

**A BIOGRAPHY OF LATE ALHAJI (DR) AMINU SALEH WAMBAN  
KATAGUM, 1933-2015**

**BY**

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## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this dissertation has been written by me and is a by-product of my own research. The dissertation has not been presented to any University for a higher degree. All sources and endnotes have been fully and duly acknowledged in the bibliography.

## APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that the contents of this dissertation have been read and approved as having met the requirements for the award of Master of Arts Degree (M.A.) in History, Bayero University Kano.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my late wife Anisah Garba Sani, and my late son Muslim Murtala, May their souls rest in perfect peace, Amin.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise is due to Allah (S.W.A) the Most Beneficent and the Most Merciful. May His peace and Blessings be upon His Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W), his family and companions, Amin. I owe a depth of gratitude to my supervisors Dr. Lawan A Isa and Professor Haruna Wakili for their diligent patience in supervising and making necessary corrections to this research work. In fact, their valuable corrections, observations and suggestions in raising and analyzing relevant issues in an academic and logical manner have greatly contributed in improving the quality of the work. May Allah reward them with *JannatulFirdausi*, Amin.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A H K	Arewa House, Kaduna
B U K	Bayero University, Kano
GRA	Government Reserved Areas
IED	Islamic Education Department
L.E.A	Local Education Authority
OB	Old Boys
P.B.U.H	Peace Be Upon Him
SGF	Secretary to the Government of the Federation
NITEL	Nigerian Telecommunications Limited
NA	Native Authority
N.C.E	Nigeria Certificate in Education
NEPU	Northern Elements Progressive Union
NPN	National Party of Nigeria
UPN	Unity Party of Nigeria
PRP	Peoples Redemption Party
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria

## GLOSSARY

### Arabic terms

<i>Fiqh</i>	-	Jurisprudence
<i>Hijrah</i>	-	migration
<i>Ibadat</i>	-	worship
Imam	-	person leading a congregational prayer/ Islamic scholar, also a political leader in Islamic history
<i>Juma'at</i>	-	Congregational Prayer offered every Friday
Khamsu-Salawat	-	five daily prayers
Mu'amalat	-	relation (interaction)
<i>Sadaqa</i>	-	alms/charitable donation with intension of seeking God's favour and reward
Ummah	-	people (community)
Zakkat	-	compulsory levy on the rich to the poor (one of the five pillars of Islam) taxation on farm produce and other property
Tasawwuf	-	Mystic Divine Philosophy
Zikr	-	Worshipping Allah by calling his names
Tijjaniyya	-	Islamic Sect founded by Sheikh Ahmad Tijjani
Tafsir	-	Qur'anic Interpretation
Ramadan	-	The nine month of Islamic calendar
Istikhara	-	Prayer for Divine Guidance in dreams
Alkyabba	-	Roub gown

### Hausa Terms

Allo	-	wooden slate
Mai-Unguwa	-	Ward Head
Makarantar Allo	-	Qur'anic school
Malam	-	learned person/scholar
Sarki	-	King/Emir
Fatauchi	-	Long Distance Trade
Hakimi	-	District Head
Dabino	-	Date palm
<i>Kowa</i>	-	Everybody
<i>Uba</i>	-	Father
<i>Gida</i>	-	House
<i>Kasa</i>	-	Country
<i>Yaki</i>	-	War
<i>Birni</i>	-	City
<i>Jangali</i>	-	CattleTax
<i>Rumfa</i>	-	Stall

## **ABSTRACT**

This work is an attempt to examine the biography of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh Wamban Katagum from 1933 to 2015. The main objective of the research is to reconstruct and document the contributions and legacies of Aminu Saleh in the Nigeria's Civil Service and administration. However, the research first of all examines the geographical location of Katagum Emirate and the historical origin of the emirate and explores briefly the economic activities of people in the area that constituted the twelve districts that made up the Katagum Emirate. It further traces Aminu Saleh's family origins, his birth, educational career particularly at Bauchi Middle School and his marital life. The research used historical methodology in its analysis of data. The main tools for this research work were interviews in addition to the published and unpublished works consulted. The work traces the family background, adulthood, marriage and family life of late Aminu Saleh starting from the coming of his forefathers into the Katagum Emirate during the reign of Malam Ibrahim Zaki and the emergence of ninth Emir of Katagum Abdulkadir III who influenced the rising of Aminu Saleh's family in the palace. Due to the role he played in the transformation of Azare, he was appointed Sarkin Yaki in 1975 and Wamban Katagum in 2005 respectively by the Katagum Emirate Council. It further explains the various positions held by Aminu Saleh before he was appointed as Secretary to the Government of the Federation under the military Government of General Sani Abacha. The research also discusses Aminu Saleh's position and power as a political appointee (1993-1995) and his business and religious life as well as his community services. The research finally traced the death of Aminu Saleh who died at the age of 85 years after a protracted illness at the Federal Medical Centre, Azare on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015 at about 6:00AM. His death was a great loss not only to his family members or Azare people in particular but also to the country in general.

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# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter serves as a general introduction of the entire work. It examines briefly the geographical location of Katagum Emirate and its historical origin. The chapter explores the economic activities of the people in the area that constituted the twelve districts that made up the Katagum Emirate. Other things discussed in the chapter are: statement of the problem, aim and objectives of the study, justification, scope and limitations, literature review and methodology.

### **1.1 The Geographical Location of Katagum Emirate**

Katagum Emirate lies between latitudes 11.30°N and 12.25°N and between longitudes 10.00°E and 10.30°E. It has an area of approximately 11,924.37 sq. km. It has an estimated population of over one million people (2006 Census). The land of Katagum is located in the area traditionally referred to as "Guddiri"-derived from the appellation "Borno Ngudiri", meaning "Little Borno". In the past, Borno exercised appreciable control over the northern part of what later became Katagum Emirate, especially the area around Katagum town (the name "Katagum" refers either to the entire Emirate or its erstwhile capital town). The conquest and incorporation of the area into Katagum Emirate by Malam Ibrahim Zaki during the 1804 Jihad earned Malam Zaki the title of "Sarkin Borno. The title was bestowed on him by Sheikh Usman bn Fodio. Therefore, the term "Guddiri" seems to be a 19th century creation and reflection of the changing political equation in the area at the time.<sup>1</sup>

The soil of Katagum Emirate is generally sandy, most especially in the northern parts. The topography consists of flat and slightly undulating lowlands with the exception of the area

around Shira in the southern part of the emirate, which has some outcrops of hills rising about 152.40m above the surroundings. The major rivers in the area, Rivers Katagum and Jama'are, flow in the north-easterly direction and empties into the Lake Chad. The vegetation-type is Sahel savannah, mainly comprising sparsely distributed trees and shrubs. Some of the trees are "*dibino*" (date, palm), "*tsamiya*" (*Tamarindus indica*), "*doruwa*" (*Parkia* sp), "*kuka*" (*Andersonia digitata*) and "*gawo*" (*Acacia albida*). The climate can be divided in two important seasons: the rainy season lasts from May to September and the dry season lasts from October /November. During a part of the dry season from November to April "harmattan" northeast winds prevail, bringing in cold and dusty weather. The climatic condition of Azare is purely like that of most of the Sahel Savannah region.<sup>2</sup> During the rainy season, the people of the area engage in agricultural activities as most of them are farmers. Most of the people are subsistence farmers. They normally sold their cash crops in order to satisfy other economic needs. A small number of people engage in commercial farming. They produce cash crops like groundnuts, beans and rice as well as wheat. Other crops are millet, Guinea corn and maize.

During the cold dry season the harvested crops are stored. The cash crops are sold while the remainder is meant for consumption. They often got involved in long and short distance trade during this time. During the warm dry season, the people normally engage in irrigation farming, but most of the farmers who engage in this farming are those close to the rivers. In the dry hot season, most of them start to clear their farm lands.<sup>3</sup> It is not only agricultural activities that are being carried out in the Emirate. Other economic activities are still taking place and these include black-smelting, barbing, trade. Others are transport and communication businesses to mention a few. During the dry season, some people engage in distance trade (*fatauci*). They supplied cows, sheep and goats to the southern part of the country. In return came back with palm-oil, coconut

and gari (cassava flour). The short distance trade enables them to move from one village market to another within the region.<sup>4</sup> Various traditional ceremonies take place in this season (harvesting period), like marriage, turbarning wrestling/boxing and traditional music.

The population of Katagum Emirate is put at 1,403,767 in the 2006 National Population Census.<sup>5</sup> It is made up of Hausa, Kanuri and Fulani speaking people. It also has a smaller number of the Bedde and Kare-Kare, who are found in the northeastern parts of the Emirate due to the border with Potiskum in Yobe State. Hausa, Fulani and Kanuri groups are widely dispersed and are found in virtually all parts of the Emirate. However, there seem to be more Kanuri people around the northern part of the Emirate. This is because it shares a border with Gashuwa in Yobe State. The Emirate is today ruled by an Emir of the First Class rank. It was organized into twelve districts by 1916, viz: Gadau, Giade, Chinade, Itas, Sakwa, Udubo and Shira. Others are Gamawa, Katagum, Disina, Azare and Madara. There were attempts in 1982 to create more districts with the creation of more local governments for political expedience. Also, in 2013 Governor Isah Yuguda created 28 districts. However, the present administration dissolved them and maintained the old twelve districts presently.<sup>6</sup>

Like most of the emirates in northern Nigeria, Katagum also came under the colonial government in 1903. It was the colonial government that transferred the headquarters of the Emirate from Katagum town to Azare in 1916.<sup>7</sup> It was during the reign of Sarkin Katagum Abdulkadir, (1909-1947) who came from Katagum to Azare along with his loyal servant, known as Malam Salihu, who was the father of Muhammad Aminu, born in 1933. Muhammad Aminu later became Ahaji (Dr.) Aminu Saleh Wamban Katagum (GCON, CFR, 1933-2015).<sup>8</sup>

## **1.2 Statement of the Research Problem**

To study a history of a seventy year-old person such as Alhaji Aminu Saleh, who had a span of about forty years in public service, will inevitably involve condensing a wide and extensive experience needed to be known as veritable source of reference materials. However, nobody even attempted to document the history and activities of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh. In addition, most of the earlier researches focused mainly on socio-economic and political history of Azare town, thereby neglecting the history and contributions of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh towards the development of Bauchi State in particular and the country at large. This is what prompted the researcher to embark on this study with a view of giving a comprehensive approach to the study.

## **1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of the work is to study and document the life and times of Alhaji Aminu Saleh, one of the foremost Nigerian Public servants. Specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To reconstruct and document the family background and early life of Alhaji Aminu Saleh
2. To investigate and document the contributions and legacies of Aminu Saleh in the Nigeria's Civil Service and administration
3. To assess the role of Aminu Saleh in the development of Katagum emirate, specifically, Bauchi State and the country at large
4. To examine and document Aminu Saleh's business life and his community services up to his death.

#### **1.4 Justification of the study**

To study the history and contributions of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh towards the development of Bauchi State in particular and Nigeria in general is of utmost significance because it is a new area of research. Therefore, the findings of this research work could greatly help in knowing the historical background of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh's family, his educational career and his contributions to the overall development of the country during his career as a civil servant. Therefore, the outcomes of this study could serve as an additional literature on the history of some prominent people in the country.

#### **1.5. Scope and Limitation**

The main focus of this research is to study and document the life and times of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh who was born in Azare in Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi State. Therefore, the scope of this study in terms of space touches on some aspects of Bauchi state and various ministries where he served. The year 1933 was chosen to be the starting point of this research, because it was the year when late Alhaji Aminu Saleh was born. The terminal date, 2015 was when he died. The major limitation of the study is its defined scope which focuses on the life history and contributions of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh towards the development of his hometown Azare and Bauchi State in particular as well as Nigeria at large. In addition, all efforts to meet some important personalities prove abortive and in the Federal Ministry of Defence, records on Aminu Saleh were lost due to the fire outbreak (1990).

## **1.6. Methodology**

The sources of writing this work are both primary and secondary data. The primary sources comprised of oral sources and the lectures he delivered through interviews with some of Aminu Saleh's family members at Azare in Bauchi State and some of his friends. The researcher also interviewed a number of people who worked with him for quite along time. Other interviews were also conducted with some retired civil servants who worked with late Alhaji Aminu Saleh at different ministries where he served. Other primary sources used included archival materials and his writings concerning his life.

The Post Graduate section of Bayero University library provided relevant data to this study. The research section of the library contains works on Nigeria and Bauchi in particular. There are some M.A Dissertations on various histories and biographies of some prominent people in the country. Some of these works were collected and reviewed for the purpose of this research. In addition, the Departmental Library of History was also visited and consulted many books that are directly or indirectly related to this new area of study.

Similarly, National Archives and Arewa House, Kaduna as research institutions were also visited for data gathering. At the National Archives, some relevant materials concerning Aminu Saleh's historical background, his educational career and his years of experience as a national civil servant were collected and reviewed and some information was also used and provided in the course of writing this research work. The library of Arewa House, Kaduna has two research sections: archive and library. In the library of this institution, several works like PhD and M.A

theses are available. The researcher, therefore, found some M.A Theses written on the biographies of some personalities which were collected and reviewed and they greatly contributed to the writing of this dissertation.

### **1.7 Literature Review**

There are some works that were carried out on various biographies of different personalities, who made significant contributions to the development of their societies. Most of these works are unpublished. They are directly or indirectly related to this study. These existing works are very crucial to this study, because they provided useful sources of data. However, none of them specifically discusses the history and contributions of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh towards the development of Bauchi State in particular and the country at large. Therefore, in this section, an attempt has been made to review these works.

The book of Jega, Ibrahim and A, G. Sa'eed (*The Biography of Mudi Sipikin*) examine and discussed extensively on his early life and educational career. The authors trace the years of his marriage and parenthood. They also discuss extensively on his relationship with Saudi Arabia as an agent of WAPA in Saudi Arabia. They also discussed his visit to Jerusalem and the previllage he enjoyed in the historic city. The work further examines his early political activism and his new political roles. It analyzed his skill works of Aminiyya and the Askianist movement and his parting ways with NEPU as well as his struggles and sacrifices in the field of politics. They describe him as a person who has ideological poet and he was said to be a truthful modernizer and the authors maintain that Sipikin has been a person with philosophical composition. They also explained his poetic sensibility and his stylistic and language use in his poetries. They portrayed his position in poetry and his battling of fictional names as well as his legacies of poetry.<sup>9</sup> The

book was written by professional historians because it has proper chronology, endnotes and bibliography. Therefore it will provide the methods and styles used in the course of this research.

The work of Tanko Yakasai (*An autobiography of humble life*, 2012) provides the story of humble life of Tanko Yakasai. It traces his birth and early childhood and his adult life as well as his political adventure and NEPU struggles. It examines his roles and participation in the 1953 constitutional conference and strategies to be used for self-government. It also discusses his career in the field of journalism and his foreign networking adventures; foreign scholarship and ventures and his encounter with security agents. The book also traces his participation and contributions in Northern Progressive Front and his NCNC, NPC and the coalition forces. It further discusses the first military coup D'état and the Northern position and Sardauna's demise. It also examines the emergence of Ironsi and the unification decree and the fall of Ironsi and the emergence of Gowon as the head of state. The book discusses extensively the Northern think-tank and the subsequent creation of the twelve states; the insurgence of the Biafran state and the departure of Gowon. It explains the emergence of Murtala as the head of state and the tales of Audu Bako's administration in Kano and Murtala's exit. The author examines the emergence of second republic which was a new dawn and its political structures and the crisis of confidence. He further examines the emergence of Aminu Kano and his National Movement and the role of his political party. The book discusses the formation of the Peoples Redemption Party and the emergence of the Great Nigeria Peoples Party and its roles in the Nigerian politics.<sup>10</sup>

In addition, the author examines Shagari's emergence as NPN flag bearer and the appointment of Tanko Yakasai as the Presidential Assistant. He also discusses the pains and gains of the 1979 NPN/NPP Accord. The book also explains the GNPP/PRP Legislators on rescue mission and Abiola's presidential bid. It also examines the role of Tanko Yakasai in the PRP crisis and the

roles of Ojukwu in the NPN. It further discusses the struggles and life of Tanko Yakasai in Lagos and his dramatic encounter with other parties and his family life.<sup>11</sup>

The autobiography Magaji Danbatta (2010) titled '*Pull of Fate*' examines the biography of Magaji Danbatta. The book discusses the birth and early life of Magaji Danbatta and his early education. The author explains his beginning of political activism and his career in journalism. He further examines the joining of civil service of Magaji Danbatta and his roles and contributions towards the development of the country; the author explains the end of an era of his civil service career. The book examines extensively the reasons for the Nigerian civil war and the attempts to restructure the country. It also discusses the foreign experiences and services of Magaji Danbatta and his return to partisan politics as well as his contributions to the development of his civil society.<sup>12</sup> This book is highly relevant to this research work, because the organizational structure of biographical information and the styles used have greatly helped this study.

Suberu Ochi Abdurrahman in his M.A thesis (2000) *The Biography of the Late Alhaji Habib Raji Abdullah* explains the contributions of Habib Raji Abdullah towards the development of Ebiraland, the roles he played in the struggles for Nigeria's independence as well as the working careers of Habib Raji Abdullah in Public and private organizations. His work is similar to this research although the subjects of the works are two different individuals and the former was more of a politician while the later was a civil servant.<sup>9</sup> This thesis has assisted the researcher by providing some insights into the style and organizational structure of biographical research.

Ahmadu Kama, in his book titled, *Life Times of an Enduring Fascination*, examines the biography of the former Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar. He points out the family background of Abubakar by saying that his father was not interested in his son's Western Education and that, if not because of the intervention of the Resident Officer at that time, he would not be able to

become what he is. The writer went ahead to explain Atiku's career in the Nigerian Custom Service and his political struggle up to the time of his emergence as the Governor-Elect of Adamawa in 1999 and how he rose to the position of Vice-President in the Fourth Republic. His work is just like this research, because it is on an important figure like Aminu Saleh, who rose through the ranks to become the Secretary to the Government of the Federation.<sup>13</sup>

The work of Yemi Akinayen titled, "*Life Shared*" examines the life history of the former Minister of Justice, Justice Ibrahim Abdullahi, his early life and his working career both in public services and in his private life. The writer pointed out his simplicity throughout his interaction with the former Anthony General. His work is similar to this research.<sup>14</sup> Moreover; the two personalities worked in the Nigerian Civil Service and served as ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, although in different ministries and periods.

Ike Oguchuku in his book titled, *Liberty or Chain, Africa Must Be*, examines the biography of Aweke Abyssina Nwafor. The writer explores Nwafor's early life, education and how Dr. Nmandi Azikiwe motivated him in both United Kingdom and United States of America when he was a student there. He also explains the various platforms used by Nwafor abroad and his southeastern region to voice out their agitation for Nigeria's independence in the early 1940's and 1950's. His book is related to this work because his subject, after his retirement in active politics, settled at his home town in Nnewi and then succeeded his father's traditional title of Obi of Nnewi, just like the personality of this research, who also succeeded his father's traditional title of Wamban Kataguma after his retirement.<sup>15</sup> Therefore, the two works focus on the biography of two prominent Nigerians, although from two different regions of the country.

