942. He taught at the Bauchi Middle School up to 1946 when he left for Britain to study at the London Institute of Education for a Teachers' Professional Certificate. He participated in the establishment of several Unions in Northern Nigeria but settled for the opposition when he founded the Northern Elements Peoples' Union (NEPU) in 1950. That was the most credible opposition political party in Northern Nigeria. Alhaji Aminu Kano served this Nation in many capacities but was most remembered for championing the cause of the common people He was thus termed a "radical".

4. **Alhaji Abdu Anche:** Parliamentary Secretary. He served as Chief Executive of the Northern Region Marketing Board and a Permanent Commissioner in the Niger State Local Government Commission. He attended the College between 1938 and 1940.

5. **HRH Alhaji Sulaiman Mai Bedde:** Deputy President Northern House of Chiefs. He was also the Chancellor, University of Ilorin until 1981. He attended the College between 1939 and 1942.

6. **Alhaji Ahmadu Rufa'i:** Magajin Garin Misau, Parliamentary Secretary and Chairman Nigerian Ports Authority (1965-66). He was also a Senator in the Second Republic. He attended the College between 1939 and 1940.

7. **General Amadi Rimi.** Born on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1930 and had his early education at Katsina Middle School (1940-44) and Kaduna College (1945-48). He was at the School of Pharmacy, Zaria (1950-53) and the Royal Army Medical College London (1971-72). He worked with the Katsina General Hospital from 1949 to 1963 when he joined the Nigerian Army. He was the Commanding Officer of the Military Hospital Kaduna and the Director of the Nigerian Army Medical Corps. He retired as an Army General in 1988 and was turbaned by His Royal Highness the Emir of Katsina as the Baraden Katsina in recognition of his immense services to the Nation.

8. **Alhaji Aliyu Mai Bornu:** He was the Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (1963-67) and the acting Governor, International Monetary Fund. He attended the College between 1938 and 1942.

9. **HRH Alhaji Muhammadu Tukur:** First Northern Commissioner to the United Kingdom and a lecturer in Hausa Language at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London (1948-51). He was the Chairman of the Commission that drew up the guidelines for the administration of the Northern Cameroon under the United Nations Trusteeship. He was appointed the Emir of Yauri in 1955. He passed out from the College during its Kaduna days.

10. **HRH Alhaji Usman Sarki:** The Etsu of Nupe (1962-1984) and Federal Minister of Internal Affairs. He attended the College between 1942 and 1944.

11. **Alhaji Muhammadu Gujbawu:** Northern Parliamentary Secretary and first Northern Cooperative Officer. He was the Northern Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Cooperatives and Internal Affairs. He also served as North Eastern State Commissioner for Works. He attended the College between 1938 and 1941.

12. **Alhaji Abba Jiddun Gana:** Northern Nigerian Agent General to the United Kingdom and Chairman Gaskiya Corporation. He also served as the Chairman New Nigeria

Newspapers and Director Daily Times of Nigeria. He attended the College between 1940 and 1943.

**13.Alhaji Ibrahim Argungu:** Parliamentary Secretary and Permanent Secretary. The traditional title holder of the Magajin Garin Argungu, also served as the North-Western State Commissioner of Finance (1968-74). He attended the College between 1939 and 1942.

**14.Alhaji Yakubu Wanka:** First indigenous signatory on the Nigerian Currency. Waziri of Bauchi and Director Central Bank of Nigeria. His Signature first appeared on the new Nigerian currency, which replaced the old one of West Africa on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1958. He also served as Director of other Commercial Banks and as a Chairman of Nigerian Ports Authority. He attended the College during its Kaduna days.

**15.HRH Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki:** The 18<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Sokoto and Northern Parliamentary Secretary. He served the Nation in many capacities including that of the Chairman, Northern Nigerian Marketing Board, Nigerian Railway Corporation, Secretary General of Jama'atu Nasril Islam, President of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs and the Chancellor, University of Abuja. He attended the College between 1940 and 1943.

