



BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

CITATION OF HONORARY AWARDEES

39TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY



Col. Sani Bello (Rtd.)
Former Governor of Kano State



Auwalu Abdullahi Rano, OON
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
AA Rano Nig. Ltd



DATE
Saturday, 15th February, 2025



TIME
9:00am prompt



VENUE
Convocation Arena, BUK New Campus



COL. SANI BELLO (RTD.)

Col Sani Bello (Rtd.) was born on 27 November, 1942 to late Muhammed Bello in Kontagora. Muhammed Bello comes from the family of M. Mustafa, who was a famous Sharia Court Judge of Kontagora Emirate for 35years. He attended central Primary School, Kontagora 1950-1956, before proceeding to the famous Niger Provincial Secondary School (now Government College, Bida) between 1957 and 1962. Among his classmates were Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, Gen. Garba Duba, Gen. Gado Nasko, Gen. Sani Sami (Emir of Zuru) and late Gen. Mamman Jiya Vatsa.

An epitome of distinction, Sani Bello became one of the ten successful candidates enlisted into the Nigerian Army from the school and commenced training in December, 1962 at the Nigeria Military Training College Kaduna, as an Officer Cadet. The training lasted till June, 1963.



After the preliminary training, he was successfully admitted into the famous Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, England as Officer Cadet in 1963. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on July, 29 1965, and was posted to the 1st Battalion Nigeria Army in Enugu. On arrival, he proceeded to the then Benue Province to help quell the Tiv uprising as Platoon Commander in August, 1965.

He remained in Benue until 10th January, 1966 after which he returned to Enugu, his mother unit. After the January 15th coup, he was assigned to Benin as Military Assistant to the Military Governor of the defunct Midwest Region of Nigeria. This was between January and March 1966.

In his characteristic trail blazing manner, 2nd Lt. Sani Bello was appointed ADC to the then Head of State and Supreme Commander, Gen. Aguiyi Ironsi in April 1966 until July 29, 1966, when there was a change in Government.

After the July 1966 coup, Sani Bello was posted to the 6th Infantry Battalion, Ikeja, as Training Officer between October, 1966 and July, 1967. At the outbreak of the Nigerian Civil War, he served first as Company Commander and later as Bonny Sector Commander until he got wounded in December,

1967. On his recovery from the war injuries, he was posted to the Lagos Garrison Organization Resettlement Centre, Oshodi and later to the Rear Headquarters of 3rd Marine Commando Division Nigerian Army, Apapa, as the Staff Officer. While serving in this Division, he rose to become the Rear Commander of the Division in 1970.

At the end of the civil war, he was posted to the Headquarters of the III Marine Commando Division in Port Harcourt in January, 1971 as Grade II Staff Officer and was later appointed Assistant Quarter Master General of the entire division in March, 1971. By June, 1971, Col. Bello as a Major was posted to the Army Headquarters, Lagos as Deputy Adjutant-General. He served in that capacity before he was posted to 81 Infantry Battalion, Kaduna, from April to July, 1975 as Commanding Officer.

When the administrative prowess of Col. Sani Bello was identified, he was called to task by being appointed the Military Governor of old Kano State in August, 1975, at the commencement of the General Murtala Muhammed Regime, and he remained in that capacity till July, 1978. That regime remains known for lots of positive innovations. During his time, he revolutionized the educational system in the old Kano State, an act that served as the foundation of sound science education in Kano to which Kano State is now famous.

After his tenure as Kano State Governor, Col. Bello was posted to the Command and Staff College, Jaji, as the 1st Nigerian Principal Staff Officer of the College in July, 1978 until his retirement, as a Colonel, on 22nd August, 1979.

On his retirement, he was appointed Chairman of Niger State Green Revolution, Chairman Niger State NYSC Committee, and also Chairman of Nigerian Table Tennis Federation until his appointment as High Commissioner, when was posted to Zimbabwe by the Government of General Muhammadu Buhari. He served in that capacity between August 1984 and December, 1986 before he resigned his appointment in the Foreign Service. On his return to Nigeria, he was offered the Chairmanship of the Board of Continental Merchant Bank until 1992.