Trevor Clark in his book titled, *A Right Honorable Gentleman* examines the period of Tafawa Balewa as the first Prime Minister of Nigeria and the struggles of his political career. The author also examines the legacies left behind by Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. He also accounted for the reasons leading to his assassination and the people that carried out the brutal act in 1966. The author pointed out the roles he played in the House of Assembly before he was elected as the Prime Minister. The work gives a lot of ideas in terms of methodology and organization of this research.<sup>16</sup> It is also important to note that both Balewa and Saleh are from Bauchi State in Northern Nigeria. And Balewa was Saleh's teacher in Bauchi Middle School. Clark's work therefore sheds more light on the educational career of Saleh.

Ibrahim Jumare in his book, *An Icon of Scholarship and Public Service* examines the life and times of Dr. Shehu Usman Lawan from his early life to his assassination in January, 1966. He also looks at the man as an icon of scholarship as well as a public civil servant. The author also argues that the man was a complete humanitarian and philanthropist, who was always ready to serve his community. Therefore, his work is related to this research since it focuses on the lifetime of a scholar, who worked for the development of his society and country at large. The work aids this research in so many ways like organization and style.<sup>14</sup>

Labo Yari in his book, *Muhamma Dikko Emir of Katsina (1865-1944)*, examined the background of Emir of the Katsina and the different dynasties that made up the Katsina Royal families. The author examined how Muhammad Dikko emerged as the Emir of Katsina and the time he spent in power (37 years). He shows both in picture and writing some major foreign trips the Emir made. He went ahead to mention the relationship the Emir had with his servants. The author says though Dikko served as *Dirbin* Katsina and District Head of Mani yet he did not belong to the ruling family. However, his closeness and loyalty to Colonial Masters made him become the Emir of

Katsina after the exiling of the Emir Yero to Lokoja in 1916. He was able to explain how on many occasions the Emir made outings with his preferred son, Usman Nagogo, who later succeeded him. His work is related to this work since it dwells very much on the biography of the late Emir.<sup>15</sup>

Awodele Omoboriow in his book, "*Awoism*" examines the birth of Chief Obafemi Awolowo and his early life and how he tried to seek education in his early life. The author also covered the period when Awolowo entered into the business of cocoa in Abeokuta. He also discusses the time Awolowo's properties were auctioned due to the debt he owed a bank. The author also examines the formation of the Action Group by the Chief and the major developments in the period when he became the Premier of Western Nigeria after the attainment of Nigeria's independence. His work is on the biography of an important personality in Nigerian politics. The focus of this research follows a similar pattern.<sup>16</sup>

Gabriel Umoden in his book, "*Babangida Years (1993)*", examines the time in which General Babangida was born and his early life and educational career. The author also examines the time General Babangida joined the army and the positions he held before becoming Head of State in 1985. He discusses the time of his government and many developmental projects commissioned by his government. He writes down the failed coups against the government of General Babangida. He explores the family life of the Retired General and the only daughter who was born during his time as Head of State. He went ahead to explain the critical steps taken by the Babangida administration like the failed transition program up to the time he handed over power to the interim government of Chief Ernest Shonekan in August 1993. His work is related to this research as it helps this research because the two works are all about documenting the career of two important personalities<sup>17</sup>

## **Conclusion**

This chapter serve as general introduction of the entire work and it discusses the geographical location of the katagum emirate as well as its twelve districts that made up the emirate. it also explain the methodology, aims and objectives, scope and limitation as well as the literature review.

## Endnote

- <sup>1</sup>B, Ibunola(2009) *Katagum from State to Dependency: A study of Political Economy of Colonial Transformation (1804-1950)*, Azare: Jumus Computer Technologies p.1
- <sup>2</sup>B, Ibunola(2009) *Katagum from State to Dependency: A study of Political Economy of Colonial Transformation (1804-1950)*, Azare: Jumus Computer Technologies p. 2
- <sup>3</sup>A. Hussain(1989), Socio – Economic Transformation of Katagum (1900-1950) P 16
- <sup>4</sup>A. Hussain(1989), Socio – Economic Transformation of Katagum (1900-1950) P 16-17
- <sup>5</sup>National Population Commission Azare Zonal Office
- <sup>6</sup>B. Muhammad (2016),The History of Katagum Emirate (1916-2016) p. 20
- <sup>7</sup>B. Muhammad (2016), The History of Katagum Emirate (1916-2016) p. 20
- <sup>8</sup>A, Saleh, (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum: Alhaji Salihu Muhammad (1895-1970)*. Kaduna:VintagePrinters.
- <sup>9</sup> A. M. Jega, I. B. Kano & A. G. Sa’eed (2003), A Biography of Mudi Sipikin
- <sup>10</sup> T. Yakasai (2012), *The Story of a Humble Life ( An Autobiography)*. Lagos: Moonlight Publishers
- <sup>11</sup>T. Yakasai (2012), *The Story of a Humble Life ( An Autobiography)*. Lagos: Moonlight Publishers
- <sup>12</sup> M. N. Alkali (2010), *The Autobiography of Magaji Danbatta*. Zaria: Ahmadu Belle University Press Limited.
- <sup>13</sup> S. O. Abdurrahman (2000), *the Biography of Alhaji Habib Raji Abdullah (1920-1984)*. M.A Dissertation, Department of History Bayero University Kano. p. 5
- <sup>14</sup> A. Kama (2010),*Life Time and Work of Enduring Fascination*. Kaduna:Pyla Mark Services Limited.
- <sup>15</sup> Yari, (1984), *MuhammadDikkoEmirofKatsina (1895-1944)*. Evans Brothers Nigeria Ltd.
- <sup>16</sup> A. Omoboriow (1982),*Awoism*. Ibadan: Badan Printing Press.
- <sup>17</sup>G. Umoden (1992), *TheBabangidaYears*. Lagos: Gubumo Publishing Company Ltd.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **FAMILY BACKGROUND, BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE OF AMINU SALEH**

#### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter introduces the family background of late Aminu Saleh where they came from and when they arrived Katagum Emirate. It also traces the Birth and early life of Saleh and it also discusses his early educational career. The chapter explores his early working career in the Katagum native authority as well as the courses he attended in the Institute of Administration Zaria. It further discusses the overseas courses he attended in the United States.

#### **2.1 Aminu Saleh's Family Background**

During the 1804 Jihad, it was said that Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio gave a title to Malam Ibrahim Zaki as *Sarkin Bornu*. The reason for giving him that title was that Malam Ibrahim was asked by the Sheikh to extend the war to the neighborhood of Birnin Ngazargamu in 1807 and he was able to occupy the capital. From 1808 to 1810, Malam Zaki led the second Fulani expedition to Ngazargamu. It was during this campaign that he stayed in the Birnin Ngazargamu for about six months and when he decided to return to Katagum, he came along with Goni Mohammad, one of the prominent Malams of the then Shehu of Bornu.<sup>1</sup> Goni decided to leave Ngazargamu because of instability.<sup>1</sup>

On reaching Katagum, Goni Mohammad preferred to stay away from the palace and settled six miles away along the Katagum Makwa old road in a place he called Rano. He had chosen the place because in those days Islamic scholars usually stayed away from worldly life. He was later called and remembered as Malam Ranoma. He regularly visited the palace in order to retain a

cordial relationship with the emir. This was the first movement of the Goni family from Ngarzagamu to Katagum. After becoming satisfied with the new place, he sent a message to the remaining members of his family to come. It should be noted that this was all happening during the period of wars for territorial expansion when all the areas within the zone had no peace and stability. So, movement from one place to another took more time. It took four years between Goni's arrival in Katagum and the coming of the remaining members of his family in 1814. This team of Goni Muhammad's family was obtained in Wambai Salihu's archives; and they all came from the same parents. It was because of their large numbers that they first settled at Gurbi Katagum and from there they moved to Katabji, then to Azamra and finally settled in Kadabda. Available record shows that their descendants can be traced to the valleys of River Walai, River Katagum and Burari Dukku in present-day Gombe State.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, Aminu Saleh hailed from the family of Alhaji Salihu Wamban Katagum in Azare which is now part of Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi State. Aminu Saleh's family members were initially from Katagum which is an area under Zaki Local Government area of Bauchi State.

## **2.2 Aminu Saleh Educational Career**

His father was well- educated person not only in Arabic but also educated in Hausa, English and Ajami writing<sup>1</sup>. Aminu Saleh was born on 6 November, 1933. It was his father, popularly known as Malam Wambi who prepared him early for the future task. Therefore, his father had a lot of his credit in encouraging him to study Qur'an and other branches of Islamic knowledge. He therefore acquired both Islamic and Western education. As a child, he started with Qur'anic education. Aminu Studied Qur'an under the following scholars: Malam Salihu (his father), Sheikh Adamu

Badamagare, Malam Usman Liman, Malam Ayuba Liman and a lot of others. He also studied Islamic books under different scholars such as Malam Mohammad (his uncle), Malam Gidado Wali, Malam Umaru Dankafare, Malam Alkali Musa Wali and Malam Ibrahim Zaria all in Azare town.<sup>3</sup>

Aminu Saleh like many other children in the Hausa Fulani area was first introduced to the compulsory Islamic Education by his father. Later in 1941, he was enrolled into the elementary school at Azare and finally completed in 1944. It was his primary school certificate that qualified him to Bauchi Middle School for his secondary education which he started in same year 1941. During his schooling at Bauchi Middle School, it was reported by some of his classmates that Aminu was a gentle, simple, hardworking and self-determined person who always devoted his time mainly to school activities and also used to organize group discussions to brainstorm among his classmates and this situation earned him respect from many people not only among his colleagues, but also even among his teachers. In fact, throughout his stay at Bauchi Middle School, Aminu Saleh was man of the people who often dedicated his time for the school services and committed his time to group assignments and other activities mainly for the development of his classmates.<sup>4</sup>

Most importantly, it was Malam Aminu Kano who sharpened and influenced the young Aminu Saleh in Bauchi middle school. According tradition, Malam Aminu Kano prepared Aminu Saleh for future challenges apart from his parents in Bauchi middle school. Therefore, at middle school Kano taught him many religious books like Ishimawi, Ahalari, and Kawa'idi. He also motivated him to make sure that he prayed always in a congregation and not alone; because most of the students used to perform their prayers alone. He also taught them (Saleh and the other Muslim students) all those religious books in the evening time daily.<sup>5</sup> In the field of Western education,

Malam Aminu Kano used to teach them English, History and literature. According to tradition, whenever he committed an offence to Malam, his punishment was to read West African Pilot from the first page to the last. It was Malam Kano that taught Aminu Saleh how to read and address people publically. He taught him that whenever he was asked to address a gathering, he should do it while demonstrating episodes with his hands; and this became his tradition up to the time of his death in 2015. Malam Aminu was the person who taught them phonetics; he even came with a mirror and ruler in order to make them learn how to pronounce words. He taught them the difference when pronouncing words that starts with ‘P and f’ as the students found it difficult to differentiate their pronunciation.<sup>6</sup>History has shown that Malam was the first person in 1944 that taught them the history and lives of some great philosophers likeAristotle, Socrates and Plato. He explained to them the times when all the philosophers were born and the areas of their specialization. It was in 1944 when the Second World War was taking place that Malam Aminu made them listen to BBC English News so as to narrate the News in the Class.

In order to make them strong, in 1945 Aminu Kano took them to scout. He also used to take them to certain places where rocks were found for them to climb and have their knowledge. He also took them to river areas to learn swimming and they used to spend the whole night in the bush. In the night they normally slept on trees. He did all this in order to inculcate them in with self-endurance. Malam Aminu also taught him to always appear neat by washing his clothes, taking bath and make sure that he ate and slept in a clean place.<sup>7</sup>Due to his interactions with Malam Aminu, Saleh later returned and stayed in Aminu Kano’s home. His wife, Hajiya Hasiya, handled him properly because he was treated just like their biological son. According to tradition Hajiya Hasiya did not call Saleh by his name Aminu but instead called him Yelwaji Karami, as his name was the same with that of her husband.

Aminu Kano left Bauchi Middle school in 1947 and went to England for further education. But he had already equipped Saleh and his school mates with many skills of facing future challenges. They had learned a lot of skills and disciplines from Malam and from Sir Abubakar Tafawa, Balewa even though Sir, Abubakar was already promoted to the position of head master. His office schedules reduce his meeting with the students in class.<sup>9</sup> Therefore; Aminu Saleh spent six years at Bauchi Middle School for his secondary education, that is, from 1944 to 1949. Similarly, based on the findings of this research, the researcher found out that the present emir of Katagum, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir Umar and late Alhaji Abubakar Umar Walin Bauchi were among Aminu's classmates at Bauchi Middle School.

Similarly, Aminu Saleh attended the Clerical Training College Zaria in 1950, and there too, his classmates include: the late Emir of Daura Alhaji Muhammad Bashir and the Emir of Nassarawa Alhaji Rulwanu. Therefore, six months after the completion of his clerical training, in 1956, he attended a course and successfully completed and finally obtained a Diploma in N.A Treasury Accounting. He was in 1957 attended a top Management course in the University of Wisconsin, USA, and on his return he enrolled in a five year evening degree programme in Economics in the University of Lagos, a course he continued with to the last year of the degree programme in 1967, but had to withdraw from the University purposely on security advice not to drive in the night outside Ikoyi, and soon after his appointment as secretary to the War Cabinet. The Head of the Department, in his reply to his letter of withdrawal from the university, hopes that Alhaji Aminu Saleh would have time to come and conclude the degree course. However, the workaholic of Alhaji Aminu Saleh could not spare the time to attain this academic achievement.<sup>10</sup>

## **Conclusion**

This chapter traces Aminu Saleh's family origins, his birth, educational career and his life particularly at Bauchi Middle School. Other things discussed in the chapter are his early working career in the Native Authority and some the courses he attended at the Institute of Administration Zaria in 1950s as well as the postgraduate diploma he obtained in the University of Wossinco United State

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>A, Saleh (2004), *The History ofWamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. Pp. 8-9.

<sup>2</sup>A, Saleh (2004), *The History ofWamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. Pp. 9.

<sup>3</sup>A, Saleh (2004), *The History ofWamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. Pp. 10.

<sup>4</sup>A, Saleh (2004), *The History ofWamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. Pp. 11.

<sup>5</sup>A, Dafuwa M. O. Discussion at his resident Kofar Gabas Azare, on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

<sup>6</sup> A, Saleh (2005), Aminu Kano *Mashahurin* Malami. Kano: Benchmark Publishers Limited.p. 5

<sup>7</sup> A, Saleh (2005), Aminu Kano *Mashahurin* Malami. Kano: Benchmark Publishers Limited.p. 5

<sup>8</sup> A, Saleh (2005), Aminu Kano *Mashahurin* Malami. Kano: Benchmark Publishers Limited.p. 5

<sup>9</sup>Interview with Alhaji Muhammad Bello Kirfi at his residence Maitama Abuja 5-Jan 2019

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **ADULTHOOD, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

#### **3.0- Introduction**

This chapter examines the family background, adulthood, marriage and family life of late Aminu Saleh. It starts with brief discussion on the coming of his forefathers into the Katagum Emirate during the reign of Malam Ibrahim Zaki and the emergence of ninth Emir of Katagum Abdulkadir III who influenced the rising of Aminu Saleh's family in the palace. The chapter further examines the establishment of BadalaQuarters as the first settlement of the arriving Emir and his entourage at Azare. It finally concluded by tracing the Adulthood, marriage and family life of Alhaji Aminu Saleh.

#### **3.1 The arrival of Goni Family at Katagum**

In chapter one, it was said that Sheik Usman Fodio gave a nick name to Malam Ibrahim Zaki as Sarkin Bornu. The reason for giving him that nickname was that Malam Ibrahim was asked by the Sheikh to carry the war to the neighborhood of Birnin Ngazargamu in 1807 and he was able to occupy the capital. From 1808 to 1810, Malam Zaki led the second jihadists expedition to Ngazarganu. It was during this attack that he stayed in the Birni for about six months and when he decided to return to Katagum, he came along with Goni Mohammad, one of the prominent Malams of the then Shehu of Bornu.<sup>1</sup> Goni decided to leave Ngazargamu because of peace instability.

On reaching Katagum, Goni Mohammad preferred to stay away from the palace and hence he settled six miles away along the Katagum Makwa old road in a place he called Rano. He had chosen the place because in those days Islamic scholars usually stayed away from worldly life. He

was later called and remembered as Malam Ranoma. He regularly visited the palace in order to retain a cordial relationship with the emir. This was the first movement of the Goni family from Ngarzagamu to Katagum. After becoming satisfied with the new place, he sent a message to the remaining members of his family to come. It should be noted that this was all happening during the period of wars for territorial expansion and retaliation when all the areas within the zone had no peace and stability. So, movement from one place to another took more time. It took four years between Goni's arrival in Katagum and the coming of the remaining members of his family in 1814. This team of Goni Muhammad's family comprises his seven brothers. Their names as provided by Wambai Salihu's archives are:

1. Muhammadu Liman
2. Abdulkarim
3. Liman Musa
4. Abdu Liman
5. Abdullahi
6. Abdulkadir
7. Mohammad Babagana.

They all came from the same parents. It was because of the large numbers that they first settled at Gurbi Katagum and from there they moved to Katabji then to Azamra and finally settled in Kadabda. Wambai Salihu was able to write down their names and all their children, both female and male. Malam Wambai's uncles and aunts were found in his archive in his handwriting. The record shows that their descendants can be traced to the valleys of River Walai, River Katagum and Burari Dukku in present-day Gombe State.<sup>2</sup>

Mohammad Goni Ranoma being the head of the family had a son called Bulama, who moved from Rano to Madupa where he built a farm house in Kadabdu. In his search for a permanent home he roamed in the region. It was during one of such movements that his last son, Salihu, was born in 1895, making his children fifteen. Wambai Salihu wrote their names and they are as follows:

**Table one:the names of Bulama'sChildren**

S/N	NAME	SEX	S/N	NAME	SEX
1	Alauwa	Female	9	Kellu	Female
2	Gurgiri	Female	10	. Gaji	Female
3	Fanata	Female	11	Almaran	Female
4	Malam Mammadu	Male	12	Baba Gana	Male
5	Lafiya	Female	13	Bututu	Female
6	Mammadu	Male	14	Salamatu	Female
7	Mammadu Gana	Male	15	Salihu	Male
8	Mamman	Male			

**Source:A, Saleh, (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum: Alhaji Salihu Muhammad (1895-1970)*. Kaduna: Vintage Printers**

After the birth of Salihu, the mother and the son were moved to the palace of Sarki Muhammadu Hajji (The eighth Emir of Katagum). When Bulama returned from his adventure, he was told that his wife had given birth to a baby boy and his name was Muhammadu Salihu. He went and sought for permission from the Emir that he had found suitable place called Walai near Gadau and he was permitted to go. But already Salihu was accommodated in the palace in the same place with

the other children of his age group. The children included Abdulkadir, Galadima Mammadu, Zagi Baganami and a female, Baba Kuikai. They were all between the ages of five to ten years.