**16.HE Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari:** First Executive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1979-84). He had an erudite and brilliant career. He started

as a teacher before joining politics and later the civil service. As the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, he had the enduring task of recruiting more Northerners into the Federal Civil Service. He also served the Nation as Minister of both Economic Development and later Establishments. As the Minister of Establishment, he vigorously pursued the Federal Government's policy of ensuring that Nigerians take over the civil service from expatriates. He also served as Minister in the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Communications, Works and Economic Development, Reconstruction and Finance. He attended the College between 1941 and 1944.

**17.HRH Alhaji (Dr.) Muhammadu Bashar:** Emir of Daura, Minister of Economic Planning. He started his career as a District Head and later joined politics and served as Parliamentary Secretary for Local Governments, and later Minister in the Northern Ministry of Animal Health and Forest Resources. He attended the College between 1945 and 1947.

**18.Alhaji Dalhatu Bida:** Parliamentary Secretary Federal Ministry of Education, and later Health. He served as a teacher most of his life. He attended the College between 1942 and 1945.

**19.Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim:** Federal Minister of Health and Founder of the Great Nigeria Peoples Party (GNPP). He



worked most of his life with the United African Company (UAC). He attended the College between 1944 and 1947.

**20.Dr. Bukar Shu'aib:** Northern and Federal Permanent Secretary. He also served the Nation as Ambassador to Italy (1978-80), Special Advisor to the President on Agriculture (1978-83), and Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources (1984-85). He attended the College between 1944 and 1948.

**21.Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo:** Waziri of Gombe and Speaker, Federal House of Representatives (1961-66). He started his career a teacher and later joined politics. He served as Chairman of the Nigeria Industrial Development Bank (NIDB), Commissioner for Education in Bauchi State and a Senator in the Second Republic. He attended the College between 1943 and 1946.

**22.Alhaji (Dr) Usman Ladan Baki:** Provincial Commissioner and Northern Minister of Trade (1965). He also served the Nation as Commissioner in the Federal Civil Service Commission (1975) and Chairman of the newly established National Assembly Service Commission in 1982. He attended the College between 1942 and 1945.

**23.Alhaji Ali Akilu:** First indigenous Secretary to the Premier and Head of the Northern Civil Service. He played a very important role in keeping Nigeria one during the peace talks with the Biafran secessionists in Aburi (Ghana), Kampala (Uganda) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). He also

served as Chairman Bank of the North, Chairman Board of Governors Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Chairman Zamfara Textiles Limited, and member Ahmadu Bello University Council and United Nigeria Textiles Limited. He attended the College between 1942 and 1945.

**24.Hon. Justice Mamman Nasir:** First indigenous Northern Minister of Justice (1961-66) and the second Northerner to start private practice in Law. He also served as the North Central State Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General. He was one of the foundation members of the Federal Court of Appeal and served as the first President of the Court (1977-1992). He is currently the Galadiman Katsina and he attended the College between 1943 and 1946.

**25.Alhaji (Dr) Yusuf Maitama Sule:** Dan Masanin Kano, former Minister of Mines and Power and Nigeria's Permanent Representative at the United Nations. His tenure as the Minister of Mines and Power saw to the completion of the Kainji Dam, the Hydro Electric Generating Complex. His tenure also saw the beginning of crude oil exploration and the rejuvenation of the local mining industries. He attended the College between 1942 and 1946.

**26.Alhaji Abba Anas Baba Gana:** Waziri of Borno, Permanent Secretary Ministry of External Affairs. He was a teacher, administrator, bureaucrat and Diplomat. He served as Nigerian Ambassador to Japan (1965-68) and Director

African Development Bank (1972). He attended the College between 1944 and 1947.

**27.Hon. Justice Muhammadu Bello:** He was the first Northerner to become a Chief Magistrate and the first Northerner to become the Chief Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He served as the Chairman of various Commissions and Committees since 1961 and became the Nation's topmost Judge in 1988. He attended the College between 1945 and 1948. His College number was 507.