Since his retirement, he has successfully and meritoriously served at various times as Chairman and member of government, corporate, private and recreational establishments including the Sani Bello Foundation, a non-profit organization that was set up to impact our society positively with resource and skills acquisition to improve the general wellbeing of Nigerians and also to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1,2, and 4

of the United Nations. The Foundation also runs free annual Medical Outreach to hundreds of less privileged Nigerians for the past seven years.

In his ability to identify investment opportunities that impacts socioeconomic lives of the nation, Col. Sani Bello (rtd) has led the conceptualization team to acquire Jebba and Kainji Hydro Electric Power Generation Company. This venture has now become Mainstream Energy Solutions Limited (MESL), where he is the Chairman from 2011 – date. MESL has later become a giant and a leading power utility company with a huge interests in the Yola Electric Distribution Company and Jos Electric Distribution Company.

Col. Sani Bello (rtd), in collaboration with a Norwegian firm is presently promoting one of the largest Fishing Companies in Africa. He is the Chairman Dantata And Sawoe Construction Company. In addition, he has established and/ or chaired other organizations as follows:

- i. AMNI International Petroleum Development Company Limited
- ii. MTN Nigeria Limited
- iii. Law Union & Rock Insurance Company
- iv. BELCOT Ginnery
- v. Globe Re-Insurance
- vi. Continental Merchant Bank
- vii. Broad Bank Nigeria Limited
- viii. Nigeria Table Tennis Federation
- ix. SANBELL Farms Revolution
- x. Governing Council Niger State College of Advanced Studies
- xi. Governing Council Niger State Polytechnic
- xii. Niger State Science & Technical Education Board
- xiii. Government College Bida Old Boys Association (BOSA)

Politics is not left out of Col. Sani Bello's life. He joined the presidential race and successfully contested in the Presidential Primaries held in Port Harcourt under the defunct National Republican Convention (NRC) in the aborted 3rd Republic. He was also a delegate to the 1995 Constitutional Conference in Abuja.

Being a keen sportsman, Col. Sani Bello played football, table tennis, lawn tennis and chess. His hobbies also include travelling. He has travelled extensively around the world.

A man who carried profound weight and commands great attention and dignity, he is a recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious

Sardauna Magazine Leadership Award in 2008 and an Honorary Doctorate Award from the famous Crescent University Abeokuta, in 2012, as well as from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

He remains a role model and an epitome of distinction, success and diligence in service to the past, present and future young generations. His contributions to the development of education in Kano State cannot be over-emphasized, It remains on record that he gave Kano State the best legacy in Science and Technology, a feat that has remained the envy of many states and for which he will be forever appreciated. Specifically, Col. M. S. Bello laid the very foundation of Science Education in Kano with the establishment of two purely Science Colleges, The Dawakin Kudu and the Dawakin Tofa, later popularly referred to as "***The Dawaki Experiment***". Today the products of these Colleges have become nationally and internationally recognized mathematicians, engineers, scientists and doctors in the numerous fields of human endeavors. In appreciation, the old students gave him an award of Honor.

Col. Sani Bello is a business tycoon, and a philanthropist of repute and class. Among other things, he has been operating a comprehensive scholarship scheme through which he grants scholarship to deserving students up to the university level.

Col. Sani Bello is happily married with children. Among his children is a former Governor of Niger State, currently a serving Senator, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello.

ALHAJI AUWALU ABDULLAHI RANO

Alhaji Auwalu Abdullahi Rano, popularly known as A.A.Rano, was born on 1st January, 1965 in Lausu, Rano Local Government Area of Kano State. He attended Lausu Primary School, Lausu, and was taught the Qur'an and other aspects of Islamic faith and jurisprudence by his father, Alhaji Abdullahi Usman.

Young Auwalu loved western education so much, but he could not, on completion of his primary education, proceed to the secondary school because he could not afford it, and was unable to secure scholarship. So he began petty trading to fend for his parents and siblings. As situations were often hard in Rano, he often traveled to Jos after the farming seasons in search of greener pastures.

Auwalu Rano raised a small capital in 1985 from his menial jobs in Jos and opened a small provision shop at Bakin Kasuwa, Rano, where he sold foodstuffs and edible oils. He also at that time enrolled into the School of Rural Studies, Rano during weekdays, and used the school hours to hawk boiled eggs. His business grew steadily.