Abdulkadir (a prince) was the oldest among them and was appointed the Emir of Katagum in 1909. He became the ninth Emir of Katagum at the age of twenty two after the death of his father, Emir Mohammad Haji (the seventh Emir of katagum). He was presented with the staff of office by the colonial Governor Mrs. Frementaleon 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1910.<sup>4</sup>

On coming to the throne at a young age, he introduced many useful changes, encouraged delegation of authority and simplified procedures. He was not like those that covered their limitations by relying on a rigid exercise of authority. He had the courage to invest in his vision.

After he was presented with the staff of office, the Assistant Resident, Captain Frementale, made the following address,

*I am full of hope of the young Emir, who is full of vigor and interest, is of good character, intelligent and well educated, possess plenty of dignity (which is necessary for Katagum discipline) and altogether promises I think exceedingly well*

The Emir's relationship with Salihu continued to become very strong. As a result of this, Salihu held many traditional titles during the reign of Sarki Abdulkadir, such as Dan'iya, Dawaki and finally Wambai. It should be noted that the title of Wambai is given to people very close to the Emir. That is why Galadima Mammadu and Salihu were appointed by Sarki Abdulkadir one after the other to serve as Wambai. They all lived with the Emir since 1899.

Galadima Mammadu was elevated to the title of Galadima and Muhammed Salhiu to Wambai and served till the retirement of Sarki Abdulkadir in 1947. Wambai Salihu in his archive gives the

names of those who held the title of Wamban Katagum as recorded in a 40page book written by hand in Arabic on the list of the Katagum dynasty and their names:

1. Wambai Mai Nasara
2. Wambai Atakuya Dan mai Nasara
3. Wambai Abu Jingim
4. Wambai Kurtuwa
5. Wambai Abdu Makam
6. Wambai Zulokim
7. Wambai Bor
8. Wambai Mammadu
9. Wambai Bappa
10. Wambai Aliyu
11. Wambai Salihu <sup>6</sup>

### **3.2The Movement of the Emirates Capital from Katagum to Azare**

It was after Sarkin Katagum Abdulkadir was presented with a staff of office by the colonial Governor on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1910 that all the district heads came and paid their homage to him in the palace at Katagum. Captain Fremantle was with him throughout this period. After being satisfied that the newly appointed Emir was fully accepted in the Emirate, Captain Fremantle came up with the proposal that the capital of the Emirate would be transferred to Azare for administrative convenience. Sanitary officers were sent to Azare to see its appropriateness for habitation. They reported that the area was a more central place in the Emirate of Katagum, and was free of flies

and swamps. The capital was, therefore, transferred to Azare in 1916. One of the most significant issues on this transfer was the abandonment of the traditional homeland, which to the Emir was very important because it was the establishment of his forefathers who had been buried there. But Emir Abdulkadir could not make any effort to refuse the proposal being under the mercy of the Colonial Government.<sup>7</sup>

It should, however, be noted that the transfer did not take place at once. In other words, not everybody left Katagum for Azare at the same time. It should also be pointed out that not everybody in Katagum joined the movement. The transfer was the exclusive affairs of the Emir and his courtiers. There were no definite routes that were planned to be followed. At the onset of the movement, the entourage first followed the area south-east and stationed themselves at Kore, not more than five kilometers away from Katagum. They spent a period of six months before moving to Gadiya. At Gadiya, they spent a longer time of about eight months and the problems of drinking water pushed them out. The next station was further south to a village called Bulkachuwa in the Chinade district<sup>8</sup>. This place was positioned to the East of Azare. It was here that the final decision to move to Azare was reached. It was during the migration that some of the members of the entourage were left behind in the various stations (Zango) that were passed. In the middle of 1916, the final entry into Azare was effected and completed the first batch of the transfer.

Most of the people involved in the transfer could not obtain a better transportation system beyond horses, donkeys and some trekking, because it did not appear to have motor vehicles except the one used by the resident officer in the area at that time. At the time they arrived in Azare, the then Sarkin Azare (the District head) was in the person of Sarki Malumaye. The migrants were received warmly by the inhabitants of Azare. Not long after the arrival of Sarki Abdulkadir,

Sarkin Azare Malumaye was impeached for reasons not disclosed. In his place Sarki Halilu was made to act<sup>9</sup>.

### **3.3 The Establishment of Badala Quarters**

As earlier pointed out, the reception given to the immigrants was excellent. Immediate attention was paid to the building of a new palace for the arriving Emir and his entourage. The Emir directed Sarkin Azare to provide housing and land for farming to the migrants. The new acting District Head, Malam Halilu, provided the land and farm lands to the migrants and the land given to them was close to the new Emir's palace. It was known as Badala.

This Unguwar Badala was home to many close servants of the arriving Emir of Katagum Malam Abdulkadir III. In the western part of the quarters there were the homes of Makaman Katagum, Late Malam Alihussaini, the father of the current Makaman Katagum. According to respondents, Makama Hussaini served as Makaman Katagum for nearly sixty years. He said that he served all the three Emirs at Azare (Sarkin Katagum Abdulkadir, Sarki Umaru Faruq Abdulkadir and the current Emir of Katagum Alhaji. (Dr.) Muhammadu Kabir Umar) before he died in 1989<sup>10</sup>.

The next house was the home of Santali Lukuru, the grandfather of the current Santalin Katagum Magaji Dafuwa. His first son also served as Santalin Katagum between 1983 - 2014, the year he died, and was succeeded by his son, Magaji Dafuwa. According to the informant this Santali Lukuru came together with the Emir in his entourage and was first given the title of Sarkin Jeji before he was upgraded to the title of Santali in the 1930s. His house was later demolished during the reign of Sarkin Katagum Umar for the purpose of expanding Juma'a Mosque in 1975. That was the reason why his house was moved from Unguwar Badala to Unguwar Makafi in the southwestern area of Azare.

The next house was the home of the eldest son of the Emir of Katagum in the person of Sarkin Shira Muhammadu, the crown prince of the Emirate. He was later rejected by the colonial masters when his father retired from his position as the Emir of Katagum in 1947. His third younger brother, Umar Faruq, was chosen by the colonial masters because of his acquisition of western education at Nasarawa elementary school in Kano. His grandson, Ali Shira, is the current Village Head of Azare town since 1983-date<sup>11</sup>. The informant was not sure of the time he spent as Sarkin Shira and the time he died. He said all he could recall was that he was succeeded by his son, known as Sarkin Shira Muhammadu Dan Lawan. The next house was the home of Wambai Muhammadu Salihu who was father of Aminu Saleh. Before assuming the title of Wambai, he served as Dan-Iya, Dawaki and was later upgraded to the title of Wambai. His house is one of the biggest in the whole of Badala Quarters.

The next house to that of Wambai Salihu was the home of Malam Sharifuri Uban Malam Na Kofa. The informant said he had no much information about this family as most of the members died in their early age<sup>12</sup>. Then the southern part of the Badala comprise the home of Muhammadu Barwan Katagum, who was later appointed by the Sarkin Katagum Abdulkadir to serve as District Head of the Itas. He was there for all almost 37 years and was succeeded in 1970 by his son Abdullahi Tafida, who continued to serve till 1998 when he died and was succeeded by his third son, Tafidan Katagum Sagir Abdullahi who is still serving.

The next was the home of Galadima Abdullahi, who was later sent to old Katagum town to serve as its District Head by the Emir of Katagum Alhaji Abdulkadir III in 1940. The current District Head Galadiman Katagum Alhaji Usman Mahmood was among his grand children. In the eastern part, it comprises the houses of Zagi Baganami Sarkin Zagin Katagum and the Makama Zaloki.

Others were the houses of Sarkin Gadau Umaru and Lifdin Katagum Malam Ali. Not much was known about these people by the informants.

In the northern part of the Badala Quarters, there was the house of the Shamaki Dauda, the father of Shamaki Ali and that of Malam Sule Dan Abbo. Others were the homes of Alkali Bello and Sarkin Gadau Yakubu, the son of Emir of Katagum Abdulkadir. According to the informant, most of these houses were built through community work known as Aikin gayya. Each house would be completed by all the migrants before taking another. The Emir's palace was the first to be completed followed by that of Makama Hussaini being the most senior council member in the emirate.<sup>13</sup>

Badala Quarters therefore was and is still considered to be the Unguwar Bayin Sarki. That was why most of the prominent people of Katagum came from there. According to the informants, when colonial masters introduced Western education in the Emirate, most of the people were not willing to send their children. They considered it as the opposite of Islamic Knowledge as was the case in many northern parts of the country then. It was only the people from Badala Quarters that sent their children through the instruction of the Emir since most of them were his servants.

It was for this reason that the Badala residents were the first to produce Native Authority indigenous staff, teachers and veterinary staff. Among the Native Authority staff Muhammadu Aminu and Muhammadu Kabir rose to the ranks of Katagum Native Authority Treasurer and the senior councilor respectively. Malama Yagana was among the pioneer teachers at Azare elementary school. She also hails from Badala. Then Malam Abdulkadir Yelwa, the grandson of Muhammadu Barwa, served as a veterinary officer under the Native Authority in early 1950s.<sup>14</sup>

Many people from Katagum Emirate who emerged successfully in State and Federal Civil Service were mostly from Badala Quarters. Some of them included the Alhaji Abdulkadir Yelwa, who retired as the permanent secretary in Bauchi State. Malam Shekarau Umar also retired as permanent secretary. Alhaji Inuwa Abubakar Dattijo also retired as permanent secretary. Alhaji Babani Umar retired as permanent secretary and Dr. Talatu Barwa served as commissioner in the same Bauchi State, to mention a few.

Those who served in the federal civil service included the current Emir of Katagum that served as the minister of the first Republic Government and then (Dr.) Aminu Saleh who served as permanent secretary and minister as well as Secretary to the Government of the Federation. Alhaji Baba Umar and Engineer Sadiq Mahmood also served as the federal permanent secretaries. The former is the son of the Emir of Katagum while the latter happens to be the son of Galadima Abdullahi Alhaji Aliyu Hussaini who served as the Deputy Controller General of the Nigerian Immigration Service and Abdulkadir Dahuwa also rose to the same rank in the immigration service. The former is the grandson of Makama Hussaini and the latter of Muhammadu Barwa.<sup>15</sup>

Badala Quarters provided the first set of Professors in the Katagum Emirate because Professor Dauda Bagari and Professor Audu Ibrahim as well as the first female Professor in Bauchi State, Professor Gambo Laraba Abdullahi, were all from Badala. The former are the grandchildren of Shaamaki Dauda while the latter is the granddaughter of Muhammadu Barwa. 2016 is the year in which Badala Quarters completed its hundred years of establishment (1916-2016).<sup>16</sup>

### **3.4The Family Background of Alhaji Aminu Saleh**

It was after the completion of the Badala Quarters that most of the migrants who were bachelors started to get married. During this time in 1916, Malam Muhammad Salihu married one girl

called Hajja Hussaina and in the same year he married another wife called Zinaru. Malam Salihu again in 1926 married his third wife and 1918 married his fourth wife and their names were Sumai and Fatima (Umma Ayi).Hajiya Fatima, popularly known as Umma Ayi, was the mother of Muhammadu Aminu. Unlike her husband, she was born in Azare in 1913 in Unguwar Kafin Kuka. She had six children with Malam Salihu Muhaamad and five of them were male and one female. Muhammadu Aminu was the eldest among the six children of Hajiya Fatima. According to the informant, that was the reason why inside his family house they used to call him Yaya up to this time. Muhammad Aminu was the tenth child of Muhammd Salihu born in December 1933. In the Wambai Muhammad Salihu's archive, he was able to tabulate the names of the wives he married and all of his twenty six children with their dates of birth. The summary of it is as follows: <sup>17</sup>

**Table Two :Number of Wives of Wambai Salihu**

<b>Wife</b>	<b>Born in</b>	<b>Year of marriage</b>	<b>Years spent as spouse by 1951</b>	<b>No. of children by 1951</b>
Hajja Hussaina	1902	1916	35	3male 6female = 9
Zinaru	1906	1924	27	6male 1female = 7
Sumei	1908	1926	25	-
Hamila	1913	1927	23	5male 1female -6

**Source:**A, Saleh, (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum: Alhaji Salihu Muhammad (1895-1970)*. Kaduna: Vintage Printers

**Table Three: Number of Children of Wambai Salihu**

S/N	NAMES	YEAR	S/N	NAMES	YEAR
1.	Aishatu Dumba	1917	14	Hafsatu Mairiga	1933
2.	Mohammadu Aminu	1919	15	Saratu Filani	1934
3.	Abdulkadir	1919	16	Muh'd Mustapha	1935
4.	Amina Iya Babba	1921	17	Mohammdu Dahiru	1936
5.	Abdulkadir	1921	18	Usman Shehu	1937
6.	Mohammad Bappa	1923	19	Fatima Zara Kaka	1937
7.	Zainab Iya Karama	1925	20	Moh'd Mahmudu	1941
8.	Abdulkadir Yelwaji	1928	21	Moh'd Mustapha	1941
9.	Hadijatul Kubra	1929	22	Muhammadu Muhtar	1941
10.	Moh'd Aminu	1929	23	Sa'idu Waziri	1944
11.	Muhammadu Muhtar	1930	24	Rikayatu Sabuwa	1946
12.	Fatima Nanatu	1934	25	Fatima Hari	1946
13.	Maryamu	1934	26	Fatima Sadiya	1948

**Source:**A, Saleh, (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum: Alhaji Salihu Muhammad (1895-1970)*. Kaduna: Vintage Printers

It was among the above twenty six children that Muhammadu Aminu, the tenth child, emerged as the late Alhaji (Dr.) Aminu Saleh (CFR GCON) Wamban Katagum. He was sometime called Aminu II because the first Aminu died at an early age.<sup>18</sup>

### **3.5 His Marriage and Family Life**

There are various ways people perceive the definition of family. There have been so many observations made more than two decades ago that still prove that when used alone, the term

“family” is ambiguous. One scholar (Macrobbert) defined it as a relation whereby a husband, a wife and children live together<sup>1</sup>. Another scholar (Paul Wey) defined the term “family” as a relation that exists between husband, children and wife living together in harmony<sup>19</sup>. Another scholar (Smith Son) defined “family” as a relationship, which ties the people together living in the same house<sup>3</sup>. All the above definitions are ambiguous, instead of clarifying the problem of definition they only created confusion.

To avoid this confusion, Abdul Ati suggested an operational definition of the family as:

A special kind of social structure whose principles are related to one another through blood ties and own marital relationship and whose relatedness is of such a nature as to entail “mutual expectations” that are prescribed by religion, reinforced by law, and internalized by the individual.<sup>20</sup>

It was the practice in Katagum Emirate in the past that when a child attained the age of puberty the father took the responsibility to arrange a marriage for him or her in Katagum<sup>21</sup>. Aminu Saleh who was a devout Muslim wasted no time to according to the dictates of his religion establish a sound marital life. Realizing the role of marriage which served as a moral safeguard as well as a social necessity and having been fairly certain of his ability to meet the responsibility of marriage, he started to think on who to take as his spouse<sup>22</sup>. But then, a man’s first marriage was usually sponsored by his father or family head. At that time (i.e. 1949), he was already employed by the Katagum Native Authority as a clerical typist.

It was the Native Authority that sent him to go and further his education that made him enroll in the Institute of Administration, Zaria in 1950 where he obtained a diploma in 1951. After his graduation, he changed cadre to Assistant Treasurer. After he settled down, Aminu Saleh went

and informed his father that he had gotten a spouse and her name was Uwani. His father asked him about her family and he replied that she was the daughter of Malam Yusuf Nadabo of Bakin Kasuwa<sup>23</sup>. His father, Malam Salihu Wambai being a scholar told his son that he is going to conduct *Istihara* (seeking guidance from Allah) which he did in three days. He called Aminu and told him to go and choose another spouse but not Uwani.

According to the informant, Aminu spent more than three months without reporting to his father that he had chosen another spouse. After some time, Malam Wambai called him and said to him that he had chosen a spouse for him and that her name was Rabiya, the daughter of Wazirin Katagum, Alhaji Baffah. Rabiya, now Hajia Rabi, was married to Saleh in 1952 when he was twenty two years old by his father. Hence, the late Aminu became a family man<sup>24</sup>.

The late Aminu Saleh maintained a very peaceful marriage life with his wife, Rabi, up to 1958, when his father informed him that he had chosen a second wife for him. Hafsatu was the second wife his father chose for Aminu. She was the daughter of Alhaji Attahiru of Kafin Kuka at Azare. He married her (now late Hajiya Hafsatu) in 1958. Saleh was lucky because in most of the Hausa/Fulani areas when a person married another wife he usually faced trouble from his first wife. In his own case, the wives lived just like sisters, because the informant said that there was never a time when Rabi and Hafsatu fought each other or showed any sign of trouble among themselves.<sup>25</sup>

Saleh in 1962 when he transferred his services from Native Authority to the Federal Civil Service in Lagos went there with the second wife, Hajia Hafsatu because the first wife was having three children to look after. In order to maintain peace, Aminu Saleh normally took one wife to Lagos

for a complete one month. When he is coming to Azare for a week end he would drop the one who stayed in Lagos and go back with the one who was at Azare for another one month.

The first wife, Hajia Rabi, gave birth to her first son, Kabir, who was named after the best friend of his father, the present Emir of Katagum Alhaji (Dr.) Kabir Umar, in 1954. She subsequently gave birth to other eight children to Aminu Saleh making her children nine.

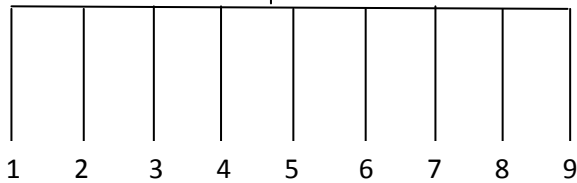
The second wife, late Hajia Hafsat, gave birth to five children. Like the first wife, her first born was a baby boy who was named after Sheikh Ahmad Tijjani, as his father was a members of the Tijjaniyya sect. She later gave birth to four other children making her children five. Below is a tree of Aminu Saleh's family<sup>26</sup>.

