

PART TWO: THE MAKERS OF KWARA STATE

Past leaders

The makers of Kwara State are not just the individuals who at different times controlled the affairs of state as military administrators, elected governors, legal representatives of the people or career civil servants. They also include a number of prominent figures whose personalities exemplified, in both private and public life, the core values of Kwara and who consequently became worthy 'ambassadors' of the state.

Since its creation in 1967, Kwara State has been governed by 18 governors, including five democratically elected executive governors and 13 military governors. But regardless of how they came to power, all these men contributed in varying degrees to the development of the state, working with the resources they had available to surmount the challenges they each faced during their tenures.

Democracy is not something you put away for ten years, and then in the 11th year you wake up and start practicing again. We have to begin to learn to rule ourselves again.

CHINUA ACHEBE



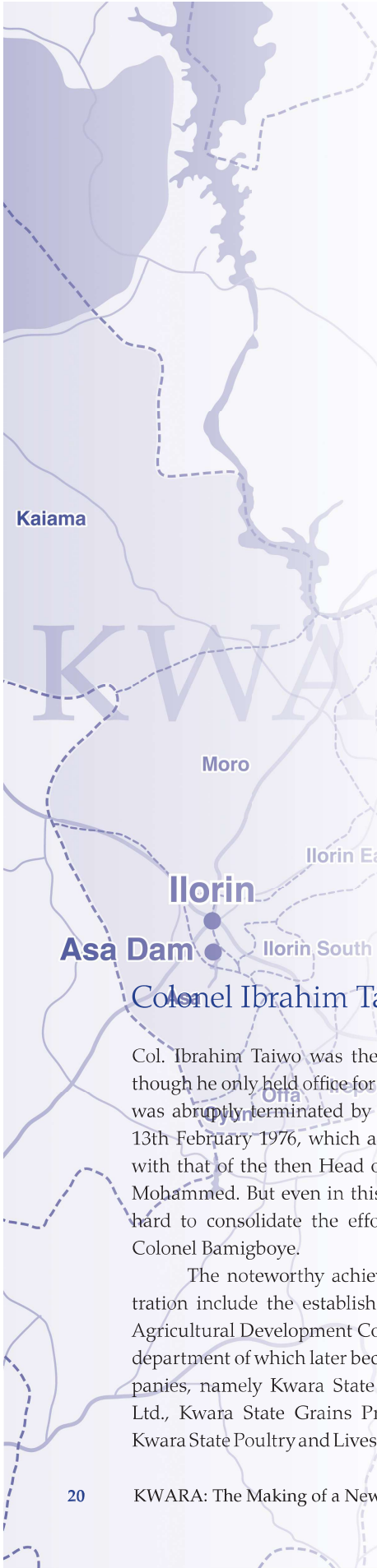
Colonel D. L. Bamigboye

Col. D. L. Bamigboye was the first Military Governor posted to Kwara State in 1967 and his administration made good use of the highly intelligent, experienced and patriotic civil servants deployed to the state. He and the members of the State Executive Council recorded a number of achievements including the building of secretariats to cater for the office accommodation of civil servants in the state capital, as well as all the local government headquarters in the state; the construction of water works across the state for the provision of drinking water for all citizens; the construction of the Oyo Bypass Road (now Ibrahim Taiwo Road), as well as other roads in the state; and the construction of Kwara Hotels, Ilorin.

In response to the people's demand for quality education, the administration also established government secondary schools and technical colleges across the state, while at the same time encouraging communities and religious bodies to establish further secondary schools. The establishment of the Kwara

College of Technology (now Kwara State Polytechnic) and the School of Nursing and Midwifery, both in Ilorin, are also both credited to the Bamigboye administration.

In addition to this, the administration also laid a solid foundation for the state in terms of healthcare delivery services by building general hospitals in major towns and healthcare centres in rural areas. And among the parastatals established were the Kwara State Printing and Publishing Corporation; Government Printing Press; the Gateway Insurance Company (established in 1970 to serve Kwara State in particular and also the wider state of Nigeria); the Kwara State Investment Corporation, Ilorin; Kwara Paper Converters; Erin-Ile Midland Stores; Nigerian Television (NTV), which later became NTA Ilorin; Kwara Food Production Company Ltd, established in 1973 and which produced Eagle Rice among other products; Kwara State Council for Arts and Culture, established on 1st September 1970; and the Kwara State Council established in 1969.



Colonel Ibrahim Taiwo

Colonel Ibrahim Taiwo

Col. Ibrahim Taiwo was the state's second governor, though he only held office for six months before his rule was abruptly terminated by a military coup d'état on 13th February 1976, which also claimed his life along with that of the then Head of State, General Muritala Mohammed. But even in this short period, he worked hard to consolidate the efforts and achievements of Colonel Bamigboye.