**28.Professor Umar Shehu:** Consultant, World Health Organization (WHO). He was the Director Institute of Health, Ahmadu Bello University (1970-78), Vice-Chancellor University of Nsuka (1978-79) and a member of various International Health Institutions and Societies. He attended the College between 1944 and 1947.

**29.Malam (Dr) Liman Ciroma:** Secretary to the Federal Military Government and Head of the Civil Service (1977-79). He also served as Chairman National Universities Commission (NUC), Chairman Board of Trustees of the Nigerian National Merit Award Committee, Member Arewa House Board of Trustees and Chairman Federal Government Committee on Local Government Reforms. He attended the College between 1945 and 1949.

**30.Alhaji Ahmed Joda:** Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Information (1967-71). He attended the College between 1945 and 1949.

**31. Brigadier General Zakariya Maimalari:** First Northern Senior Military Officer. He started his Military career in 1950 and was commissioned as an Officer in 1953. He became a Brigadier General in 1963 and served as the Commander 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, Nigerian Army, Apapa, Lagos. He attended the College between 1945 and 1949.

**32. Malam Yahaya Dikko:** This renowned Electrical Engineer was the first General Manager of the Electric Corporation of Nigeria (ECN-now NEPA) when it was merged with the Niger Dams Authority. He also served as Presidential Advisor on Petroleum and Energy (1980-83) during which period he was elected the President of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He attended the College between 1944 and 1949.

**33. Lt. Colonel Abogo Largema:** Commanding Officer 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Nigerian Army (1966). He was among the first generation Nigerian Military Officers who became a Lieutenant Colonel in 1963 and won a United Nations Medal during a peacekeeping mission in the Congo. He attended the College between 1945 and 1950.

### **BAREWA COLLEGE, ZARIA (from 1949)**

The College was again relocated from Kaduna to Zaria as Government Secondary School Zaria and later Government College Zaria between 1949 and 1972. It was renamed Barewa College Zaria in 1972, a name it bears to date.

During its sojourn in Zaria, the College graduated very many distinguished personalities including the following:-

1. **Lt. Colonel Kur Muhammed:** Adjutant General of the Nigerian Army (1966). He attended the College between 1945 and 1950.

2. **Lt. Omar Lawan:** He was among the First Commissioned Northern Officers in the Nigerian Army who served only very briefly. He attended the College between 1946 and 1950.

3. **Chief Sunday Bolorunduro Awoniyi:** Chairman, Arewa Consultative Forum and Aro of Mopa. Born in Mopa, Kabba Province on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1932. He attended Barewa College between 1950 and 1953 and studied for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Ibadan (1956-59). He was also at the Imperial Defence College London between 1970 and 1971. He served the Nation in very many capacities. He rose in the Federal Civil Service to become the Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Defence and Petroleum Resources. An elder statesman of high repute who fights vigorously for the emancipation of Northern Nigeria. His College number was 778.

4. **HRH Alhaji Umaru Abba:** Emir of Muri, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Mines and Power. He also served the nation as Minister of State and Chairman of

Council, Federal Polytechnic, Yola. He attended the College between 1949 and 1952.

5. **Dr. Joseph Eyitayo Adetoro:** Federal Commissioner for Health, Agriculture and later Industries (1967-75). He was one of the pioneer students of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He made history as the first Nigerian Scholar to be awarded a Ph.D. degree in Education Foundation with course work in Philosophy, History, Sociology of Education and Comparative Education at the University of Alberta in Canada. The Balogun of Mopa attended the College between 1947 and 1952.

6. **General Hassan Usman Katsina:** Ciroman Katsina. Military Governor of Northern Nigeria (1966) and Chief of Army Staff (1967-1976). He started his career in the Nigerian Army in 1956 and served as a Staff Officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in the Congo. His position as a prince from Katsina Ruling House helped a lot in stabilizing Nigeria during the civil war period and afterwards. In 1972, as a Major General, he was made the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Supreme Headquarters and the Federal Commissioner for Establishments. He was the first Hausa core Northerner to become an Army General in Nigeria. General Hassan was undoubtedly the successor to the late Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello. He was turbaned as the Ciroma of Katsina in 1974. He attended Barewa College between 1948 and 1951.