**AMINU SALEH'S FAMILY**

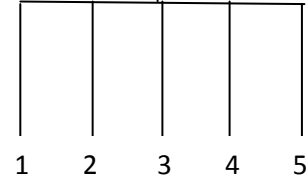
AlhajiAminu Saleh

Hajia Rabi

HajiaHafsatu



1. Kabir
2. Ibrahim (now-late)
3. Lami
4. Abbati
5. Sagir
6. Ladidi
7. Fatima
8. Maijidda
9. Bello (now-late)



1. Tijjani
2. Attahiru
3. Ummi
4. Abdulkadir
5. idris

Male 23

Female 30

Aminu Saleh realized that children were the joys of life as well as sources of pride and strength and, for that he did not neglect the education of his children. He gave the necessary training to them in order to inculcate in them good behavior through which they could be men and women of honor in both their words and deeds. He made sure that all his off-springs were trained in the Islamic and Western types of education. He was as well made sure that one did not suffer at the expense of the other. Aminu Saleh insisted on good behavior from his children and taught them to be kind, loyal, sympathetic, law-abiding, honest and noble in action<sup>11</sup>. Realizing that children normally imitated their parents in all ramifications, Aminu Saleh laid down an exemplary life worthy of emulation. Deliberate misbehavior never passed unpunished. For example, when his son Abbati was sent to England to pursue his first degree he refused to pay attention to his studies. That led to his withdrawal from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. Aminu Saleh never paid anything for him to study again<sup>27</sup>. The punishment varied from offence to offence. He never allowed social engagements to prevent him from carrying out his primary assignment to his family.

In addition, he provided all the social and psychological needs like affection, love and economic needs for the family, such as clothing, good shelter and food. All his children attended public schools like Central Primary School, Azare and Government College Keffi. While they were attending Western Education, they were made to pursue Islamic Education. Many of his children graduated in Nigerian Universities like Engineer Kabiru Aminu Saleh who graduated in Ahmadu Bello, University Zaria, together with his friend late President Umar Musa Yar'adua.<sup>28</sup>

As a family man, Aminu Saleh always accommodated and usually liked his children to be around him. According to the informant, he had many family responsibilities<sup>29</sup>. His relatives at home heavily relied on him. Above all, despite his position in the society, Saleh did not distance himself

from his poor relatives. He always interacted with them. His simplicity made him build his house close to their main family house and not in the GRA<sup>30</sup>

As a result of his simplicity, he always sat together with downtrodden members of his society. According to the informant, Aminu Saleh stayed with his old friends always who were mostly ordinary people like the late Alkali Tukura, Malam Dafuwa M.O., Malam Sidi and Hakimi, his first driver. Others were Malam Shehu, his domestic servant, Malam Chiro, his butcher, and Malam Najigayi his Messenger. He said you could only see high profile people when they visited him at his home occasionally.<sup>31</sup>

### **Conclusion**

This chapter examines the family background, adulthood, marriage and family life of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh. It discusses briefly the coming of his fore fathers into the Katagum Emirate during the reign of Malam Ibrahim Zaki and the emergence of the ninth Emir of Katagum Abdulkadir III who influenced the raising of Aminu Saleh's family in the palace. The chapter further examines the establishment of Badala Quarters as the first settlement of the arriving Emir Abdulkadir and his entourage to Azare. It also discusses extensively the marriage and family life of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh. It has been the practice in Katagum Emirate in the past that when a child attained the age of puberty the father took the responsibility to arrange a descent marriage for him or her in Katagum. Aminu Saleh who was a devout Muslim wasted no establish a sound marital life. Throughout the years of his marriage, he maintained a very peaceful marriage life with his wives and enjoyed a decent family life.



## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>A. Saleh(2004),*The History of Wamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers.

<sup>2</sup>A. Saleh (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. P.9

3A. Saleh (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. P.10

<sup>4</sup>A. Saleh, *The History of Wamban Katagum*.....P.11

<sup>5</sup>Kano Province Report, 1910 SNP/7/951/1911. By H.R. Palmer Assistant Resident. pp. 24-281

<sup>6</sup>A. Saleh (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. P.13

<sup>7</sup>National Archive Kaduna, Divisional Correspondence Jacket. 196 P.1

<sup>8</sup>National Archive Kaduna, Transfer of Katagum Division to Bauchi Province. NO.55/1926/59.

<sup>9</sup>National Archive Kaduna, Provincial Correspondence Jacket.145 p.4

<sup>10</sup>Alhaji Bello discussion at Emirs palace Badala Azare 10-October-2016

<sup>11</sup>Alhaji Bello discussion at Emirs palace Badala Azare 11-October-2016

<sup>12</sup>Alhaji Akawu discussions at Emirs palace Badala Azare10-October-2016

<sup>13</sup>Alhaji Akawu discussions at Emirs palace Badala Azare11-October-2016

<sup>14</sup>Alhaji Yalwa discussion at his residence Badala Azare 13-October-2016

<sup>15</sup>Alhaji Yalwa discussion at his residence Badala Azare 15-October-2016

<sup>16</sup>A. Saleh (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad* (1895-1970). Kaduna: Vintage Printers. Pp.17-19

- <sup>17</sup>A. Saleh (2004), *The History of Wamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad (1895-1970)*. Kaduna: Vintage Printers. Pp.19-20
- <sup>18</sup>. S. O. Abdulrahman *the Biography of Alhaji Habib Raji Abdullah (1920-1982)* M. A Dissertation, Department of History Bayero University Kano 2000 p.11 5
- <sup>19</sup> S. O. Abdulrahman *the Biography of Alhaji Habib Raji Abdullah (1920-1982)*
- <sup>20</sup>S. O. Abdulrahman *the Biography of Alhaji Habib Raji Abdullah (1920-1982)*
- <sup>21</sup> A, Hussain (1989) Socio-Economic Transformation of Katagum Emirate.(1900-1960) p 62
- <sup>22</sup>Interview with Alhaji Abdulkadir Yelwa at his resident Badala on 4 March 2017 at Azare
- <sup>25</sup> Interview with Alhaji Sidi Bulala at his residence Kafin Kuka on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2007 at Azare.
- <sup>24</sup>Interview with Alhaji Dafuwa M.O at his residence Kofar Gabas on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 at Azare
- <sup>25</sup>Interview with Alhaji Abdulkadir Yalwa at his residence Badala on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at Azare
- <sup>26</sup>Interview with Alhaji Shehu on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the residence of Aminu Saleh
- <sup>27</sup> Interview with Engineer Alhaji Shehu on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the residence of Aminu Saleh.
- <sup>28</sup> Interviews with Engineer Kabir Aminu Saleh 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Bauchi
- <sup>29</sup>Interviews with Abdulkadir Aminu Saleh 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, at Azare
- <sup>30</sup>Interviews with Honorable Sagir Aminu Saleh 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at Bauchi
- <sup>31</sup>Interview with Alhaji Mustapha Saleh 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at B/kudu

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **AMINU SALEH'S CIVIL SERVICE CAREER, 1949-1984**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter focuses on the working career of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh. It also discusses how he joined the Katagum Native Authority and his transfer of service to the federal civil service. It further explains the various positions he held there before he was appointed as Secretary to the Government of the Federation under the Military Government of General Sani Abacha. It examines Saleh's transfer of service to the federal civil service in 1962 as Senior Assistant Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Finance, Lagos. He remained in Finance till 1968 when he was promoted to Deputy Permanent Secretary and transferred to the Ministry of communication in 1970. It also explores Saleh's working in the ministry up to 1973 when he was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture as Deputy Permanent Secretary. He worked there up to 1975 before he was promoted to the position of Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry and examines his working experiences at this ministry up to 1977 before he was transferred to Ministry of Communication. He worked in this ministry up to 1979 when he was transferred to the Ministry of Defence where he retired in 1984.

#### **4.1 Aminu Saleh in Katagum Native Authority, 1949-1962**

He completed his studies at Middle School in July 1949 and when he returned to Azare he was given the offer in Katagum Native Authority as a Clerical Typist. In 1950, the Native Authority sent him to Zaria Clerical College where he completed the course (certificate in Local Government Administration) in December 1951. Again, between 1952 and 1955 he returned to the Zaria Institute of Administration and obtained a Diploma in Native Authority treasury

Accounting. After getting the Diploma, his cadre was changed to deputy treasurer and by 1957 he was promoted to the Rank of Native Authority Treasurer<sup>5</sup>. Thus, when Alhaji Aminu Saleh became the Native Authority Treasurer in Katagum, he worked very hard in close consultation with top officers of Katagum Native Authority and restructured it completely, thereby renovating the existing departments of the NA and established some new offices which greatly contributed to the development of the Katagum Native Authority and made it possible to compete with other Native Authorities in northern Nigeria.

Similarly, the tenure of Aminu Saleh as Treasurer of the Katagum Native Authority was regarded as one of the best even by colonial masters and the emirate council. This is because Saleh came up with so many policies that greatly developed the treasury department more especially in Tax collections and the utilization of the funds. Aminu Saleh at one time served as officer in charge of salaries and he used to go to all the villages where the N.A had staff to pay them their salaries. He also served as the officer in charge of Jangali tax collection from all cattle markets in the Katagum Division. Due to his long stay as treasurer he was called and remembered as Ma'aji Aminu upto the late 1980's. Since the beginning of Katagum Native Authority in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Native Authority was using some old colonial building close to the Emir's Palace as its offices. But Saleh and Sule Katagum as treasurer and senior councilor respectively were able to construct the NA complex with over thirty new modern offices between 1957-1961.<sup>6</sup>

In 1961, when Sir Ahmadu Bello came to commission the new office, Aminu Saleh was asked to present the breakdown of the fund (Sule Katagum was already transferred to Lagos in 1959) used in the construction and the whole expenditure of the N.A. Saleh was able to present the report in such a way that the Premier became highly impressed. According to traditions, the Premier commended Saleh by saying that, though Katagum N.A. was among the best in Northern

Nigeria he had never thought it had sound officers like this. For this reason the Premier recommended that Aminu Saleh should be transferred to the Federal Civil Service in 1962.<sup>7</sup>

The researcher is of the view that the achievements of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh at Native authority in Katagum were the by-products of the activities and influence of Malam Aminu Kano when he taught Saleh a lot of things concerning the day to day public affairs. Malam Aminu taught Saleh some Islamic teachings in relation to human relationship and Saleh learned so many skills and experiences. Therefore, at Katagum Native Authority, Aminu Saleh used his experiences and reformed many departments and established some new offices for effective management activities. It was therefore Saleh's hard work and dedication that attracted Sir Ahmadu Bello the first and last Northern Premier when Saleh presented a report on the breakdown of the fund used in the construction and the whole expenditure of the Native Authority in such a way that the Premier became very impressed.

#### **4.2 Aminu Saleh in the Federal Ministry of Finance, 1962-1970**

Aminu Saleh was posted to the Federal Ministry of Finance as Assistant Senior Secretary. Saleh worked in this ministry under many seasoned Administrators, prominent among who was the late Alhaji Abdulaziz Attah, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Finance, who later served as Secretary to the Government of the Federation. He learned the skills of budgeting and many financial technicalities from him. This, therefore, helped him greatly in dealing with and managing the affairs of the ministry more effectively. This was because whatever task to be done in relation to budgeting and other financial works; Saleh used to ask Alhaji Abdulaziz Attah on how to operate or carry out such works and even when Attah left the ministry, Saleh maintained the skills he acquired from him and continued to learn more from his top administrators. This

condition made Alhaji Aminu Saleh a good administrator which was due to his ability to work side by side with his senior officers and the courses he attended both, abroad and in the country made Saleh one of the successful administrators during his civil service career.

In 1963 and 1967, Attah enabled Saleh to attend a management course in Newcastle University, United Kingdom and University of Wisconsin, United States of America where he obtained a post graduate Diploma in Economics. Saleh worked very hard in the Ministry of Finance for six good years. By 1968 he had attained the position of Deputy Permanent Secretary when Chief Obafemi Awolowo was heading the Ministry as a Minister.<sup>8</sup>

When Aminu Saleh was in the Ministry of Finance as Deputy Permanent Secretary he was assigned many responsibilities by the permanent Secretary, Alhaji Abdulaziz Attah. These included:

- i. Member, Board of Governors, Lagos Teaching Hospital, 1966 and 1967
- ii. Member, Governing Council University of Lagos, 1969-1970
- iii. Secretary of War Cabinet, 1967-1970.
- iv. Member, Board of Directors, Electric Cooperation of Nigeria (ECN), 1966-1970.

Saleh also served in various task force Committees as the Representative of the Finance Ministry. He also served as a board member of Central Bank and the Deputy Permanent Secretary involved in the process of drafting operational structures of Nigeria's Apex Bank, as well as the condition of service of its staff. He continued to serve in this ministry up to 1970 when he was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Communications in January of that year.<sup>9</sup>

### **4.3 Aminu Saleh in the Federal Ministry of Communications, 1970-1973**

Aminu Saleh was posted to the Federal Ministry of Communications in January 1970. He reported to the ministry in March 1970 due to the handing over processes. He came to the Ministry when his mentor the late Malam Aminu Kano was heading the Ministry as a Federal Minister of Communication. Engineer S.O Williams was the Permanent Secretary while Saleh was to deputize for him. Saleh came to this Ministry when the Nigerian Civil War ended and the Federal Military Government led by General Yakubu Gowon(1966-1975) had launched the three RS programme, i.e. Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. The Ministry had outlined a four point Agenda. Re-instating of Igbo workers of the Ministry, the establishment of telecommunication in the towns in order to increase land lines from five thousand to five hundred thousand, the establishment of communication training schools in the north and the sending of northerners to the Oshodi communications school in Lagos before new ones took off in the northern states, were all part of their work.<sup>10</sup>

Re-instating Igbo workers in the ministry of communication commenced in June 1970 when Malam Aminu Kano and Saleh went to Enugu and met the Military Administrator of the South East, Colonel Asika. They discussed all the issues and arranged the coming back of Igbo into the Ministry in Lagos for further action. According to tradition, the efforts of Malam, as the Minister and Abdulaziz Attah as the Secretary to Government of the Federation as well as Sule Katagum, the Chairman of Public Service Commission are really commendable, because they processed the reinstatement quickly and smoothly.<sup>11</sup>

The second programme of the Ministry was the expansion of telephone lines with an additional five hundred thousand (500,000) across the country.<sup>12</sup> Saleh and the Permanent Secretary

were asked by Malam Aminu Kano to come up with the administrative procedures in order to meet the target. One major problem identified was lack of Engineers, technicians and administrators that were to be employed before the take off of the program<sup>13</sup>. Because in the 1960's only the Oshodi Communication School remained to train engineers in the whole country. Northerners were not going there. For example, in 1969 only two northerners attended the school so also in 1970 when only one northerner went to that school. Most of the targeted towns that would be connected with the telephone lines were in the northern states. <sup>14</sup>It was Malam Aminu that told them what the United Kingdom did in the Second World War. When British Engineers were killed during the war, the United Kingdom introduced a crash program in order to produce engineers to replace the lost ones. He directed Saleh and the Permanent Secretary to go to the British Council at Victoria Island where they obtained the details of what United Kingdom did to overcome the shortage of its engineers during the war.<sup>15</sup>

With the ideas obtained from the British Council, northerners were sent to the Oshodi training school and a crash program was carried out in 1971. Fifty four northerners completed their studies. It was this arrangement that made the expansion of telecommunications across the country possible from 1971. Saleh learned a lot from the minister, who was already his mentor in the Middle School and the Permanent Secretary who was a Civil Engineer as well as seasoned civil servant. He continued in the Ministry up to 1972 when Aminu Kano was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Health and replaced him with Joseph Tarka. Saleh was later transferred to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in 1973.<sup>16</sup>

#### **4.4 Aminu Saleh in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, 1973-1975**

The transfer of Aminu Saleh to the Ministry of Agriculture coincided with the period when the government was facing many critics for the neglect of agriculture because of oil boom. The government planned to implement so many policies that would reform the erstwhile foreign exchange earner for Nigeria. One of the policies in the Ministry was to mechanize agriculture from its crude and old form to a modern way of production. He also led the Nigerian delegation on a food and agricultural organization (FAO) visit to Bulgaria 1974. It was during the period that the Federal Government implemented the establishment of Agro allied companies across the country and then a Veterinary Research Institute, Vom, in the present Plateau State.<sup>17</sup>

Although their tenure was regarded as the worst in the early history of Nigerian Government that shows non commitment to the agriculture which was the sector that contributed greatly to the economy of the country before the oil boom that dominated the foreign exchange role of agriculture. Another factor that led to the sharp decline of agriculture in Nigeria was the mechanization of agriculture by industrialized nations of America and Europe. They used to produce a lot using machines which made them not to buy our agricultural raw-materials. That is why not much is known in the working career of Aminu Saleh concerning the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Saleh was in the Ministry up to 1975 as deputy Permanent Secretary. In July, 1975, General Murtala, after the overthrow of General Gowon's Government, Promoted Saleh to Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry in August 1975.

#### **4.5 Aminu Saleh as Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 1975-1977**

Saleh was posted to this Ministry when the Military government of General Murtala launched three programmes in the Ministry. These programmes were:-

- Indigenization Policy
- Industrialization of Nigeria
- To split the operation of the Ministry, i.e. to divide it into two, Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Industry.<sup>18</sup>

The Indigenization policy was introduced on the advice of Chief Obafemi Awolowo when he was serving as the Minister of Finance in 1972. It was a policy that would make the Nigerian citizens control their investments more especially foreign ones, by sixty percent. According to Awolowo, multi-national companies were just exploiting Nigerians more especially in wholesale, retail and export trade. In order to arrest the situation, the Federal Government introduced the indigenization policy. Through the policy, each foreign investment must have to sell sixty percent of its shares to Nigerians. But the policy did not last because the government of General Gowon was too close to Western powers whose nationals owned and controlled most of the multinational companies. Another reason advanced was the suspicion from other Nigerians that Awolowo was just planning to enrich his Yoruba tribe, who mainly served as agents and became rich. Therefore, the policy was implemented these Yoruba agents were the people who may likely be favored by it.<sup>19</sup>

General Murtala again reintroduced the policy in 1975 when Saleh was in the Ministry at this time. According to tradition, Saleh said that it was his most trying period in his working career, because most of the Permanent Secretaries were sacked as a result of corruption allegations. They

were warned by the head of state to carry out their duty diligently. In another development, the foreigners were sending Nigerians to act as their fronts. Other Nigerians who did not meet the criteria were also trying to buy shares. These were the challenges he faced. He was able to handle the situation up to 1977 when he was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Communication.<sup>20</sup>

The third policy implemented was to split the Ministry into two, the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Industry. Therefore, another Permanent Secretary was sent to the Ministry. Saleh as the Permanent Secretary of commerce and the new Permanent Secretary in charge of Industry took their first step that every activity within the wall of a factory was under the Ministry of Industry, and every activity outside the factory was under the supervision of commerce. With this they were able to complete the splitting of the Ministry by the middle of 1977 which gave birth to the Federal Ministry of Trade and Federal Ministry of Industries.<sup>21</sup> Aminu Saleh was transferred to the federal ministry of communication from the ministry of trade in the last quarter of 1977.