The noteworthy achievements of this administration include the establishment of the Kwara State Agricultural Development Corporation, the production department of which later became limited liability companies, namely Kwara State Animal Feeds Company Ltd., Kwara State Grains Production Company Ltd., Kwara State Poultry and Livestock Production Company

Ltd. and Kwara State Agricultural Land Development Company Ltd. The Kwara State Council for Arts and Culture was also established around this time and was mandated to revive, preserve and promote the development of arts and culture in the state.

The introduction of the Universal Free Primary Education (UPE) in 1976 also saw a vast improvement in literacy levels across the state, especially among the less privileged who before then had had no such opportunity. The Ibrahim Taiwo Administration also has to its credit the establishment of the Kwara Furniture Manufacturing Company (for the purpose of quality furniture production) and the Kwara State Pilgrims Welfare Board.

Colonel George A. Innih

Colonel Innih, then an army officer and now deceased, was the third Governor of Kwara State and again worked hard to build on the achievements of his predecessors in various sectors of the state. He is most remembered today for a number of successes, including the launch of 'Operation Feed the Nation'; the construction of the Kwara State Stadium Complex; the building of Adewole Housing Estate, which provides residential accommodation for poorer citizens; the construction of the Unity and Taiwo Roads; the building of new markets in all LGAs, including the Baboko market in Ilorin; and the establishment of Kwara State College of Education, Oro.



Colonel George A. Innih

Colonel S. O. Ifere

Col. S.O. Ifere, now deceased, served as the Military Administrator of Kwara State from 24th July 1978 to 30th September 1979, and is best known for his achievements in various spheres of the state's economy. He commissioned a number of projects, including the Omu-Aran electricity project and the workshop at the Ministry of Information and Home affairs, and his tenure also marked an important milestone in the chequered history of Kwara State in particular and Nigeria in general. For it was he, amongst others, who implemented the various transitional programmes leading to the hand-over of power to civilians by the military government in 1979. And it was he who handed over the reins of government to Alhaji Adamu Atta, the winner of the 1979 governorship election.



Colonel S. O. Ifere

Alhaji Adamu Atta

Alhaji Adamu Atta was the first Executive Governor of Kwara State who came to power on 1st October 1979. As the chief executive of the state, democratically elected in the Second Republic on the platform of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN), he contributed immensely to the development of Kwara. At a time when the transformation from military rule to a civilian democratic setting was undoubtedly challenging, he needed to prove his worth and show that he could perform as effectively as his military predecessors had done. In terms of the fair distribution of appointments, infrastructural facilities and basic amenities among members of the civil society, he was expected by the people to be democratic, judicious and transparent. That, after all, was what they had voted for.

The major achievements of Governor Adamu Atta include the construction of: Kwara Hotels Phase II; several specialist hospitals; the Secretariat Phase III (now the Governor's office) and the Kwara civil service clinic. His administration also conceived the idea of establishing a community bank in 1981, the first being the Omu-Aran Community Bank; this then gave birth to Trade Bank Plc in 1987.



Alhaji Adamu Atta

Chief C. O. Adebayo

Chief C. O. Adebayo was democratically elected and sworn in as the second Executive Governor of Kwara State, on the platform of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) on 1st October 1983. However, his administration was very short-lived, following a military coup d'état on 31st December, which brought General Mohammed Burhari to power as Head of State. His short tenure notwithstanding, Governor Adebayo gave complete priority to the educational development of Kwara State – he was, after all, an educationalist himself. His administration constructed a number of classrooms in secondary schools and contributed greatly to the abolition of the shift system of education in the state's primary schools by providing more infrastructural facilities.



Chief C. O. Adebayo

Group Captain Salaudeen A. Latinwo

Grp. Capt. S. A Latinwo governed Kwara State from 1984 to 1985 under the Buhari Military Administration. One of his major achievements was the successful launching of the 'War Against Indiscipline' (WAI) in the state, which inculcated in the people the virtues of self-control, obedience, orderliness, respect for one another and respect for life and property. In this spirit, his administration handed over the management of Kwara Hotels to Arewa Hotels Ltd. and also established the Kwara State Town Planning Authority for planning and development activities in the state.

The other achievements of this administration were: the launch of the Kwara State Industrial Fund, which served as a great impetus for the rapid socio-economic development of the state; the launch of the state's 'Food All' programme to produce various crops at an unprecedented scale; the establishment of the Board of Internal Revenue through Edict No. 7 of 1984; and the establishment of Kwara State Investment Corporation for the promotion of industrial and commercial enterprises.