**7. HE General Murtala Ramat Muhammad:** Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces (17<sup>th</sup> July 1975 to 13<sup>th</sup> February 1976). He was an outstanding revolutionary who started his Military career in 1958. He served in the Congo in 1962 with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force. In 1964, after being promoted to the rank of a Major, he was appointed as the Commanding Officer, One Signal Squadron, Apapa, Lagos. In 1967, as Lt. Colonel, he was appointed the first Nigerian General Officer Commanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division of the Nigerian Army. He liberated the Mid-West State and Onitsha in the East Central State during the civil war in 1968 and this earned him promotion to the rank of a full Colonel. His promotion to the rank of Brigadier came in 1971 and he was appointed as the Federal Commissioner for Communications in 1974. He became the Head of State in 1975 and his regime changed the direction of the Nation towards positive reorientation in both National and International policies. He promised to hand over power to a democratically elected government in 1979. His Government created seven more States and adopted Abuja as Nigeria's new Federal Capital. He attended the College between 1952 and 1957.

**8. General Muhammadu Shuwa:** Federal Commissioner for Trade. He started his Military career in 1957 and retired as a Major General in 1979. He was famous for his role in the Nigerian Civil War as the rebel strong holds fell rapidly

to the Federal troops under his command. He attended the College between 1951 and 1957.

9. **Alhaji Usman Faruk:** First Military Governor of North Western State. He is remembered as the first Nigerian Detective to use a tape recorder in a Nigerian Court in 1960. He attended the College between 1949 and 1955.

10. **Alhaji Ibrahim Maina Damcida:** A Federal Permanent Secretary who served in the Ministries of Trade (1966) and Defence (1975). He was an ace in his profession, thus among the few civil servants that were tagged 'Super Permanent Secretaries'. He was a fellow of the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank and Member, Chartered Institute of Secretaries. He attended the College between 1949 and 1950. His College number was 621.

11. **Alhaji (Dr) Adamu Fika:** Head of the Federal Civil Service (1986). He started as a teacher and later joined the civil service where he rose to become a Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. He served in many ministries and departments before becoming the Head of the Federal Civil Service. He was also the first Chairman of the Nigerian Federal Character Commission. He attended the College between 1948 and 1951.

12. **HE General (Dr) Yakubu Gowon:** Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces (1966-



1975). Born on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1934 at Garam, Pankshin of present day Plateau State. He read at the St. Bartholomew School Wusasa, Zaria (1939-45) and the Barewa College (1950-53). He joined the Nigerian Army in 1954 and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1957. He attended several command courses in and outside Nigeria. He was the first Nigerian to be appointed as the Adjutant of the Fourth Battalion. He was also a Brigade Major in the United Nations Force in the Congo. He became the Adjutant General of the Nigerian Army in 1963 when promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel. In 1966 he became the Army Chief of Staff and in the same year became the Nation's No. 1 citizen. He was ousted in a military coup while attending an Organization of African Unity meeting in 1975. He was exiled to Britain where he went back to school and read up to the Doctorate degree level. A highly respected elder statesman who voluntarily leads a non-governmental organization for the eradication of the guinea worm disease. His Barewa College number was 783.

**13. Professor Iya Abubakar:** The second indigenous Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. A first class Honours Mathematics graduate of the University College, Ibadan. He proceeded to Cambridge University and obtained a Doctorate degree in Theoretical Physics in 1961. His being a Visiting professor in various Universities in Europe, Asia and the United States of America helped Ahmadu Bello University very much in gaining

international recognition. He had also been in politics since 1973. The Professor is a member of the Nigerian Energy Commission. He also served the Nation as Federal Minister of Defence and later Internal Affairs. The erudite Professor is now a Senator in the National Assembly. He attended the College between 1948 and 1952.