#### **4.6 Aminu Saleh in the Federal Ministry of Communication, 1977-1979**

In 1970, when Saleh was in the Ministry of Communication there was a program by the federal government to increase telephone lines to 500,000 within the period of four years but in 1975 he was transferred to Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The programme was not fully implemented up to 1977 when he was transferred back to the Ministry as Permanent Secretary. Instead of 500,000 only 3,880 telephone lines were added to the existing ones.

Saleh having known the program, wasted no time in tracing the problems that hindered full implementation and so he continued with the policy. By the end of 1979, he was able, together with the Minister see that telephone lines had reached 241, 000.<sup>23</sup> Aminu Saleh and the minister continued with the establishment of communication training school in the north (Kaduna) which

they had already started under Malam Aminu Kano. After the completion of the school, many northerners would get admission and within a short period of time, a lot of people from the north became the employees of NITEL (Nigeria Telecommunication Limited).<sup>24</sup>

The second program of the Ministry was the establishment of 1680 additional post offices to the existing 720 across the country. Therefore, the Ministry was tasked with the establishment of those 1680 post offices to make them 2,400 from 1975 to 1980.<sup>25</sup> Saleh continued to work in this Ministry toward meeting these targets up to 1979 when he was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Defence after the first Executive President, Alhaji Usman Aliyu Shehu Shagari, took over power from the Military Government of General Olusegun Obasanjo on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1979.

#### **4.7 Aminu Saleh in the Defence Ministry, 1979-1984**

Aminu Saleh was transferred to the Ministry of Defence when it was given the task between 1975-1985 to modernize the Armed Forces. This program was designed not only to remove disabled soldiers from active service but also to reduce the Military population to a manageable size, which would be commensurate with armament growth. The intention in this regard had been to enhance the capability of modern military services. As the size of the military was being reduced, the types and number of military hardware had to be increased. The peace-time preparation for conventional warfare and Military demobilization had been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the acquisition of modern military equipment and facilities.<sup>26</sup>

The Nigerian Army planned to shift its emphasis from the infantry to armour units on account of the overriding significance of long range fighting in modern conventional warfare. The Nigerian Navy and Air Force similarly embarked on the large scale acquisition of sophisticated weapons,

equipment and facilities. The outcome had been a formidable tri-service complex of the armed forces.<sup>27</sup>

As the modernization of the armed forces continued, existing Military Training Institutions were to be upgraded and expanded. By 1985, the Nigerian Defence Academy was upgraded to the status of a University in order to fill the manpower gap, which existed in the Nigerian Armed Forces.<sup>28</sup> Aminu Saleh was also able to upgrade the Command and Staff College Jaji. The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies at Kuru, Jos was established in order to provide Military officers with high level instructions on crucial national policy issues. By 1983 Saleh was able to achieve most of the above policies, because modern military hardware was supplied in a considerable number. The Defence industry was also improved to the extent that it started to produce the needed simple arms and ammunitions.<sup>29</sup> Aminu saleh retired in this Ministry in July 1984 after putting full thirty five years of civil service.<sup>30</sup>

According to General Yahaya Domkat Bali Saleh was a good civil servant because most of the files that he treated in were good throughout his stay in the Ministry of Defence. His briefs served as the hints on how the ministry was administered and it was his recommendations that gave us the blue prints which they used to go ahead with the task of serving the ministry at that period. The man had served as Permanent Secretary and Acting Minister. Therefore, he treated the files both as a minister and permanent secretary between 1979-1984<sup>31</sup>. He worked with two ministers Professor Iya Abubakar and late Akanbi Oniyangi. That was why during the Buhari /Idiagbon Military Government (1984-1985) Saleh was shortlisted among those who were to face trial in the Special Investigation Panel (SIP). According to the government, all those who served as Ministers in Shagari's Government must be taken to a Panel for interrogation and Saleh too

served as acting Minister, hence he became enlisted, but he did not appear before the panel based on the reason that he was not screened by the senate for Ministerial appointment<sup>32</sup>.

Aminu Saleh was one of the good civil servant ever produce in northern Nigeria and the country at large. According to Tanko Yakasai he came to know Saleh since 1954 when he visited Azare for the purpose of alliance between NEPU and KPU Katagum progressive union. Although he was very close to his elder brother Engineer Yalwaji Saleh, but he maintained a very good relationship with Aminu Saleh up to the time of his death.<sup>33</sup>

According to Alhaji Aminu Dantata he knew Aminu Saleh for quite long time but he came closer to him when Saleh was appointed Minister of Industries during the Military regime of General Babangida in June, 1993. Though what transferred between the duo was not favourable therefore he dose't want to discuss it since Saleh has already passed away.<sup>34</sup>

According to General Muhammed Wushishi they worked together with Aminu Saleh in the Ministry of Defence when Saleh was posted to served as permanent secretary in the Ministry. They maintained a cordial relationship since when they were in government as both of them retired in the same year 1984.<sup>35</sup>

Alhaji Muhammed Bello Kirfi says that his relationship with Aminu Saleh dated back to 1940s when they were in Bauchi middle school. They continue with their friendship up to the time when they worked in the second republic government of Shehu Shagari from 1979-1983. As a result of their closeness each had renamed his son with his friend name.<sup>36</sup>

According to Engineer Habu Jajere he came to know Aminu Saleh since when he was very young, this is because Saleh use to visit his father late Adamu Jajere in the late 1960s. he was very closed to his father this made our family to become very close up to the time when his father

Jajere died in 1987. Saleh inform us we shall continue to come to him whenever we had any problem and this continue up tp the time of his death in 2015.<sup>37</sup>

#### **4.8Conclusion**

This chapter discussed extensively the early working career of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh under Native Authority in Bauchi State as a clerical typist in 1949 and a few years later, he was promoted to the rank of treasurer under Native Authority, Azare. It also examined the transfer of his service to the Federal Civil Service in 1962, which was recommended by Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sardauna of Sokoto. It also traced the positions that Aminu Saleh held in the Federal Civil service from his first posting as Senior Assistant Secretary to Deputy Permanent Secretary in 1968 when he was in the Federal Ministry of Finance. It further dwelled some vital information on Aminu Saleh's relations with members of the Ministry of Defence where he served for some year. The chapter captured his transfer from finance to communications and his working relationship with his mentor in the Ministry.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Citation on Late Aminu Saleh, on the Occasion of the Award of Doctorate Degree by Abubakar Tafawa University, Bauchi 2002

<sup>2</sup> Interview with Alhaji Abdulkadir Yalwa at his Residence Badala Azare 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Alhaji Abdulkadir Yalwa

<sup>4</sup> Profile of Late Aminu Saleh. Prepared by himself (October 2012)

<sup>5</sup> Profile of Late Aminu Saleh.

<sup>6</sup> Saleh, A. (2005) Aminu Kano the Great Scholar Replaction by One of His Student p8

<sup>7</sup> Saleh, A. (2005) Aminu Kano the Great Scholar P8

<sup>8</sup> M. O. Kayode and Y. B .Usman,(1989), Nigeria Since Independence. Heinemann Education Books, Nigeria Limited.

<sup>9</sup> Saleh, A. (2005) Aminu Kano the Great Scholar P.8

<sup>10</sup> Profile of Late Aminu Saleh. Prepared by himself (October 2012)

<sup>11</sup> Saleh, A. (2005) Aminu Kano the Great Scholar. P.9

<sup>12</sup> Citation on Late Aminu Saleh, on the Occasion of the Award of Doctorate Degree by Abubakar Tafawa University, Bauchi 2002

<sup>13</sup> M. O. Kayode and Y. B. Usman (1989) PP.148-149

<sup>14</sup> Address by Aminu Saleh at the Inauguration Dinner of New Executive Committee of Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE Bauchi Branch); 31<sup>s</sup> March, 2007

<sup>15</sup> J. Danladi (2015), The History Kantin Kwari Market. M.A. Dissertation Bayero University Kano.PP.67-68

<sup>16</sup> Interview with Alhaji Abdulkadir Yelwa at resident Badala Azare. 25 Feb.2017.

<sup>17</sup> Address by Aminu Saleh at the Inauguration Dinner of New Executive Committee of Nigerian Society of Engineers NSE Bauchi Branch. (31th March 2007)

<sup>18</sup> N. Tamuno and J. A. Atanda (1989) Nigeria since Independence. Heinemann Educational Books Nigeria Limited. P.148

<sup>19</sup> T.N. Tamuno and J.A. Atanda, (1989). P.149

<sup>20</sup> Saleh, A. (2005) Aminu Kano the Great Scholar p.10

<sup>21</sup> T.N. Tamuno and J.A. Atanda, (1989). PP.149.

<sup>22</sup> S.C. Ukpabi and T. N. Tamuno, (1989). Nigeria since Independence. The first 25 Years. Heinemann Educational Books Nigeria Limited. P.164

<sup>23</sup> S.C. Ukpabi and T. N. Tamuno, (1989). P.165

<sup>24</sup> S.C. Ukpabi and T.N. Tamuno, (1989). P.165

<sup>25</sup> S. C. Ukpabi and T.N. Tamuno,(1989u). P.165

<sup>26</sup> U.A. Ibrahim (2002), Pamphlet on the occasion of the Award of Doctorate Degree by the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. P.2

<sup>27</sup> U.A. Ibrahim, (2002). P.3

<sup>28</sup> Interview with Alhaji Muhammad Danbadami (Sa'in Katagum) at his resident Tudun Wada Azare. 27-Feb.2017.

<sup>29</sup> U.A. Ibrahim, (2002). P.3

<sup>30</sup> U.A. Ibrahim, (2002). P.4

<sup>31</sup> Interview with Chief Yahaya Dokat Bali at his The Ponzhi Tarok Palace Langtang North Plateau State on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

<sup>32</sup> Interview with Alhaji Auwabu Abdullahi at his residence Wuse Abuja on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

<sup>33</sup> Interview with Alhaji Tanko Yakasai at his residence ‘Yankaba on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

<sup>34</sup> Interview with Alhaji Aminu Dantata at his residence Koki Quarters on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

<sup>35</sup> Interview with General Wushishi at his residence number 12 Raba Road Kaduna on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

<sup>36</sup> Interview with Alhaji Muhammed Bello Kirfi at his residence Maitama Abuja on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

<sup>37</sup> Interview with Habu Jajere at his residence Bauchi Road Jos Plateau State on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **AMINU SALEH'S CAREER AS A POLITICAL APPOINTEE 1993-1995**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter focuses on Aminu Saleh's career as a political appointee from 1993 to 1995. It examines the position of Aminu Saleh as a Minister of Industries when he was appointed by former Head of State General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida in June 1993 and his appointment as Minister of Finance by Earnest Shonikan in 1993. It further examines his contributions and the reforms he brought for the development of the country, especially the First Nigerian Economic Summit of 1993 in which he actively participated and the foundation he laid down for a national fertilizer company of Nigeria phase II in Port Harcourt in August 1993. This was intended to supply Nigerian farmers with enough fertilizers at affordable prices. The chapter also discusses the various reforms brought by Saleh in the areas of fiscal and monetary systems, capital market, and debt management. It finally examines the appointment of Saleh to the position of Secretary to the Government of the Federation in 1994 by General Sani Abacha. The chapter discusses his achievements and reasons of his stepping down as SGF in 1995. After his retirement he was from time to time called to serve in different Committees such as Vision 2010, 1999 Constitutional Amendment and Arewa Consultative Forum

#### **5.1 Aminu Saleh as Minister of Industries, 1993**

It was revealed to the researcher that Alhaji Aminu Saleh was called back after his retirement to serve again as a political appointee by the government of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida towards the end of his regime in June 1993. He was appointed as the Minister of industries and in just three months, he was able to bring some reforms in his short stay in the Ministry. Among the reforms he brought were the hosting of the First Nigerian Economic Summit in 1993, which

brought leaders from both public and private sectors together in order to discuss Nigeria's economic problems and to formulate new strategies for sustainable economic growth.<sup>1</sup>

He also laid down the foundation of a National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria, phase II, in Port Harcourt in August 1993, in order to supply Nigerian farmers with enough fertilizer at affordable prices.<sup>1</sup> someone may wonder why Saleh as Permanent Secretary implemented many policies and at the same time when he became Minister he also formulated policies. The reason was that in the mid 1980's, the military government of General Babagida made Ministers to serve as the Chief Executive Officers of their respective ministries and not the permanent secretaries<sup>2</sup> One of the informants interviewed said that Saleh was a good civil servant who worked on the basis of the rules and regulations of civil service. This was why there was never a time when he encouraged his subordinates to violate due process. Whenever a memoir was brought to him, he used to tell the people concerned that they should make sure it was not against the laid down procedures. When they learned his principles they had never had any problem, and they learned a lot from him. Their relationship continued up to the time of his death and he even attended the informant's turbaning ceremony at Matakwen Kotagora in his home town.<sup>3</sup>

Another informant who worked with him in Ministry of Industries said that he had never seen a top government official who inspired him the way Aminu Saleh. He used to tell him that if he worked diligently he would learn a lot to the extent that whoever came to this Ministry must have to work with him. He was thinking that he is the only one that enjoyed this kind of positive relationship with Saleh, only to find out that every officer had a similar feeling. Because of this when he wrote a 284 page book titled "Strategic Planning for Higher Performance" he dedicated it to his mentor (Aminu Saleh).<sup>4</sup>

## **5.2 Aminu Saleh as the Minister of Finance, September, 1993.**

Aminu Saleh was appointed as the Minister of Finance when General Babangida handed over power to Chief Eanest Shonikan in August 1993. The Ministry of Finance was his first Ministry when he transferred his services from the Native Authority to the Federal Civil Service in 1962. Therefore, it was a homecoming to Saleh.<sup>5</sup> The government during his tenure came up with a new policy that the Nigerian Customs Service be transferred to the Ministry of Finance from Ministry of Internal Affairs, since it was purely a revenue mobilization service. Saleh as Minister did a lot in his efforts to improve the Ministry. He introduced reforms in the areas of fiscal and monetary systems, capital market and debt management.<sup>6</sup> One of the people who worked with him in this ministry noted that throughout his eighty days as the Minister of Finance Saleh always worked from morning to late evening due to the economic crisis they inherited from the past administration. He was busy trying to come up with new policies that would please Nigerians and at the same time he was the one acting as Vice to the Head of the Interim Government, Chief Eanest Shonikan. Among the top government officials the informant worked with he had never seen a hard working person like him. During that time it was Saleh who advised the government to import rice and *shadda* germents ie *shinkafar Shonikan* and *shaddar Shonikan* at affordable prices so as to ease the suffering of Nigerians at that time.<sup>7</sup> Saleh was the person who started to workout the actual amount that Nigeria owed the western World and found out that the greater part of the monies were interests and not the initial amount collected. It was later continued by the Kalu Idika Kalu and Anthony Anni who succeeded him as Ministers of Finance in the Government of General Sani Abacha (1993-1998).<sup>8</sup> Aminu Saleh was reappointed as Secretary to the Government of the Federation when General Sani Abacha took over power from Shonikan. Saleh

assumed the office of Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Head of the Civil Service.

### **5.3 Aminu Saleh as Secretary to the Government of Federation 1993-1995.**

Soon after General Sani Abacha took over the government from Ernest Shonikan in 1993, Saleh was appointed the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Head of Civil Service. He was able to discharge his duty effectively, as the office required a civil servant who at least reached the position of Permanent Secretary. For Aminu Saleh who served in the three different Ministries as Deputy Permanent Secretary and also served three different Ministries when he was promoted to the rank of Permanent Secretary, and became a “Super” Permanent Secretary as well as Minister in two Ministries the nation expected a high display of professionalism from him.<sup>9</sup> This expectation was met by Saleh because he was the brain behind the establishment of the Petroleum Trust Fund. He recommended that a person with clean record of service be given the task with Board members also as people with clean record of service.

He advised Abacha to appoint General Buhari, which he did. Saleh in the selection of the members advised Buhari to consider his mathematics teacher in the person of Malam Yahaya Gusau. He had taught Saleh Mathematics in Bauchi Middle School in the 1940's.<sup>10</sup> Saleh did a lot of things in the early days of General Abacha's Government which made him the most powerful Secretary to the Government of the Federation in the history of this nation.

He was seen by many people as a defactor Head of the Military Government because of the following reasons. Firstly, when one of the senior military officers in the person of Lieutenant General Oladipo Diya advised General Sani Abacha to allow the importation of rice which, according to him, could ease the suffering most of people in the country and at the same time

government would have huge amount of money through the collection of revenue. He further argued that banning the importation of rice was unrealistic.<sup>11</sup> However, Saleh was said to have changed the advice given by General Oladipo Diya due to the popular stand of many economic experts like Professor Aluko and many who felt that if the government could provide sufficient farm lands where rice could be farmed, the farmers would produce all the needed rice without importation. Saleh was also said to have argued that with the nation's favorable farming climate, large scale rice production programme could be embarked upon locally by government and his suggestion was accepted by the government.<sup>12</sup>

In addition, Diya had the upper hand because the issue was already included in the budget as read by Abacha. But Saleh then put to work his strong persuasive ability and got Abacha to change, at the last minute, government decision on the matter. This accounts for the last minute announcement by Anthony Ani, the acting minister of finance, of government's change of heart at his budget breakdown briefing two days after Abacha had read the budget in a nationwide broadcast.<sup>13</sup> This situation annoyed Diya and many other military officers and campaign was said to have started that "Saleh-must-go". Another issue that annoyed Diya was that Saleh single handedly announced the removal of Mr Kalu Idika Kalu as Minister of Finance. According to the Informant, Kalu refused to heed the call of Abacha twice and he (Abacha) complained to Saleh that he wanted to have the attention of Finance Minister but the man dodged him. On hearing this Saleh became annoyed and assured Abacha that he was going to deal with him. Saleh went ahead and called a press conference and announced the removal Mr Kalu and the appointment of Mr Anthony Ani immediately. All this happened without the knowledge of Diya and many top government officials.<sup>14</sup> He also promoted the classmate of his first son, Engineer Kabiru Saleh, from Director to the position of Permanent Secretary in the person of Alhaji Tukur Mani. The

informant said that one of the Directors in the ministry of Finance was sent to attend a course in the United States and his office became vacant and that made him to inform his friend Kabir Saleh who told his father (Aminu Saleh). After some days Saleh asked his son Kabiru to come together with Tukur Mani and they met him in the office. To their surprise Saleh gave him the appointment letter as Permanent Secretary<sup>15</sup>. Apart from this, the ministers also complained that Saleh treats them in the course of their assignment “as mere errand boys” and the ministers had never hidden their desire to have Saleh removed from office.<sup>16</sup>

It is very important at this juncture to analyze Alhaji Aminu Saleh’s dominance and overbearing influence on government affairs and as one of the major factors that made the ministers of the time to reject and oppose him. In addition, he mostly treat or consider some military officers as ignorant of government rules and regulation because he used to command them and direct them to perform certain duties which were virtually supposed to have been done by junior officers. This situation made many of the ministers discontented and annoyed and therefore began to plan on how Saleh should be removed from his position. It can therefore, be agreed that Alhaji Aminu Saleh had a strong personality and his closeness to the head of state General Sani Abacha made it possible for him to have influence and advice the government on certain issues.<sup>17</sup>

According to one of the informants, Saleh served the nation through different committees like the Vision 2010 and he was the chairman of committees of the civil service. Another committee in which he served was the 1999 constitution review and the member of Arewa Consultative Forum in the Central Working committee<sup>18</sup>. He left government with a lot of achievements. The interviewed informant worked with him and had a positive relationship until his death. Firstly, he left behind his strong believe and conviction that a civil servant is very important and should not be pushed around. It therefore, appeared that he had to his credit, the creation of a Ministry of

Solid Minerals, the seismic oil activities in Bauchi state and his allocation of plum jobs to indigenes of the state.