Group Captain Salaudeen A. Latinwo



Wing Commander Mohammed N. Umaru

Wing Commander Mohammed N. Umaru

Wing Cdr. M. N. Umaru was the eighth governor of Kwara State, from September 1985 to August 1986, and during his tenure, commissioned the installation of the Ibrahim Taiwo street lights in Ilorin. Apart from consolidating the various efforts and achievements of former governors, he also introduced an Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme to make sure that all roads across the state were passable by car, a contract that was awarded to GRA Roads in Ilorin.

His administration made a major breakthrough on 15th October 1985, when a new Obaro – Oba Michael Folorunsho Olobay – was appointed for the town of Kabba (now in Kogi State). The town itself had known little or no peace since the demise of

the last Obaro, Oba D.O. Aka in 1982, as a result of succession crises among the various factions over the Zambufu road, which was now rebuilt at a cost of N 30.1 million. The administration's other achievements include: the opening of the Lokoja Stadium and the Resinoplast Plastic Industry in Ilorin; the completion of the specialist hospitals, with an external loan of N11.2 million approved by the Federal Government; the regular supply of medical equipment and drugs to hospitals and health centres to ensure effective healthcare delivery services in both rural and urban centres; and the approval of the Unified Salary Structure (USS) for Kwara Polytechnic and College of Education.

Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Abdullahi

Lt. Col. Ahmed Abdullahi was appointed Governor of Kwara State in 1986 and is remembered mainly for the provision of drinking water, working hand-in-hand with UNICEF, BIWATER Rural Water Supply Scheme and the Rural Water Programme of the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI). His administration also encouraged the improvement of agricultural cultivation through important infrastructural and institutional arrangements such as fertilizer stores, agro-service centres, tractor subsidy schemes and farm support services.

Other achievements recorded during Abdullahi's tenure include the effective promotion and participation of the state government in some industrial and commercial ventures, such as: Kwara Breweries, Ijagbo; Erin-Ile Paper Converters; United Foam Limited; Gateway Insurance Company; Kwara Furniture Manufacturing Company; Kwara Hotels Limited; and Trade Bank among others. In addition, communities embarking on communal projects in the priority areas of electricity, water, roads and health started to receive matching grants.



Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Abdullahi

Group Captain Ibrahim Alkali

Grp. Capt. Ibrahim Alkali became the tenth governor of Kwara State on 19th December 1987 and made his mark in various spheres of the life of the region. His administration oversaw the construction of the Kwara State Library, which was commissioned in November 1989, and also launched the state chapter of the Nomadic Education Programme, which later spawned Nomadic Primary Schools.

Alkali also initiated the construction of an Olympic-sized swimming pool at the Kwara Stadium Complex, which now hosts national and international swimming competitions, as well as an ultra-modern theatre complex for the Council for Arts and Culture at Geri Alimi in Ilorin as part of the effort to develop the burgeoning cultural potential of the state. In addition,

he created and had constructed the High Court and the Sharia Court of Appeal at Ilorin

The Beautification Scheme, instigated by this government, saw the installation of major roundabouts at Ilorin, while the Kwara State Mass Transportation System (Kwara Express) was commissioned on 18th February 1988 for the convenience of the population. The administration also provided streetlights on major roads in Ilorin and completed the stylish Kwara House in Lagos, at a cost of over N15 million, to provide decent accommodation for the governor of the state and other top government officials. The 16 luxurious flats in the complex now serve as a constant source of revenue for the state government.



Group Captain Ibrahim Alkali



Colonel Alwali J. Kazir

Colonel Alwali J. Kazir

The eleventh Governor of Kwara, Col. A.J. Kazir was popularly referred to as 'action governor', because he repeatedly stressed the need for teamwork and progress in the task of increasing the tempo of rural development and industrialisation throughout the state.

It was Governor Kazir who launched a regrading exercise for the traditional rulers in the state, which led to the emergence of more royal fathers in the first three categories of the ruling institution. Also, it was his administration that established the Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board, an idea that had been repeatedly mooted by many interested parties since 1979.

In terms of sports development, the administration made some giant strides forward, including the

building of a baseball court at Adewole and the hosting of the fifth CISM Joint Military World Handball Championship at the Kwara State Stadium Complex in September 1990.

And like many of his predecessors, Governor Kazir also attempted to address the seemingly unremitting issue of road rehabilitation, and encouraged the rest of the administration to embrace the direct labour approach in the handling of projects, so as to make more prudent use of available resources for the benefit of the citizens.