**14. Mallam Adamu Ciroma:** The first indigenous Editor of the famous New Nigeria Newspaper and subsequently its Managing Director, between 1966 and 1974. He served the Nation as the Director and later Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) from 1975-77. He also served as Minister in the Federal Ministries of Industries, Agriculture and Finance. He holds the traditional title of Galadiman Fika and is a member of the National Council of Manufacturers Association and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. He attended the College between 1950 and 1955.

**15. Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Ahmadu Coomassie** (Sardaunan Katsina): He was appointed as Inspector General of Police in 1993 by the Ibrahim Babangida Administration. He served under four Heads of Governments, ie General Babangida, Chief Shonekan, General Abacha and General Adulsalam. He was born in Katsina on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1942, into the family of the famous Mallam Ahmadu Kumasi, the first Northern Regional Permanent Secretary. He had his secondary education at Katsina Middle School, Al-

Hudahuda College Zaria and Barewa College Zaria where he passed out in 1963. He joined the Nigerian Police Force in 1964. Dr. Coomassie attended several courses both within and outside Nigeria. Some of the courses he attended included the Detective Course in UK (1967), Police Academy Training at USA (1973), Military Intelligence Course in USA (1973), Security Investigation Course in USA (1973) and Course in Police Methods in the UK (1975). He also attended the Senior Command Course in Jos (1980) and International Police Training for computer related crimes, France (1981). He was at the reputed National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Kuru, Jos and was awarded with numerous medals for meritorious services. He is National President of the Al-Hudahuda Old Boys' Association and the Katsina State Chairman of Barewa Old Boys' Association. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2000 he was turbaned as the first Sardauna of Katsina by His Royal Highness the Emir of Katsina. He is a member of the Katsina Emirate Council and the Katsina State Council of Chiefs. He received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law from Imo State University. The Sardauna of Katsina is one of the founding fathers of the Katsina Islamic University and one of its Grand Patrons.

**16. Malam Musa Bello:** He was the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Finance in 1975. He was a career civil servant who held various positions such as the General Manager Northern Nigeria Development Company

(NNDC), Permanent Secretary, North Eastern State Ministry of Finance, Chairman Board of Directors Federal Mortgage Bank (1978-79), Chairman Board of Directors ICON Merchant Bank (1987-90), Chairman Board of Directors Habib Bank (1995-1999), and was a member of the National Economic Intelligence Committee. He passed out from the College in 1954.

**17. Brigadier General Abba Kyari:** The first Military Governor of the North Central State. He joined the Army in 1959 and rose to the rank of Brigadier General in 1974. He held the office of Battery Commander in 1966. He attended the College between 1955 and 1958.

**18. Colonel David Bamigboye:** The first Military Governor of Kwara State. Born in Omu-Aran in the old Ilorin Province, he joined the Nigerian Army immediately after finishing from Barewa College. He served in the Congo under the United Nations Forces where he won a UN Medal.

**19. Chief Silas Bandele Daniyan:** The Ojumu of Mopa in Kogi State and Chairman, International Paints West Africa Limited. He was a renowned civil servant and Managing Director of the Nigeria Industrial Development Bank (1964-76). He also served as Federal Minister of Planning (1993-94). He is also a graduate of the University of Hull, England.

**20. Alhaji Aliyu Mohammed:** Waziri of Jema'a and former Secretary to Government of the Federation (1989-93). He started his civil service career as Treasurer/Accountant-in-training with the Zaria Native Authority in 1958. He held the position of the Secretary, Northern States Marketing Board in 1970. He was co-opted into the Federal civil service in 1977 as the first Federal Director of Immigration. He served the Nation as Federal Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Transport, Federal Capital Territory, Education, Cabinet Office, Petroleum and Energy, Mines, Power and Steel and lastly Finance (all between 1979 and 1989). He attended the College between 1952 and 1957.