### **5.5 The Roles of Aminu Saleh towards the Transformation of Bauchi State and Azare Town**

Aminu Saleh believed in one thing which Mallam Aminu Kanou used to tell them that we are all Nigerians but everybody knows his father's house. *Dukan mu 'yan nageria amma kowa yasan gidan uban sa*. His strong belief in this advice by his mentor made him to bring many developmental projects to his State capital, Bauchi and Azare his home town. The projects included northeastern Territorial/Regional offices of Central Bank, Nigerian telecommunication limited (NITEL) and Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi. Others are Nigerian School of Amour, Zaranda Hotel and Federal Government Girls College Bauchi.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Federal Roads and Power Supply**

In his home town, Alhaji Aminu Saleh had actively participated and contributed in the construction of the first Federal Highway, which began from Kano to Azare in 1970 when he was a Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Finance. The shifting from rail transportation to road transportation by the Federal Government in the late 1960s led to the expansion and construction of many federal highways in all the states of the Federation. Aminu Saleh used his position by influencing the first federal road from Kano to Birnin Kudu to Yana and finally to Azare town. Saleh influenced the construction of the second federal highway from Dutse to Kiyawa to Jama'are to Azare in 1981. He also influenced the construction of a third federal road from Azare to Bulkachuwa to Dambar to Potiskum in 1983.<sup>20</sup> Aminu Saleh took over the state road from Misau to Azare to Katugum to Kwatalo and transferred it to the Federal Government in 1994. He influenced its general reconstruction through the Petroleum Trust Fund

(PTF) in 1995. In 2005 the federal government made a plan to dualise the Kano to Maiduguri road and the Senator representing Jigawa south, Ahaji Bello Maitama, convinced Federal Government to dualise the old Kano to Maiduguri road that passed through his home town, Gwaram. It was Aminu Saleh who wrote a letter to Federal Ministry of Works that the old Kano to Maiduguri Road has thirteen Bridges while the one that passed through Azare had only nine. He went ahead to say that the old road had about thirty three kilometers ahead of the one that passed through Azare. With this he was able to convince the federal government to choose the road that passed through Azare and the construction work is still on progress.<sup>21</sup> These federal high ways were the major developmental projects that shaped and transformed Azare. Therefore, the development of Azare town could be associated with certain infrastructures, which of course these federal high ways were the bedrock of all of them.

Similarly, Alhaji Aminu Saleh had greatly helped in the formation of a new Electrical Cooperation of Nigeria (ECN) mini sub-station in Azare in 1972 when he was deputy permanent secretary of the ministry of finance. It is pertinent to note that before this time, Azare had not been supplied with electricity. This situation made it impossible for Azare to rapidly develop in terms of commercial activities that needed electricity for effective businesses and the function of the ministries, which in turn could help the town of to be more developed. Secondly, this problem of electricity brought about fewer job opportunities to the people of Azare. This was because large and small scale industries used gas for running their activities and this meant that they could only employ fewer people due to the nature of the existing situation. The owners of small scale industries obtained little profits. Thus, Azare remained in this critical condition up to 1972 when Alhaji Aminu Saleh used his position and influenced the supply of electricity in the town, which could help in conducting many activities that had to do with electricity domestically and in

companies. Therefore, after several advice, suggestions and consultations with government on the need and importance of electricity generation to Azare, Alhaji Aminu Saleh had actively participated and became the major stakeholder in the process of establishing the Electrical Cooperation of Nigeria mini sub-station at Azare in 1972 when he was deputy permanent secretary of the ministry of finance.<sup>22</sup>

In addition, Alhaji Aminu Saleh had also contributed in the formation and citing of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in Azare with construction equipment in 1973 when he was Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance. This important development came to Azare due to the support and encouragement of the late Alhaji Aminu Saleh when he was working in the Federal Ministry of Finance. The establishment of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in Azare.<sup>23</sup> In 1974, Aminu Saleh was transferred to Federal Ministry of Agriculture as Deputy Permanent Secretary. In this ministry, he was able to construct and establish the ministry with offices and large stores. He also cited the Federal Forestry Division whereby more than five thousand trees were planted at Azare as well as the construction of an Agricultural Extension Workers Guest House.<sup>24</sup>

## **5.6 Telecommunication and Information**

Alhaji Aminu Saleh influenced the establishment of Nigerian Telecommunication (NITEL) in 1977 in Azare when he became Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication. When the Federal Government, through the fourth National Development Plan, wanted to increase the telephone lines from 25,000 to 500,000 across the country, Saleh used his position and established NITEL at Azare. He therefore became fully committed on the struggle to ensure that Nigerian Telecommunication was established in Azare, which could help to move his own home town

forward and also provide job opportunities to his own people. It is important at this juncture to note that the then Federal Government of Nigeria under General Olusegun Obasanjo (1976-1979) initially suggested that the facility had to be located somewhere else because Azare town had got many government projects and for this reason there was no need to do that project in Azare.<sup>25</sup>

Alhaji Aminu Saleh had also influenced the establishment of the Federal Radio Monitoring Station in 1977 when he was Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Communication. This Monitoring Station is a new modern security outfit that intercepts the frequency of both international and local radios, especially during a coup d'état. As a permanent secretary, he realized the significance of this establishment in his home town, and that a lot of advantages would be derived by his people. The location and establishment of this Radio Monitoring Station caused a lot of criticism from Misau people asking why were most of the government projects were executed in Azare? They maintained that other government projects had to be carried out in other local government areas of Bauchi state. Azare was not the only local government of Bauchi state. However, this did not stop Alhaji Aminu Saleh from his efforts of bringing many Federal Government projects to his hometown. This and many other achievements brought to Azare by him made him be regarded as one of the most respected persons in Azare. Aminu Saleh also influenced the establishment of the Nigerian Postal Service at Azare (NIPOST) in 1977 when he was Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Communication. He did this when the Federal Government was implementing the Fourth National Development Plan, whereby 2,400 post offices were to be added to the 720 existing ones across the country. Therefore, Aminu Saleh seized the opportunity and established the Azare Post Office, so as to make his people among the beneficiaries of this important development. It is important at this juncture to note that, apart from establishing all these government organizations at his home town, he used to make sure that

construction and supplies were given to the contractors from Azare. The constitutional provision that whenever an organization is cited in an area, sixty percent of the junior staff must be employed from that place is maintained by Saleh in order to see that his people joined the working population.<sup>26</sup>

Another important area in which Alhaji Aminu Saleh contributed towards the development of the Azare town was in the field of media. He greatly contributed and participated in the establishment of the National Television Authority (NTA) in 1978 when he was a member of the Task Force Committee on Information and Culture. It was maintained that Aminu Saleh was the leading contributor, motivator and participatory agent of this important development to Azare. He was aware of the significance of media to the people, as it brings consciousness and awareness to them, especially as regards their basic rights and freedom. It also makes people aware of government's day to day activities. By so doing, people would continuously be progressive. Having realized this, he set up a committee of surveyors and Engineers who were basically from Azare and this committee was credited with the responsibilities of finding out a suitable place where the National Television Authority could be established. Members of the committee were also expected to have a clear and precise measurement of the proposed area. It was after passing through all these stages, that Alhaji Aminu Saleh presented the proposed area to the then Federal Government for the construction of this first television station in Azare town. Thus, a few months after the submission of the proposal, the Federal Government of Nigeria directed the building of the National Television Authority Station in Azare.

It is important at this juncture to mention that the above development which Azare witnessed was a result of the Federal Government's interest to locate and establish the National Television Authority in Azare. Secondly, Alhaji Aminu Saleh used his position as a member of the Task

Force Committee on Information and Culture to advise the government on the need and importance of the National Television Authority to be established in Azare. At the same time, this new NTA station located in Azare would be of great relevance to the indigenous people there because it would provide job opportunities to many people. This therefore, made it a duty and responsibility for the late Alhaji Aminu Saleh to work hard and do everything possible to ensure that that development was witnessed and experienced in Azare town. In the final analysis, the struggle for achieving this aim became possible.<sup>27</sup>

### **5.7 Industrialization of Azare Town**

Similarly, in the field of industrialization, Alhaji Aminu Saleh had been the pioneering figure for the establishment of the meat factory at Azare. The company was established in various cities such as Lagos, Ibadan, Niger and and towns with the responsibility of keeping meat in cleaned environment or (frozen).The company was also set up by the Federal Government in order to control the selling of decayed meat by Nigerian butchers. Another company which was set up during the of Aminu Saleh at Azare is Zaki Flour Mills Company, a joint venture between the Bulgarian and the Nigerian Governments. The idea of establishing it was part of Federal Government's Plans of implementing the industrialization policy. The third company located at Azare when he (Saleh) was permanent secretary of the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industries was Azare Milk Company, which was a joint venture between a Canadian Dairy Firm and the Nigerian government. Saleh and his brother late Engineer Abdulkadir Yalwaji Saleh established a construction company known as Mansa Constuction Company in 1978 at Azare. He also established a chalk industry and pure water at Azare in 2005. This development witnessed by Azare was a by-product of Aminu Saleh's efforts, hardwork and his total commitment for the

progress and development of his own hometown, Azare. This is why many people of Azare considered Aminu Saleh as one of the most respected personalities up to this time.<sup>28</sup>

### **5.7.1 Security Organizations**

In another direction, the late Alhaji Aminu Saleh had greatly helped and contributed in the establishment of a Military Unit, the 233 Tank Battalion, in Azare in 1979 when he was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Defense during Shehu Shagari's government. After his transfer from the Ministry of Communication to Defence, he found it imperative to use his position and do something positive to his own hometown Azare, just like he did when he was serving in various Ministries of government and Parastatals. His coming to this ministry coincided with the government policy of establishing additional military barracks and battalions in order to keep out military officers from the civilian population.<sup>29</sup> Therefore, Saleh used this opportunity by choosing three towns from his state, comprising three emirates of Bauchi, Gombe and Katagum. In Azare, the 233 Tank Battalion was established, with over five hundred houses for both junior and senior officers together with their military equipment. Bauchi, being the state capital, the School of Amour was established while in Gombe the Infantry Battalion was established, all in 1980.<sup>30</sup> The construction of the military barracks started and were completed in the year 1982. Aminu Saleh influenced the establishment and construction of the Nigerian Police Force Area Command in Kano in 1982. Before this time the police were only using the charge office inherited from the Native Authority Police, but Saleh and the former Deputy Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Muhammad Danmadami who also hailed from Azare, presented their request to the Federal Government for the upgrade of the Azare Police Division to an Area Command. Their request was approved by the Federal Government in 1982 and the establishment and construction of offices in a story building and, new modern cells and senior officer's quarters

began in 1983 and completed in 1985. The Azare Prison was upgraded to become the Zonal Headquarters with well built quarters in 1994. The State Security Service (SSS) office and the Immigration Office were also established in 1996.<sup>31</sup>

### **5.7.2 Health Institutions and other Social Amenities**

Aminu Saleh influenced the upgrading of Azare's Dispensary to the status of a General Hospital through the construction of many wards between 1975 to 1980. But due to the high level of neglect on the part of the state government, all the departments were supervised by one medical Doctor, who was a Principal Medical Officer (PMO). The PMO is the chief executive officer in a general hospital and at the same time is the one that conducts all the operations brought to the hospital. Therefore, the service delivery was not effective at all. A lot of people used to suffer as a result of these problems. They were the reasons why the establishment of the Federal Medical Centre in 1995 under the chairmanship of the late Alhaji Aminu Saleh when he was Minister of Industries during Babangida's administration became possible. The establishment of the federal medical centre was done through the taking over of the General Hospital from the state government, so as to make its establishment as fast as possible.<sup>32</sup>

In the field of social amenities, the late Alhaji Aminu Saleh was able to connect Azare with pipe-borne water from River Jama'are to Azare in 1995 when he was the Minister of Finance in Shenokan's government. It is important at this juncture to make it clear that before this time; very small portion of Azare town had been connected with pipe-borne water for their domestic use. It was during the Shenokan's government that the idea of providing the whole town with a pipe borne water became possible through the effort of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh. This was because it was he who set up a committee for the purpose of supplying water to Azare through a contract

awarded by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in 1994. Initially, the project was designed to construct a Dam at Buskuri village that would supply Azare with pipe borne water and at the same time irrigation farming would be carried out by the people. But the project changed to supply water from River Jama'are and it was done by Gilmor Engineering and commissioned by Muktar Shagari in 2003. The supply of pipe-borne water to the entire Azare town had really changed the life of Azare's community from relying on wells water that had not been fully treated to a treated one. Many people now built their houses with water system toilets as a result of stable water supply in the town. This lucrative project was influenced by Aminu Saleh.<sup>33</sup>

Similarly, Alhaji Aminu Saleh had actively worked and participated in the establishment of a 33KVA power supply from Kumbotso to Azare in 1995 when he became Secretary to the Government of the Federation in Sani Abacha's government in 1995. It is pertinent at this point to note that supplying and generating power to human community is not an easy task for both the government and the beneficiaries, but Alhaji Aminu Saleh used various methods to ensure that power was supplied to Azare. In the first place, he gathered many recognized people of Azare, such as Alhaji Sule Katagum, Alhaji Abdulkadir Yelwa and Alhaji Muhammad Danbadami, to mention but just a few, and directed them to write and present their request to the then government for them to be supplied with power. Alhaji Aminu Saleh consulted and made constant follow up for the achievement of power supply to Azare. After various consultations, the Federal Government agreed and ordered the supply of power to Azare town. It is important at this juncture to analyze here that the supply of this 33KVA power line from Kumbotso to Azare was only achieved through the efforts, dedication and commitment of the late Alhaji Aminu Saleh. Today it has in one way or the other contributed immensely for the further development of Azare town; that is to say, this important achievement was a by-product of Alhaji Aminu Saleh's

efforts<sup>34</sup>. He also influenced the construction of Azare's Airport in 1993 when he was the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. When Saleh realized that one of the criteria for establishing the Federal Medical Centres in the federal executive council meeting was that a town must have an Air port. So he quickly ordered the construction of Azare's Airport along Misau Road, in 1993 so as to pave the way for the establishment of the Federal Medical Centres .<sup>35</sup>

### **5.8 Newspaper Comments on Aminu Saleh**

In the first instance, the Democrat of March 16, 1994 reported that Alhaji Aminu as the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and Mr. P. B. Watts the Managing Director of the Shell Oil Development Company Ltd were in Bauchi State for the purpose of oil exploration in the Gongola basement. It was a news item that gladdened not only the Bauchi and Gombe population but the whole northern people. In the paper, they commented and appreciated Alhaji Aminu's efforts as a hero who often stood for his people.<sup>35</sup> The Tempo of November 24, 1994 in the front page, Aminu Saleh "the man who rules Nigeria". The Daily Champion of January 12, 1995 reported that more facts had emerged on the decision of ASUU to return to class after striking for 160 days. The decision came after a fruitful meeting they had with Alhaji Aminu, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation.<sup>36</sup>

Similarly, in the New Nigeria Newspaper of May 1995 one: Davey. C. Aniakoh, in an article titled "Aminu Saleh- A beacon of hope" commented on an opinion sample which rated Alhaji Aminu "as one of the foremost committed Secretaries to the Government of the Federation this nation has ever produced. He is a man of guts who says what he means and acts in the same spirits".<sup>37</sup> Also, in the Abuja Times of May 3, 1995 when a writer Aniakoh was commenting on Abacha's achievement said that what began as a very difficult oligarchy crusade had now transformed into

an easy cruise in the ocean of leadership. He talked about Aminu Saleh, a career civil servant with a four decade of service record, who combined civil service experience and zealousness with administrative impetus.<sup>38</sup>

In addition, in a Sunday News paper titled New Nigeria of July 16, 1995 in their “Mystery Guest on Sunday”, the cartoonist described Aminu Saleh as a Katagum Mafia Commander, A Caliphate Medalist, Power House Controller and Bloody Civilian in a military boot. In Uncle Bola’s column, a famous weekly contribution in the Tribune, an article dated 6/8/1995 entitled “Aminu Saleh: MAN PASS MEN” talked about the prime time given to Aminu Saleh to comment on the 1995 draft constitution. He said that Aminu Saleh was one of the “most seasoned bureaucrats in this country. He knows his onions and he is not given to frivolities”.<sup>39</sup> The Tempo of September 28, 1995 noted that Alhaji Aminu Saleh was the most powerful civilian in Abacha’s government.<sup>40</sup>

The Guardian Newspaper of Sunday October 22, 1995 had a profile of Alhaji Aminu Saleh entitled “SULTAN OF ASO ROCK”, and said “the name of Alhaji Aminu Saleh certainly evokes different emotion for the extreme passion that he generates in public discourse, which seems disproportionate to his seemingly harmless image. Alhaji Aminu Saleh successfully created the impression that he was a crucial variable in the policy formulation and decision making process. He was no doubt a promoter of the interest of the caliphate.”<sup>41</sup>

History has shown that when Alhaji Aminu Saleh was in the Federal Civil Service, some Federal Permanent Secretaries were regarded as Super Permanent Secretaries. Thus, Aminu Saleh was considered to be one of those super permanent secretaries. For example, Dr. Mahmud Tukur in an article titled “We have weakness, we do make mistakes” published in NNN of 22/3/1994 made

reference to some Permanent Secretaries in the Federal Services in the time he called “ the heydays of the civil service” and one of those mentioned permanent secretaries was Aminu Saleh. It has been established in this research that Alhaji Aminu Saleh was a very hardworking person and very devoted to his work. This made him have respect and popularity from his colleagues.<sup>4</sup>

## 5.9 Conclusion

The chapter focuses on Aminu Saleh's career as a political appointee from 1993 to 1995. It examines the position of Aminu Saleh as a Minister of Industries when he was appointed by former Head of State General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, in June 1993 and his appointment as Finance Minister during Ernest Shonikan's administration. It further examines his contributions and the reforms he brought for the development of the country especially the First Nigerian Economic Summit of 1993 in which he actively participated and the foundation he laid down for a National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria phase II, in Port Harcourt in August 1993, in order to supply Nigerian farmers with enough fertilizers at affordable prices. The chapter also discusses the various reforms brought by Saleh in the areas of fiscal and monetary system, capital market and debt management. It finally examines the appointment of Saleh to the position of Secretary to the Government of the Federation in 1994 by General Sani Abacha. The chapter has covered his legacies in government like the creation of the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals and the developmental projects he brought to Bauchi State and his home town *Azare*. Aminu Saleh did influence the citing of all the above mentioned projects in his state and home due to his stickiness of what Malam Aminu Kano used to tell them "Duk mu yan Nigeria ne amma kowa yasan Gidan ubansa." Saleh used to say that if you did not develop your town nobody will come from another place and do it for you. Therefore, he never regretted what he did to Azare, he instead advised government officials from Azare to make sure that they did something before their retirement.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Interview with A Dantata at his residence Koki Quarters Kano State.