He ventured into hawking kerosene and other petroleum products in jerry cans and gradually grew his business by pooling his resources with those of others to buy one compartment of kerosene and later 9, 080 litre capacity truck (popularly known as 9080). His dedication made his oil business to grow steadily until he was able to buy a 9080 and a then 33,000 and later 40,000 litre truck all by himself. So he decided to move part of his business to Kano Metropolitan Area.

He rented a shop at a spot opposite NNPC Depot, Hotoro, Kano, and employed two other persons on commission basis to go as far as Makurdi, Calabar and Port Harcourt to source cheaper petroleum products for sale in Kano and the surrounding towns and villages.

Alhaji Auwalu Rano established his first company, A. A. Rano Nigeria Limited, in 2001 and bought the land upon which he built his first filling station situated along Kano-Zaria Road, Naibawa, Kano for N4,150,000 in



the same year, but had to pay in three installments because of limited capital. He built the station gradually from the proceeds of his business. He grew his business slowly and steadily by building a chain of filling stations in and around Kano State, and developing his own fleet of tanker trucks that ferry his products from the various loading points in Nigeria to his stations and those of his customers.

On 20th July, 2014, Alhaji Auwalu Rano's long-held ambition of owning and operating an oil depot was realized with the commissioning of A. A. Rano's 55 million litre capacity oil tank farm at Ijegun-Egba, Lagos, with ten loading arms gantry that is capable of loading up to 200 trucks in 24 hours, thus providing employment and means of livelihood for hundreds of thousands of people. The depot has also ensured a steady flow of petroleum products to all the nooks and cranny of Nigeria at affordable prices.

Due to the shortage of flights from Kano to other parts of Nigeria at needed times and the challenges faced by air travellers and businesses including his own, he, in 2019 came up with the idea of establishing an airline to address the challenges. On May 7, 2023, Rano Air Limited was fully launched with two inaugural flights from Kano, one to Lagos and the other to Abuja. The airline has since established itself as a favorite for frequent flyers and a leader in safety and timely departures and arrivals.

Alhaji Auwalu Rano's passion for the provision of employment for his people has also enabled him to establish a very modern and highly automated rice processing factory at Dawakin Kudu, in Dawakin Kudu Local Government Area of Kano State. The factory completed in December, 2024, provides gainful employment for Nigeria's teeming youth, thereby reducing our dependence on imported rice. Also, to be commissioned soon are his Agro-Chemical Company also situated at Dawakin Kudu which, when commissioned, will make essential agro-chemical products that we currently import from other countries readily available in Nigeria and in Kano at affordable prices. His multibillion Naira ultra-modern engine oil manufacturing factory at Na'ibawa, Kano is also set to be commissioned in early 2025.

Auwalu Rano's companies employ about 5,000 Nigerians directly and about 7,000 indirectly.

In the area of philanthropy, Alhaji Auwalu Abdullahi Rano has made a huge footprint known to many Nigerians. As one whose western education could not go beyond primary school, he knows the value of education and has taken it upon himself to help underprivileged children to acquire both western and Islamic education with ease. He has, through his foundation,

Alhaji Auwalu Abdullahi Rano Foundation, built hundreds of classrooms for many primary and secondary schools in Kano, Jigawa, Plateau, Bauchi and Katsina States. He has also built students' hostels, in many cases, anonymously, for several tertiary institutions.

Currently, he has about 2,500 primary school pupils and secondary school students across several states of Nigeria under his direct sponsorship, and about 600 students of different states of origin and backgrounds in tertiary institutions in Nigeria (including about 100 medical students of Bayero University, Kano) and another 75 students undergoing study in universities outside Nigeria. He also has about 100 teaches under his direct employment drawing salaries from his foundation who are teaching at various primary and secondary schools across several states of Nigeria.

In healthcare, he has anonymously renovated and equipped several primary and secondary health care facilities in several locations in Nigeria and has nudged and inspired so many of his friends and business associates into building infrastructures and the purchase and donation of several life-saving medical equipment for several health institutions in Nigeria. His partnership with Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital Kano, in the provision of free dialysis treatment for kidney patients has treated about 1000 kidney patients for free since its inception in 2021.

Alhaji Auwalu Rano's acts of philanthropy listed above are just a tip of the iceberg as it is herculean to document all of them, since they are mostly done behind the camera. A.A. Rano is a recipient of several prestigious national and international honors, including the National Honor of the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON), given to him by President Muhammadu Buhari in recognition of his service to humanity and Nigeria.

