

GOVERNOR IBRAHIM SHEKARAU:

A technocrat's ride to the pride of Kano Emirate as Sardauna

It was obviously a glorious moment for this amiable teacher of the people, astute political leader and a peace advocate in the landscape of Kano and Nigeria at large. And of course, when history records today, Mallam (Dr.) Ibrahim Shekarau will occupy that significant part that he is indeed, not only a teacher of worth or a politician of repute, but a remarkable Sardauna Kano of note that lived and worked for the good of humanity.



History, yet unfolded in the ancient city of Kano, as the political class, industrialists, members of the diplomatic community, civil society and traditional institutions converged to honour a man of rare qualities, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau, on his turbaning as the Sardauna of Kano.

Though confirmed earlier in November 2009 by the Emir of Kano, His Royal Highness....., the peak of the turbaning brought Kano to its glorious height as there was overflow of guests into this commercial nerve of the northern emirate of Nigeria for the auspicious ceremony.

Donning a royal robe, and mounting on a glamorously regale horse, Mallam (Dr.) Ibrahim Shekarau, the Executive Governor of Kano State rode into the well laid out arena in a dignified manner. It was a most ravishing moment and the beauty resonated widely as trumpets blare the roof top to announce the dawn of a new era. It was indeed, announcing the new Sardauna of Kano. Quite significant though, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau is one unassuming man not known for the grabs of power or titles because of his humble and prime nature. These are some of the impeachable characters of past leaders that encouraged the Emir to confer on him this unique title, especially, those of the Sir Ahmadu Bello of the blessed memory.

Today, it stands out in history that Mallam Shekarau has from the point of obscurity as a mere civil servant (teacher) ascended the apogee of leadership as a shining light to many. Besides his quality and exemplary leadership and tangible transformation evident in the landscape of Kano, he stands in history to have broken the age long political jinx of one term for every sitting governor.

Mallam (Dr.) Shekarau came and dispensed with that notion and went ahead to be re-elected into office for a second term. Indeed, for this uncommon feat in the state, he has also endeavoured to leave remarkable footprints in the sands of governance in the state.

Apart from his grip on the political firmament of the state, Shekarau has worked assiduously to keep peace in the state. He has built sustainable harmony and co-existence amongst all people, all tribes and religion in the state.

His knack for development is of course, indomitable. In human capacity development and pension matters, he has invested over N13billion, in education over N800million, in

agriculture over 13billion, in health over N7.9 billion and in infrastructure over N22 billion. Other crucial areas of his concern include water where he has spent over N16 billion and on constituency related projects via the legislators, the people's teacher and Sardauna of Kano put in over N3.74billion.

Therefore, his turbaning as the Sardauna of Kano was not borne out of patronage, rather a reward for genuine leadership and commitment to outright development of the people and the landscape of Kano. No wonder, the city was besieged by numerous guests and the people to honour this respected leader whose concern is to leave enduring legacies for posterity.

With neither royal or affluence background, or even the extensive education in the radical populist tradition of Kano politics, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau had a humble beginning which inculcated in him humility and unbridled discipline. His basic belief in political leadership transcends the thoughts of professional politicians, whose ultimate goal is always self before the people.

Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau's political ascendancy therefore is anchored on the need to affect the people positively. A people whom he believes entered into a covenant of good governance with him on his election.

Born on November 5, 1955, in the Kurmawa Quarters of Kano city, Governor Shekarau started on the footing of Islamic education. He began his primary education at Gidan Makama Primary School from 1961 to 1967. After attending the Aminu Kano Commercial Collage, as well as Royal Society of Art, London between 1968 and 1972, he obtained a combined Bachelor's degree in Mathematics/Education from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria from 1973 to 1977.

In August 1977, he was enlisted to National Youth Service Corps scheme where he taught mathematics at the Madonna Boys High School, a Catholic institution in the former Imo state, South-East Nigeria. Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau has been a teacher throughout his career in the Kano state civil Service. He served as principal of some of the most famous schools in northern Nigeria, amount which are Government College, Hadeja; Government College, Birnin Kudu; Runfa College, Kano and Government Secondary School, Gwanmaja, Kano. Out of the classroom, he rose to the post of Deputy Director in the Ministry of Education and then Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development between 1995 and 1997.