<sup>2</sup>Addresses by the Governor of Bauchi State, Malam Isa Yuguda,

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Alhaji Abdullahi Ma'aji, Matawallen Kontagora, at his residence Kontagora, Niger State on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Mr. J.A. Ohaba at his residence Owerri Imo state on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

<sup>5</sup>Addresses by the Governor of Bauchi State, Malam Isa Yuguda

<sup>6</sup>Addresses by the Governor of Bauchi State, Malam Isa Yuguda

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Prince Adeyemi at his residence Abekuta, Ogun State on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

<sup>8</sup> Interview with Prince Adeyemi, at his resident in Abekuta, Ogun State on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

<sup>9</sup>Interview with Justice Dahiru Saleh, at his resident in Azare on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2017

<sup>10</sup>President Buhari's Condolence Speech on Aminu Saleh's Death 22 July 2015. In Daily Trust of 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015

<sup>11</sup>Tell Magazine, august, 13<sup>th</sup> 1994

<sup>12</sup>Tell Magazine, October 13th 1994

<sup>13</sup> Tell Magazine, December, 12<sup>th</sup>1994

<sup>14</sup>interview with Unice Abe at her residence Jabi, Abuja on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

<sup>15</sup> interview with Alhaji Tukur Mani Tafarkin Katsina at his residence Maitama Abuja on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

<sup>16</sup>Interview with Alh. Abdulkadir Yalwa at his Residence Azare 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

- <sup>17</sup>Tell Magazine, September 13<sup>th</sup>1995
- <sup>18</sup> Interview with Justice Mamman Nasir his Resident Malumfashi on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017
- <sup>19</sup>Tell Magazine, September 13<sup>th</sup>1995
- <sup>20</sup>Interview with Alh. Shehu at the Residence of Aminu Saleh 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- <sup>21</sup>Interview with Alhaji Azarema Saleh at his residence in Birnin Kudu, 19-December-2016.
- <sup>22</sup> Interview with Alhaji Isah Sevier at his residence Makara Huta Azare. 21-December-2016
- <sup>24</sup>T.N.Tamuno and S.C.Ukpabi.(1989) Nigeria Since Independence.The 25 Years. Heinmann Educational Books Nigeria Limited.p.167
- <sup>25</sup> Interview with Alh. Mustpha Yariman Katagum Emir Palace Azare, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016
- <sup>26</sup>Interview with Alhaji Muhammad Danbadami at his resident T/Wada Azare. 25-Dec.-2016.
- <sup>27</sup> Interview with Dr. Umar at his Office Federal Medical Center Azare, 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- <sup>28</sup> Interview with Water Board Manager at his Office 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- <sup>29</sup> Interview with PHCN Azare sub-station Business Manager 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- <sup>30</sup> Interview with Engineer Ibrahim Baba works Dept Katagum Local Govt.5-Jan.-2017.
- <sup>31</sup>Interview withZonal Manager Water Board Azare 6 January 2017.
- <sup>32</sup>The Democrat of 16 March-1994.
- <sup>33</sup>Tempo of November, 24-1994
- <sup>34</sup>Daily Champion of January, 12-1995
- <sup>35</sup>New Nigeria of May, 1-1995
- <sup>36</sup>Abuja Times of May, 3-1995
- <sup>37</sup>Sunday Paper of July, 16-1995
- <sup>38</sup>Tribune Paper of August, 6-1995
- <sup>39</sup>Tempo of September, 28-1995
- <sup>40</sup>Guardian of October, 22-1995
- <sup>41</sup>New Nigeria of 22<sup>nd</sup>March, 1994



## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **AMINU SALEH'S RETIREMENT YEARS AND DEATH, 1995-2015**

#### **6.0 Introduction**

This chapter focuses on Aminu Saleh's business life, religious and community services during his retirement years. It examines his business activities and discusses his roles in the construction of Azare Central Mosque and his contributions in the fields of Islamic education. The chapter also discussed the tijjaniyya brotherhood which he belonged to. It discusses his intellectual activities and his aristocratic life. It finally traces the death of Alhaji Aminu Saleh which was a great loss not only to his family members or Azare in particular, but also to Nigerians in general.

#### **6.1 Aminu Saleh's Business Career**

It was reported by some of the researcher's informants that in the days of his retirement in 1995, he concentrated on industrial activities and promoted the BRAMA Guarana soft drink company in Kaduna and the company grew very well in the 1980s<sup>1</sup>. Many depots were opened across the country. It was a joint venture between Nigerians and Brazilians and it has many workers all over the country. It started to decline as a result of the dominance of Coca Cola Company in the late 1980s. Aminu Saleh also established a juice company known as TANDI GUARANA in Lagos and the company started to grow but shutdown as a result of managerial problems.<sup>2</sup>

Saleh later concentrated his business activities on mining because he has many sites in Toro Local Government of Bauchi State where he maintained equipment and workers for the purpose of extracting precious stones. He also had another mining site at Alkaleri Local Government in which he carried out the extraction of gipson stone that he used to sell to Ashaka Cement. All these business activities were controlled by his son Engineer Kabiru Aminu. He was also involved

in the business of building estates in Kaduna, Abuja and Lagos. Other cities where he had estates were Bauchi, Kano and Azare. He also engaged in buying and selling plots in major cities and towns across the country. Saleh was involved in civil construction. He believed in one thing and usually commented on it that people in leadership positions should aspire to leave a legacy of their lives that would endear them to others.<sup>3</sup>

## **5.2 Aminu Saleh's Philanthropic Activities**

The importance of Islamic Education is very profound. The Almighty Allah has shown the relevance of Islamic Knowledge in the holy Qur'an. The following is the translation of the first five verses of the Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) encouraging him to learn. Allah says:<sup>4</sup>

Read in the name of your Lord Who created.

He created man from the clot of blood.

Read for your Lord is the Most Glorious.

Who taught man the use of pen.

He taught man what he knew not.

Sheikh Usman bin Fodio the leader of the 19<sup>th</sup> c Jihad in Hausa land, stressed the importance of Islamic Education for all the people, including males, females, rulers and the ruled. Thus, Usman bin Fodio wrote many Islamic books, such as *Ta'alim al-ikhwan* (educating Muslim brothers about what the rulers of the Western Sudan kept away from them, they are Hausa rulers), *Al-Farqbaina i'lm usul al-din wabainai'lm al-kalam* (the difference between the knowledge of Islamic Jurisprudence and Theology), *Ihya 'al-Sunnah wa-ikhmad al-Bidi'a* (to follow and do what the Prophet did and to shun away all forms of innovations) etc. He encouraged people to learn.<sup>5</sup>

Inadequate funding and poor infrastructure in government owned schools and the lack of Islamic Schools made Alhaji Aminu Saleh to embark on the establishment and funding of three different Islamiyya primary schools in Azare town with pupils' population of about three thousand. He also established a Secondary School which had been affiliated to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (ABU) Institute of Education that started in 2005.

The above educational activities assisted in eliminating discrimination whereby candidates for admission into Western Educational subjects are given preferential treatment than those who came from Islamiyya Schools. Alhaji Aminu Saleh embarked on a teacher-remedial programme through adult education. This effort would remedy the problem of shortage of Arabic teachers in the three primaries and one secondary school. In addition, the in-service Training of Arabic Language teachers which were also affiliated to the Institute for Education of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria through the Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim El-Tayeeb Institute in Kano had commenced in 2007 after the establishment of the schools.<sup>6</sup>

The first Islamiyya primary school he established was in 1973 located at the southern part of Azare. It started with three classes at the beginning. Immediately after the establishment of the school, the Head Teacher in the person of Malam Yakubu and teaching staff were employed by Alhaji Aminu Saleh to teach the pupils. It is important to note that the monthly salaries of the staff and other financial commitments of the school were catered for by Alhaji Aminu Saleh. The Head Master of the school was paid twenty five thousand naira at the end of every month; and all the other teachers with NCE and Diploma certificates received seventeen thousand naira each month. This was the nature of the staff salaries and this remained so up to the time when the founder of the school made special arrangements on the salaries of the teaching staff. For the first time in

history, the salary for the teaching staff was raised from seventeen thousand naira to twenty two thousand naira each month.<sup>7</sup>

The Azare Town Islamiyya Primary Schools were established to achieve the following objectives:

1. To develop the child's moral behavior in accordance with Islamic beliefs.
2. To give extensive and intensive training in Arabic and Islamic religion.
3. To enlighten the pupils on the importance of the Qur'an and Hadith.
4. To educate pupils on the moral teachings of Islam.
5. To promote emotional and psychological health of the pupils.
6. To attain moral training and development of sound attitude.
7. To develop the child physically, morally, spiritually and economically.
8. To remove illiteracy. This means that the child receives sound education to liberate him from the darkness of illiteracy.
9. To acquire some skills and appreciate the values of manual work.
10. To inculcate in the minds of the pupils the fear of the Almighty Allah.<sup>8</sup>

The construction of the Azare Central Mosque was initiated in the late 1970's but it passed through a lot of processes. In the first place it was agreed that the general public were to contribute in order to finance the construction work. An appeal fund was launched but the money realized in 1985 would not even take the construction up to fifty percent. Alhaji Sule Katagum promised to handle the building but along the way a problem occurred. According to the

informant, there were two versions. The first version was that Sule Katagum was going to write his name when they completed the construction, as he did to his mosque close to his house. The second version was that some other prominent people of the emirate said that the decision to allow one person to handle the whole work was not good; the above two reasons led to the opting out of Sule Katagum in the construction of the central mosque.

It was in 1987 that, after consultation with the emirate council and all stakeholders Aminu Saleh took over the construction which he finished in 2007.<sup>9</sup> Aminu Saleh alone bought about five farmlands close to the Azare cemetery for the purpose of expanding it. He also constructed the wall that fenced the cemetery which was completed between 1988 and 1989.<sup>10</sup>

Aminu Saleh made himself available by entertaining many people, more especially when people contacted him on the need to help in the construction of mosques. He normally directed them to come with their ward heads (Maiunguwa) when they approached him on the construction of mosques. Aminu Saleh used to ask the Maiunguwa whether they really needed the mosque. The decision of the people who approached him reflected the views of majority in the ward. The Maiunguwa's confirmation normally determined Saleh's approval of the work, because when he became convinced about the request, he directed the construction there and then. Through this, he was able to build a considerable number of mosques within Azare and its environs.<sup>11</sup>

Aminu Saleh realized that the Islamiyya primary schools, which he established since 1973 and the other Islamiyya schools in Azare, only produced students with primary certificates. In 1988, he signed an agreement with the College for Legal and Islamic Studies, Misau. The agreement was to send to the college students who finished their primary education. According to an informant, Saleh and his team of some selected teachers conducted the interview for them. The successful

candidates were sent to Misau while others were sent to the Arabic Teachers College, Gombe. After finishing their secondary education, he usually gave them two choices. The first one was teaching in his Islamiyya primary school and the second was to send you to further education in Nigeria or countries like Egypt, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Through these efforts many people benefited greatly because some of them are now judges, like Qhadi Bashir Muhammad, who was appointed to the rank of Qhadi in 2015 by the Bauchi State judiciary. Others are now lecturers, secondary and primary school teachers. Muhamud Yaya Azare, who is now serving Radio International DuchBele in Germany has completed his Ph.D. and is among the beneficiaries of Aminu Saleh's educational programme.<sup>12</sup>

Similarly, Aminu Saleh at the beginning of every session kept aside a huge amount of money for the purpose of paying the registration fees of many students. They include those from colleges, polytechnics and universities. He always encouraged them to pay a lot of attention to their studies. He paid for students projects' at the end of every academic session.<sup>13</sup>

In 2004, Saleh had established Sheikh Adam Higher Islamic where students obtained diploma and NCE in Arabic and Islamic Studies. The school was affiliated with the Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Many people who were not willing to go outside Azare studied there. Lecturers from the college of education, Azare usually served as visiting lecturers. In addition, his philanthropic activities in education led to the development of education more especially the Islamic Education, in Azare and Bauchi State. He was honored with the Grand Commander of Nigerian students by NANS in 2005. The College of Education, Azare was renamed after him in October 2016 due to his contribution to the development of education in Bauchi State.<sup>14</sup>

### **6.3 Saleh's Intellectual Activities**

Aminu Sale had delivered a number of lectures and public addresses. Some of them stand to be mentioned here. A paper he presented in Bauchi on 30/8/1999 on the invitation of the Bauchi Executive Governor, Alhaji Ahmadu Mu'azu on "Financial and Budgetary Discipline in public service" to a work shop for Honourable Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General and Heads of Extra Ministerial Departments.<sup>15</sup> The substance and significance of the paper he presented include: calling the government to fully concentrate on public services and their welfare, the government should also inculcate respect, discipline and due process and by so doing the workers would serve the government better.

The second paper to mention is the one he presented in June 2000 on Civil Service Day of that year at the invitation of the Kano State Executive Governor, Dr.Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, on "practical issues relating to the operation of the Civil Service in contemporary Nigeria". The paper was widely circulated and it appeared in Kano State civil service news magazine called the "Servant" of May 2001. <sup>16</sup> The substance and significance of the paper include calling on workers to know their conditions of service, rules and regulations of the civil service, the rights of the civil servants and so on.

The third one to be mentioned is the paper he presented to an in-service course conducted by Professor Adedeji in Abuja for Federal Permanent Secretaries and Directors General in February, 2002 titled "Budgeting as a tool of Management and Development- the Nigerian Experience" – a subject very relevant to Alhaji Aminu's background.<sup>17</sup> The significance of this paper was that he explained the procedures and conditions for allowing the staff working under Federal or State Governments to go for their in service courses. Saleh maintained that workers must have at least

three years of working experience, they also must have confirmation and promotion letter before allowing them to go for their in service courses.

The fourth paper presented was titled, “Aminu Kano, Mashahurin Malami Waiwaye Daga Wani Dalibinsa”. The paper was delivered on 17 April, 2005 at Mambayya House in Kano State. In the paper he examined his relationship with Malam Aminu Kano since he taught him in Bauchi Middle School in the early 1940s. He also explained his relationship with Mallam Aminu Kano in the Federal Ministry of Communication when he was Deputy Permanent Secretary in 1971, while Malam Aminu Kano was the Federal Minister of Communication.<sup>18</sup>

The fifth paper he presented was “*The Yuguda Initiative: Perspective for a new Social Order in Bauchi State*”. The paper was presented to the Bauchi Elders Statement Forum. It encompasses virtually all critical sectors of development, taking particular cognizance of the peculiarities of the state and the major demands for its development. The workshop was organized by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Malam Isa Yuguda, on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.<sup>19</sup>

The sixth paper presented was titled, “*The Nigerian Institute of Mechanical Engineers (A Division of the Nigerian Society of Engineers)*” at the 20<sup>th</sup> National Mechanical Engineers Conference and Annual General meeting, Kaduna, 2007.” He explained the strategies and Policy Guides on Energy Systems for Sustainable Development. The paper was presented at the conference Hall Kaduna, Kaduna State on the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of October, 2007.<sup>20</sup>

The seventh paper presented was titled, “*Challenges facing the Nigerian Engineers: The Nigerian Society of Engineers 2008 Annual Dinner 2008 Bauchi*”. He outlined and explained all the

challenges facing the Nigerian Civil Engineers. The paper was delivered at the Multipurpose Sport Complex Bauchi on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.<sup>21</sup>

The eighth paper was titled, *Brief for Publicity Programme on Construction of KafinZaki Dam* in July 2009. The paper was presented in order to shed more light on the importance of the construction of KafinZaki Dam in Ningi Local Government in Bauchi state. He also detailed out the problem which the people of Barno and Yobe may likely face when the dam was constructed.<sup>22</sup>

The ninth paper presented was titled “*Formal Launching of Societal Re-orientation in Bauchi State: Gyara Kayanka*”. The paper was presented at Bauchi Government House in 2010 at the invitation of his Excellency the Executive Governor of Bauchi State Malam Isa Yuguda.<sup>23</sup> in the paper he advises the government on how install discipline into the mind of the people so that they can live a decent life.