**21. Hon. Justice Muhammad Lawal Uwais:** The Chief Justice of the Federation since 1995. He was the Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice of the defunct North Central State (1971-73), Justice of the Federal Court of Appeal (1977-79) and Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria (1979-95). He is a Member and Fellow of various legal bodies and institutions. He attended the College between 1952 and 1957.

**22. Alhaji (Dr) Hamza Rafindadi Zayyad:** The Waziri of Katsina and the first Northern Chartered Accountant. He was the Bursar of the Ahmadu Bello University. He was also a one time Director of the Bank of the North (1970-75) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (1975-84). He was the

Managing Director of the NNDC Ltd (1976-81), Chairman of the Technical Committee on Privatization and Commercialization (1988-94), Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, University of Ilorin (1984-86), and Chairman Bureau of Public Enterprises (1994). The late Waziri of Katsina attended the College between 1951 and 1956.

**23. Dr. Rilwanu Lukman:** former Secretary of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He was the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Mining Corporation, Jos (1974-84). He was also the Federal Minister in the Ministries of Mines, Power and Steel (1984-85), that of Petroleum Resources (1986-89) and that of Foreign Affairs (1989-90). He was also elected as the President of OPEC (1986-89). He is a Member and Fellow of many mining and engineering institutions. He attended the College between 1950 and 1955. His College number was 867.

**24. Professor Jibril Aminu:** This renowned Professor of Medicine surprisingly started his career as an Accounts Clerk. After his medical studies, he became the Consultant Physician for the North Eastern State Government (1972-73). He was a visiting Professor of Medicine at the College of Medicine, Howard University, Washington (1979-80), Vice-Chancellor, University of Maiduguri (1980-85), Minister of Education (1985-90), Petroleum Resources

(1990-92), President of OPEC, Vienna (1991), and a member of the International Society of Medicine. He is now a Senator in the National Assembly. He attended the College between 1952 and 1957. His College number was 929.

**25. Alhaji (Dr) Umaru Mutallab:** The Chairman of the biggest Financial House in Africa – First Bank of Nigeria Plc. He is also the Chairman of the Ja'iz International Bank, which was set up to operate banking services in accordance with Islamic jurisprudence. A first class Accountant and Member of the Association of Certified Accountants (ACA). He had been performing with superlative finesse in the Nigerian banking sector. He attended the College between 1954 and 1959.

**26. Alhaji (Dr) Lema Jibrilu:** An industrialist who started his career in the civil service. He is the Chairman of many limited liability Companies, Vice President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (1987), and Trustee, Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology since 1985. The Dan-Iyan Katsina and renowned philanthropist attended the College between 1952 and 1957.

**27. Alhaji Umaru Aliyu Shinkafi,** Marafan Sokoto: He served the Nation in various capacities including being the Federal Commissioner for Internal Affairs (1975-1978), Commissioner of Police in charge of Oyo State (1978-79)

and the Director General of the National Security Organization (1979-83). He had also been the Chairman of various business and financial concerns including the International Bank for West Africa since 1986. He attended the College between 1952 and 1958.

**28. HE Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua**, Mutawallen Katsina. Born in 1951 in Katsina. He attended Government College Keffi from 1965 to 1969. He taught briefly at Government Secondary School Katsina after his Higher School Certificate course at Barewa College, before proceeding to Ahmadu Bello University where he graduated in Chemistry in 1975. Between 1978 and 1980, he read for his Masters degree in Analytical Chemistry. He took up a teaching appointment with Katsina College of Arts, Science and Technology then temporarily based at Zaria in 1976. The College was later transferred to its permanent site in Katsina and he was with it up to 1983 when he left for the private sector. He was the General Manager of Sambo Farms Ltd in Funtua before he formed his own businesses. He was a Director of Habib Nigeria Bank Ltd before winning the 1999 Governorship elections into the Katsina Government House. He was re-elected for a second term in 2003. His College number was 2465.

**29. HRH Alhaji Umaru Sanda Ndayako**, Etsu of Nupe. Born on February 19<sup>th</sup> 1937 in Bida. Educated at Bida Elementary School (1945-48), Ilorin Middle School (1949-



50) and Barewa College Zaria (1951-56). Read for his degree at the University of Ibadan (1959-62). He served the Northern Regional Government before transferring his services to the Federal Government where he rose to the position of Permanent Secretary. He was installed as the Etsu of Nupe in January 1975.

30. **Alhaji (Dr) Umaru Dikko** former Federal Minister of Transport. Born in Zaria on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1936. Had his education at Barewa College from 1949 to 1954 and the University of London from 1959 to 1965. He worked with the Northern Nigerian Investment Company before becoming a Commissioner in the newly created North Central State in 1967. He was a strong member of the NPN which formed the Federal Government after the 1979 elections. As a powerful minister in that government, he was mostly misunderstood particularly by the southern press. After the 1984 coup, he escaped to Britain. An attempt to smuggle him into Nigeria via being consigned in a crate was foiled by the London police. That was the most spectacular attempt to arrest a Nigerian national from a foreign country. His stay in London enabled him to read up to Doctorate level.

31. **Alhaji Shehu Musa** (Makaman Nupe). Born on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1935 in Bida. He attended Barewa College Zaria (1949-54), the University of Ibadan (1957-60) and the University of Minnesota USA (1962-63). He served the

North Eastern Government and the Federal Government where he rose to become a Permanent Secretary in 1971. He was also the Secretary of the Federal Government between 1979 and 1983 and later the Chairman of the National Population Commission.

**32. Professor Ango Abdullahi.** Former Vice Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University. Born in Giwa town of Zaria Emirate on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1938. He was at Barewa College Zaria (1953-57), University of Ibadan (1960-64) and Kansas State University, USA. He served at the Ahmadu Bello University where he rose to become the Vice Chancellor between 1980 and 1986.

**33. HE Alhaji Lawal Kaita.** Former Governor of Kaduna State. Born in Kaita town of Katsina Emirate on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1932. He studied at the Katsina Elementary School (1938-43), Katsina Middle School (1943-45) and Barewa College Zaria (1945-50). He obtained a certificate in Principles of Veterinary Medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Vom in 1952 and a diploma in Animal Health and Husbandry in 1965 from the University of Kenya. He also obtained a diploma in Public Administration from the London School of Economics in 1968. He worked with the Northern Regional Veterinary Health Department (1950-67). He was also the Kaduna State Commissioner for Social Development Youths and Sports and later the Commissioner for Economic Development (1975-76). He

retired in 1977, contested and won election into the Constituent Assembly in 1978. He contested for the Governorship of Kaduna State under the NPN in 1979. Having been said to have lost the election, he was appointed as the Special Assistant to President Shehu Shagari in Kano State (1979-83). He re-contested for the Governorship election in Kaduna State in 1983 and won with an overwhelming margin. He is currently one of the elders of the ruling PDP.

**34. Professor Mahdi Adamu.** Former Vice Chancellor, Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto. Born on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1949 at Ngaski town of Yawuri Emirate. Attended Barewa College Zaria (1960-61), Ahmadu Bello University (1962-68) and University of Birmingham UK (1971-74). Served mainly at the Ahmadu Bello University up to 1982 when he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Sokoto University.

**35. Alhaji Abdulkadir Ahmed.** Former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Born on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1940 at Jama'are, Bauchi State. He was at Barewa College (1955-59), University of Ife (1961-62) and South West London College (1969-73). He was appointed as the Governor of the Central bank of Nigeria in 1982.

**36. HE Alhaji Saidu Barda** The first elected Governor of Katsina State under the platform of the NRC. Born in Katsina on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1937. Attended the Katsina Middle School (1948-50), Barewa College (1951-58), the Institute

of Administration Zaria (1960-61), the London School of Economics (1966-67), the University of Oslo (1967), the Royal Institute of Public Administration, London (1978) and the Brookling Institute, Washington (1978). He started his Civil Service career as a Police Inspector with the Katsina Native Authority (1958-60). He later moved to the Northern Nigerian Civil Service from 1961 – 1967 and with the creation of States, served the North Central State government up to 1977. He transferred his services to the Federal Civil Service in 1978 from where he retired on 31st December 1990 to contest the Governorship Elections in Katsina State. He won and was sworn in on 2nd January 1992.