The tenth was a book titled, *History of Wanban Katagum Alhaji Salihu Muhammed*. In the book Saleh was able to examine the historical background of his father and his grandfathers. He also gave out their names, the time in which they migrated from Ngazargamu to Katagum. For more on these see the Appendix.<sup>24</sup>

#### **6.4 Saleh's Islamic Brotherhood of Tijjaniyya**

The coming of Sheikh Adamu Badamagare into Katagum Emirate led to the spread of Tijjaniyya sufi order in many parts of the areas within the Emirate. Many people were initiated into the order among them was Alhaji Aminu Saleh, because the Zawiyah of the Sheikh was built opposite the house of Wambai Salihu, the father of Aminu Saleh. The closeness of their house and being among the students of the Sheikh made him to be initiated into the Tijjaniyya Brotherhood in

the 1950's. Another version says that Saleh was initiated into the order in 1963 when Sir Ahmadu Bello dethroned the Emir of Kano Sir Muhammadu Sunusi. The Emir of Katsina late Umar Faruk gave him asylum at Azare. On his arrival he became very close to Sheikh Adam and this led to the dominance of Tijjaniyya over other sects in Katsina Emirate.<sup>25</sup>

It was said that Aminu Saleh renewed his initiation in the hands of Kalifa Sunusi. He was a strong member of the order because he contributed toward its propagation in many ways. Firstly, most of the students who were sent to overseas universities were from the sect. He also used to pay the transportation fees of Zikiri in all the state capitals across the country. Saleh used to even pay for some selected members to attend the moulud celebrations in Kaulaha Senegal. Aminu Saleh due to his strong belief in Tijjaniyya he became very close to Sheikh Abulfatahi of Maiduguri, Sheikh Giberema of Nguru and Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi as well as Sheikh Ishiaka Rabi'u of Kano.<sup>26</sup>

.He used to visit Sheikh Ibrahim Nyass in Senegal before his death in 1975. He was able to visit the Sheikh in London Hospital where he passed away and the Nyass had to give him his Alkyabba (robe). Aminu Saleh attended the Sheikh's funeral prayers in Kaulaha, Senegal.<sup>27</sup>

Aminu Saleh was always on the high table at every beginning of Ramadan Tafsir delivered in Kaduna by Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi. His second and third sons were named after Sheikh Ibrahim Nyass and Sheikh Ahmad Tijjani. In his WILL it was Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi that he recommended to perform his funeral prayer after his death.<sup>28</sup> According to the informant, Saleh always remained with the tijjaniya scholars and he always asked for prayer. They always organized special prayers for Saleh and he never became tired of prayer and asking for different forms of *zikr* which he would do by himself. He used to send his *Zakkat* annually and Hajj slots to

those that deserved. Saleh was always present when the Tijjaniya community was in need of his help or service and they are still praying for him.<sup>29</sup>

Another informant said that Saleh used to visit the Zawiyya of Sheikh Abulfatahi when he was alive and after his demise. He used to stay in this house for some days so that prayers were carried out for him, more especially when he was in the government. Saleh used to send a lot of food stuffs and clothes during Ramadan and the maulud periods. Whenever the sheikh was travelling to Kano he used to stop at his house so as to ease himself and he gave them many things like perfumes. Saleh used to escort the Sheikh up one village called Gadimri in the western part of Azare and when he was going back home he used to escort him to Buskuri in the eastern part of Azare.<sup>30</sup>

### **Saleh's Aristocratic life**

Aminu Saleh was born into the aristocratic family of Wambai Salihu and his father was a member of the Katagum Emirate Council. Malam Wambai, as he was popularly known grew up in the palace and was very close to the ninth Emir of Katagum, Sarki Abdulkadir. Due to his relationship with the Emir he held three traditional titles of Dawaki, Daniya and finally Wambai.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, Saleh was directly or indirectly part of the aristocratic group. Due to the role he played in citing developmental projects at Azare, such as Federal roads, electricity and works ministry in the mid 1970s, the Emir of Katagum, Alhaji Umar Faruk (1947-1980), appointed Aminu Saleh as Sarkin Yaki of Katagum in 1975.<sup>32</sup> In 1989 when the Wazirin Katagum died he contested for the seat and lost to Sule Katagum. Saleh was later appointed Wamban Katagum in 2004 after the death of his elder brother, Engineer Yalwaji Saleh the position he held upto the time of his death in July 2015.<sup>33</sup>

### **6.5 The End of His Life**

The people of Bauchi state and indeed Nigerians in general recorded yet another great loss in the death of the Seasoned Civil Servant, philanthropist and technocrat. Aminu Saleh died at the age of

85 years, after a protracted illness, at the Federal Medical Centre, Azare on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015 at about 6:00AM<sup>34</sup> and his death was a great loss not only to his family members or Azare people in particular, but also to the country in general. Though not totally unexpected, incident had been dreaded by many and prayed against by his admirers. As reported by Alhaji Shehu (Saleh's brother) at the end of his life, he returned home from Kaduna after attending Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi's opening *Ramadan* Tafsir. He complained about pains and that his entire body was weak and he was feeling too much pain. He took his normal drugs of diabetics and hypertension. The pains persisted up to the following day. That made his family to take him to the Federal Medical Centre, Azare where he spent two days. He was discharged from the hospital after he became normal but the doctor advised that he should go for medical checkup abroad<sup>35</sup>.

He agreed with the advice of the doctor and went to Egypt in 2013 where he spent three weeks. On arrival in Egyptian it was discovered that he had no hypertension and no diabetes but ulcer due to the long time he had spent taking hypertension and diabetes drugs.<sup>36</sup> He continued to visit Egypt after every three months for about four times. They told him that they were going to conduct clinical surgery at the appropriate time. On Wednesday, 15 July 2015 the ulcer attacked him in the early hours around 7:00 am. He was taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Azare. The doctors and his family reached a decision to conduct the clinical surgery, which was not successful. Consequently it led to his death on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at 6:00AM<sup>37</sup>.

Aminu Saleh's death was a shock to many people of Azare because he had died at a time when his philanthropic activities were enjoyed by many people there and its environs. He had a large number of houses which were used by poor people. He also had a lot of farmlands, which were cultivated and harvested by common people for their own use. On that fateful day one could see many people crying, saying that *Rumfa ta Rushe* (the hall has collapsed), meaning the person who

shouldered their responsibility was no more. The reaction to his death was a testimony to his popularity and the respect people had for him. Thousands of people attended his funeral prayer on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 around 5:00PM at the Emir's Palace, Azare. The reaction to his death was best described by Alhaji Chiro.<sup>38</sup> Chiro said that Saleh was saying “ I am happy that I will die as Muslim, the only thing which is worrying me is that I will leave the I love most, but in Sha Allah we will meet again”

Aminu Saleh was able to witness the weddings of all his sons and daughters, except the lastborn the late Bello Aminu Saleh, who died in Egypt when he was doing his degree programme as a result of a motor car accident on 25 August, 2014. And he made sure that none of his children married without his approval, because of the experience he had during the marriage of his second son, late Ibrahim Aminu Saleh, who married a non-Muslim Igbo girl<sup>39</sup>.

## **6.6 Conclusion**

This chapter discussed Aminu Saleh's business and religious life and his community services after his retirement. It examined his business activities and in different places across the country. The chapter covered his philanthropic activities and his Tijjaniyya Brotherhood. It further discussed his roles in the construction of Azare Central Mosque and his contributions in the fields of Islamic education. It finally traces the death of Alhaji Aminu Saleh which was a great loss not only to his family members or Azare people in particular, but also to Nigerians in general.

## **GENERAL CONCLUSION**

This study presents the biography of late Alhaji Aminu Saleh as a core civil servant who started his career from the bottom to the top position of Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Head of the Federal Civil Service. It also explores his life and times as one who hailed from Wambai Salihu's family of Azare. He started his early education at home where he studied elementary Islamic Knowledge from his father, Malam Salihu Muhammed and later studied the Quran from the Zawiyya of Sheikh Adamu Badamagare and scholars of his time. Saleh was also exposed to Western education when he attended Azare Elementary School from 1941- 1944. He completed his elementary school in 1944 and proceeded to Bauchi Middle School up to 1949 where he became very close to Malam Aminu Kano who influenced and prepared him for future challenges.

IN 1949, Aminu Saleh was employed by the Katagum Native Authority as a Clerical Typist where he served for only one year and in 1950, he got admission at Clerical Training College, Zaria, and completed in 1951. He attended the Institute of Administration, Zaria where he obtained a Diploma in Accounting in 1956. When he came back from the studies he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Treasurer in 1956. By 1957 Aminu Saleh attained the position of Katagum Native Authority Treasurer, a position he held up to the time he and brought about many transformation to the then Katagum Native Authority before he was transferred to Federal Civil Service in 1962 as Senior Assistant Secretary in Federal Ministry of Finance. From there, he realized that there was the need for him to further his studies. He applied for a postgraduate Diploma in the University of Wisconsin, United States of America in 1964 and completed his studies in 1965.

Aminu Saleh also enrolled into the University of Lagos Degree program in Economics from 1966 to 1967 in evening class. He had to withdraw from the program when the Nigerian Civil War was at its peak. He continued to work in the Federal Ministry of Finance. By 1968, he attained the position of Deputy Permanent Secretary. He was in this position up to 1976 when he was promoted to the rank of permanent secretary by the Military Government of late General Murtala Ramat Muhammed. Aminu Saleh became Permanent Secretary of Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industries. Aminu Saleh was transferred to the Federal Ministry of Communication in 1977 and worked in the Ministry up to 1979. He was also transferred to the Federal Ministry of Defense when the Military Government of Government of General Olusegun Obasanjo, handed over power to the first executive President Alhaji Shehu Aliyu Shagari, in October 1979. Saleh continued his civil service career as super Permanent Secretary in this ministry up to 1984.

He retired in 1984 as a Super Permanent Secretary after putting in thirty five years of service. He returned to his native home town, Azare, and continued to serve his people through philanthropic activities, such as building mosques, sending students to study in colleges, polytechnics and universities at home and abroad. He also established Islamiyya Primary, Secondary and Higher Islamic schools in Azare town. Aminu Saleh was back to service of the Federal Government in the military regime of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida in 1993. He was appointed the Minister of Industries. When the General Babangida handed over power to Chief Eanest Shonikan, Saleh was transferrwd to the Federal Ministry of Finance to serve as the Minister of Finance. Again when General Sani Abacha came in he was promoted to the most important position of the Federal Civil Service as the Secretary to the Government of the Federation in November 1993.

He was in this position up to 1995 when he was asked to resign by the Head of State General Sani Abacha. This was due to certain pressure from some top military officers who blamed Saleh for

his over-bearing posture in the military government and his influence made it possible for him to treat them just like errand boys. Although at the beginning these complaints did not work, it was after some few months that General Abacha asked him to resign. Therefore, after his resignation he returned to his hometown Azare, and continued with his simple life as if he had never been in the position of authority and continued to take care of his family.

His working career influenced the citing and establishment of many federal projects, such as Federal Highways, branches of Federal Ministries and Companies in his hometown and state capital in Bauchi. He also played vital roles in the establishment of many state projects in the area of agriculture, education, finance and health. Others included works, water, transport and administration. He did all these when he served as a member and Chairman Bauchi State Elders Forum. Due to his contribution towards the development of Azare, the then Emir of Katagum the late Alhaji Umar Faruk appointed him as Sarkin yakin Katagum in 1975. Similarly, in recognition to his services in both the Native Authority and Federal Civil Service qualified him to be among the few people who received the national award of Grand Commander of Order of Niger (GCON) from the Military Government of Abdulsalam Abubakar in 1999. He was also awarded Commander Federal Republic (CFR) during the Government of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua in 2008. However, after some important positive legacies, Aminu Saleh died on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015 after a brief illness.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup>interview with Alhaji Shehu Mu'azu at his Residence Malali Kaduna On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018
- <sup>2</sup>interview with Alhaji Shehu Mu'azu at his Residence Malali Kaduna On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018
- <sup>3</sup>Interview with Engr. Kabiru Aminu Saleh at his Residence Azare, on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2017
- <sup>4</sup> A.M. Gumi.(1988) TARJAMA P. 944
- <sup>5</sup> A.M. Gumi.(1988) P. 945
- <sup>6</sup>Interview with Malam Yakubu at his Office Sheikh Adam Islamiyya Azare on 12- January,- 2017.
- <sup>7</sup>Interview with Sheikh Kawu Wabi at his Residence Azare, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017
- <sup>8</sup>Sheikh Adam Higher Islamic Handbook p.10
- <sup>9</sup>Interview with Alhaji Shehu at the resident of Aminu Saleh Azare. 29-Jan.-2017
- <sup>10</sup> Interview with Alhaji Shehu
- <sup>11</sup>nterview with Alhaji Shehu
- <sup>12</sup>Interview with Malam Yakubu at his Office Sheikh Adam Islamiyya Azare on 15- January,- 2017.
- <sup>13</sup> Interview with Alhaji Sabo Nabalinga at his resident Azare. 29-Jan.-2017
- <sup>14</sup>Interview Abdulmumin Shehu 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the residence of Aminu Saleh Azare.
- <sup>15</sup>Citation on Aminu Saleh on the occasion of his turbaning as Wanban Katagum. April 2004.
- <sup>16</sup> Citation on Aminu Saleh (2004).
- <sup>17</sup> Citation on Aminu Saleh, (2004).
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- <sup>20</sup>. Brief For Publicity Programme on Construction of Kafin Zaki Dam.Jul.2009.
- <sup>21</sup>. Formal Lunching of Societal Re-Orientation in Bauchi State. Feb. 2010.
- <sup>22</sup>. History of Wamban Katagum, Alhaji Salihu Muhammed. (1895-1970). 10-April 2004.
- <sup>23</sup>Interview D.S.P. Idris Aminu Saleh 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the residence of Aminu Saleh Azare.
- <sup>24</sup>Interview Abdulmumin Shehu
- <sup>25</sup> S.Hafizu, interview at his resident Zawiyya Azare on November 25, 2016
- <sup>26</sup>M. Ibrahim, interviewee at his resident Zawiyya Azare on 27 November, 2016
- <sup>27</sup>S.K. wabi, Interview at his resident Unguwar Bala on 30 November, 2016
- <sup>28</sup>Interview with Engr. Kabiru Aminu Saleh
- <sup>29</sup> Sheikh Dahiru Usman at his residence Kaduna 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018
- <sup>30</sup> Sheikh Muhammad Arabi, at his residence in Madina Zawiyya Maiduguri 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- <sup>31</sup> A Saleh (2004) *The History of Wamban Katagum*, Alhaji Salihu Muhammad (1895-1970) Kaduna Vintage Printers. P.17
- <sup>32</sup> A Saleh (2004) Pg 18
- <sup>33</sup> A Saleh (2004) Pg 18
- <sup>34</sup>Interview D.S.P. Idris Aminu Saleh 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the residence of Aminu Saleh Azare.
- <sup>35</sup>interview with Abdulmumini Shehu at Aminu Saleh residence Azare on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

<sup>36</sup>Interview D.S.P. Idris Aminu Saleh

<sup>37</sup>Interview with Alhaji Mustapha Saleh at Wambai Salihu's residence Azare.

<sup>38</sup>Interview with Malam Chiro 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at his residence Azare.

<sup>39</sup>. Interview with Aminu Bakano 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at his residence Azare

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Name	Date	Age	Occupation	Place of interview
Alhaji Bello Waya	10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	90 years	Chief driver to the Emir of katagum	Emir's Palace Azare, Bauchi State.
Alhaji Akawu (Dan-Madamin katagun)	10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	75 years	Chief Accountant, Katagum Emirate council.	Emir's Palace Azare, Bauchi State.
Alhaji Abdulkadir Yalwa	13 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	87 years	Retired Permanent Secretary	Badala quarters Azare, Bauchi State.
Alhaji Dahuwa M.O	15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	87 years	Retired Civil Servant	Kofar Gabas Azare, Bauchi State.
Alhaji Sidi Bulala	3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2017	85 years	Teaching and Business	Kafin kuka Azare, Bauchi State.
Alhaji Shehu Muhd	6 <sup>th</sup> March, 2s017	83 years	Aminu Saleh's messenger	Aminu Saleh's residence Azare, Bauchi State.
Engineer Kabir Aminu Saleh	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	62 years	Civil Construction and Mining	G.R.A. Bauchi
Alhaji Azarema Abdulahmid	15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	80 years	Retired Civil Servant Katagum Local Government	Makarahuta Azare, Bauchi State.
Alhaji Isah Senior	21th December, 2016	80 years	Retired Senior Officer Katagum L.G.A.	Makarahuta Azare, Bauchi State.
Alhaji Azarema Saleh	19 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	70 years	Civil Engineer	Birnin Kudu Jigawa State.

Alhaji Mustapha Yarima	23 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2016	60 years	Banker	Emir's palace Azare Bauchi State.
Muhammadu Danmadami	25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	85 years	Retired Deputy Inspector General Of Police	Tudun Wata Azare Bauchi State.
Dr. Umar Dahuwa	26 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	50 years	Medical Doctor	Federal Medical Center Azare, Bauchi.
Ibrahim Musa Danbam	26 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	53 years	Civil Servant	Water Board Azare Bauchi State.
Alhaji Muhammed Gambaki	30 <sup>th</sup> December, 2016	55 years	Zonal Manager PHCN	PHCN Azare Substation Bauchi State.
Engineer Ibrahim Baba	5 <sup>th</sup> Januaray, 2017	54 years	Civil Servant	Works Department Katagum L.G.Secretariat Bauchi State.
Malam Maikudi Bello	6 <sup>th</sup> Januaray, 2017	60 Years	Zonal Director	Katagum Zonal Education Office Bauchi State.
Malam Yakubu	12 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017	54 years	Principal	Sheikh Adam Islamiyya Azare.
Sheikh Kawu Wabi	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2017	58 years	Preacher	Unguwar Bala Azare Bauchi State.
Alhaji Suleh	26 <sup>th</sup> Januaray, 2017	55 years	Secretary to the Katagum Emirate Council	Emir's Palace Azare Bauchi State.
Alhaji Hussaini Makaman Katagum	28 <sup>th</sup> Januaray, 2017	70 years	Deputy Comptroller Nigerian Immigration Service	Emir's Palace Azare Bauchi State.

Alhaji Sabo Nabalanga	29 <sup>th</sup> Januaray, 2017	42 years	Civil Servant	Federal Medical Center Azare Bauchi State.
Aminu Bakano	20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	49 years	Immigration Service	Filin Zaki Azare Bauchi State.
Malam Najigayi	14 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	83 years	Farming	Bakin Kasuwa Azare Bauci State.
Abduluminu Shehu	17 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	35 years	Personal Secretary to Aminu Saleh	Aminu Saleh Resident Azare Bauci State.
DSP Idris Aminu Saleh	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	40 years	Deputy Superintendent of Police	Emir's palace derived Azare Bauchi State.
Malam Chiro	17 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	80 years	Butcher	Kasuwar Kaji Azare Bauchi State.
Justice Mamman Nasir	2 <sup>nd</sup> November,	89 years	Retired Justice	District office Malumfashi Katsina State
Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi	21 <sup>st</sup> March, 2018	94 years	Islamic scholar	Abuja bypass kaduna
Sheikh Arabi Abul-Fatahi	30 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018	60 years	Islamic Scholar	Madina Zawiyya Maiduguri
Alhaji Shehu Mu'azu	21 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018	70 years	Former Managing Director Brahama Gurana Lemon Company Kaduna State	Malali Kaduna

Alhaji Abdullahi Ma'aji Matawallen Kwantogora	05 April, 2018	70 years	Former Federal Permanent Secretary	Kwantogora Niger State
J.N Ohaba	08 April, 2018	68 years	Former Director General Services Federal Ministry of Industries	Owerri Imo State
Prince Adeyemi	10 <sup>th</sup> April, 2018	65 years	Former Press Secretary Office of the SGF	Abekuta Ogun State
Unice Abe	12 <sup>th</sup> April, 2018	58 years	Former Secretary to Aminu Saleh	Jabi Abuja
General Yahaya Domkat Bali	15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018	75 years	Former Minister of Defense	Ponzhi Tarok Palace Lantang North Plateau State
Alhaji Auwabu Abdullahi	16 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018	61 years	Former Senior Special Assistant to Aminu Saleh	Maitama Abuja
Alh. Tanko Yakasai	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	93 Years	Politician	Yankaba Kano State
Lt. General Muhmmad Inuwa wushishi	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	88 Years	Former chief of army staff	No.12 Raba Road Kaduna State
Alh.Muhammad Bello Kirfi	28 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	89 Years	Former Minister of internal affairs	Maitama Abuja
Engr. Habu Adamu Jajere	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	62 Years	Former Chairman of independent Petroleum marketers (ipman)	Bauchi Road Jos plataue state
Alh. Aminu Dantata	6 <sup>th</sup> October, 2019	90 years	Business	Koki Quarters Kano State

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<sup>11</sup>Tell Magazine, October 13<sup>th</sup> 1994

<sup>12</sup>Tell Magazine, December, 12<sup>th</sup> 1994

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