**37. Air Marshal Ibrahim Alfa.** Born on August 14<sup>th</sup> 1942. Educated at Yola Secondary School, Barewa College and several military institutions. Joined the Nigeria Air Force in 1963 and rose to become the Chief of Air Staff in 1984.

**38. Colonel (Dr) Ahmadu Ali.** Among the first set of Northerners to qualify as medical doctors at the University of Ibadan. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1936 at Gbobe town near Lokoja. Was at Barewa College (1950-54), University of Ibadan (1958-63) and Edinburgh Post Graduate Medical School (1966-68). Served in many military medical formations and was once a Federal Minister for Education (1975-78).

**39. Alhaji Murtala Aminu** (Galadiman Adamawa). Born on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1937 at Yola. Educated at Barewa College (1951-56) and Ahmadu Bello University (1962-66) where he obtained a degree in law. Served in many companies before becoming the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice for Gongola State (1976-79). Turbaned to the prestigious traditional title of Galadiman Adamawa. Currently into private legal practice and Islamic religious activities.

**40. Engineer M. T. Usman (Santurakin Katsina)** One of those referred to as “Super Permanent Secretaries”. Among the first set of Northerners to become engineers. He was in charge of the Federal Highways Department before becoming the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Works. Born in Katsina on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1932. Attended Katsina Middle School (1942-46), Barewa College (1946-50), Yaba College of Technology (1950-53) and Sussex University England. He was an Engineer with the Northern Regional Government from 1960-68 and Engineer with the Nigerian Ports Authority from 1968-75 from where he joined the Federal service as a Permanent Secretary. He was a recipient of several National and International awards and was turbaned as Santurakin Katsina by His Royal Highness the Emir. His College number was 567.

**41. Alhaji Bello Kofar Bai**, former Secretary to the Katsina State Government and Head of the Civil Service.

Born in Katsina. Read widely in administration and was a colleague of the Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Saidu Barda, in the Federal Civil Service. His rare administrative qualities earned him a special award by an independent Administrative Institute based in Ibadan. An articulate civil servant who brought his experience to bear on the State Service. Now retired and serving as the Chairman of the National Federal Character Commission in Abuja. His College number was 756.

42. **Professor B. D. Musa** Chairman, National Hospital Abuja. His College number was 931.

43. **Professor Abdulrahman Ghaji** Vice Chancellor, Adamawa State University. His College number was 1439.

44. **Engineer Ibrahim Vandu Chikolo** Director General, Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology, Zaria. His College number was 1741.

45. **Barrister (Alhaji) Kabiru Tanimu Turaki.** Danmasanin Gwandu and Senior Advocate of Nigeria. His College number was 3882.

46. **Alhaji Sulaiman Takuma**, former Publicity Secretary of the National Party of Nigeria. His College number was 797.

47. **Alhaji Ali Baba**, Danmadamin Adamawa and former Federal Minister for Internal Affairs and Commerce. His College number was 930.

48. **Dr. Halliru Mohammed**, former Minister for Communications. His College number was 1830.

49. **Alhaji Mohammed Abba Gana**, former Minister for the Federal Capital Abuja. His College number was 1001.

50. **HRH Alhaji Sulaiman Adamu**, the Emir of Bauchi. His College number was 844.

51. **Professor Abubakar Aliyu Gwandu**, University Don and Chairman of the National Committee on Hajj. His College number was 1155.

52. **Dr Ibrahim Tahir**, Talban Bauchi, University Don and former Federal Minister for Communications. His College number was 1069.

53. **Engineer Mansur Ahmed** Executive Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. His College number was 1521.

54. **Chief Raymond Ihyembe** Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Afribank Nigeria Plc. His College number was 1733.

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