Alhaji Mohammed Sha'aba Lafiagi

Alhaji Mohammed Sha'aba Lafiagi was the third Executive Governor of Kwara State from January 1992 to November 1993, during which time Kwara took some remarkable developmental strides. He showed unrelenting commitment towards improving the living standards of the people, first and foremost by ensuring his administration formulated positive policies encouraging rural development and also by creating an enabling environment for investment in industrial ventures.

Many roads were constructed across the state, including Shagbe-Zambufu, Omu Aran-Oro Ago and Alapa-Malete Shao among others. As a result of this, the Governor was able to show his regard and respect for the first- and second-class Chiefs, by providing them all with Mercedes Benz 200s and increasing their salaries and royalties.

This administration also took education very seriously, undertaking an infrastructural rehabilitation of existing schools and the construction of new ones, lightening the burden of education on parents and their wards through financial assistance to students, and motivating teachers to ensure higher productivity. On top of this, policy-making led to: the construction of 488 new classrooms, in order to eliminate the destructive educational shift system; the establishment of the College of Education (Technical) at Lafiagi; the donation of N1 million to each of the first generation schools for the rehabilitation of their school buildings and the provision of necessary facilities; and the donation of buses to the College of Education to ease the movement of teachers and students.

It was also under Sha'aba Lafiagi's rule that Kwara State Television was established, to complement the efforts of Radio Kwara, and the Herald newspaper was requested to give greater publicity to the government's activities. At the same time, the administration succeeded in: procuring and installing the parboiling equipment for the Patigi Rice Mill in Patigi LGA; building a permanent hostel for the School of Nursing in Ilorin; commissioning phase II of the State Secretariat (now housing the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development); and selling tractors to farmers in the state at a subsidised price of N516,000 for N100,000 deposit. This period also witnessed the establishment of banks by various communities in the state.

Commissioner of Police Mustapha Ismail

Com. Pol. Mustapha Ismail was the thirteenth Governor of Kwara State, serving from December 1993 to August 1994. He will be remembered primarily for leading the refurbishment of the collapsed Duku-Lake Dam in Edu LGA, which was capable of irrigating over 3,000 hectares of rice farms. Within his first 100 days in office, the normal water supply, which was suffering from major issues at that time, was restored to Ilorin. His administration also placed a premium on the provision of electricity for all, as he considered it to be a vital and stimulating factor for socio-economic activities. The administration also procured new J-5 buses for the Kwara State Transport Corporation, the operators of Kwara Express, which were commissioned on 20th December 1993.



Group Captain Bab Adamu Iyam

Group Captain Bab Adamu Iyam

Governor of Kwara State from August 1994 to August 1996, Grp. Capt. Baba Adamu Iyam oversaw an era of mass mobilisation for the various communities in a campaign to encourage greater participation in self-help development. The administration also engaged private developers for the completion of Kwara House at Abuja, with the intention of generating revenue for the government and reducing the high cost of hotel accommodation for officials of Kwara State while staying in the Federal Capital.

Alongside UNICEF and DFRRI, the administration constructed boreholes and functional latrines across the state and also built the Stadium Shopping Complex to improve revenue generation for the Government. But Governor Adamu Iyam's administration will most likely be remembered for the re-classification of Kwara State by the Federal Government as an 'educationally disadvantaged state', a status that would help attract more attention and investment from the Federal Government for educational development.



Colonel Peter A. M. Ogar

Colonel Peter A. M. Ogar

Ruling from 23rd August 1996 to 14th August 1998, Col. Peter Asam Mbu Ogar was Kwara's fifteenth governor, whose tenure saw advancement in a number of areas. His achievements include: the rehabilitation of several roads at Ilorin through direct labour; the awarding of contracts for the refurbishment and expansion of Agba, Asa and Sobi Dams, as well as other state water works; and the establishment of seven new Government Day Secondary Schools at Adewole Estate Odo-Okun, Adeta, Ojagboro, Gaa Akanbi, Kulende, Ilorin and Okuta in Baruten LGA. In terms of sports and youth development, the government bought out the former Exide Football Club and completed the Ibrahim Abacha Multi-Purpose Youth Centre.

The administration also approved the merger of the Kwara Investment Company with Kwara Property Development Corporation, creating the Kwara Investment and Property Development Company. Beyond this, the government achieved other notable successes: the reactivation of the Kwara State Printing and Publishing Corporation to bring The Herald newspaper back to the streets, through the engagement of a dedicated consultant employed to resuscitate the media outfit in all aspects; the launch and execution of additional curative and preventative health projects; and refurbishment of vehicles in the fleet of the Kwara State Transport Corporation to make the transport system more efficient inside and outside the state.

Lieutenant Colonel Rasheed A. Shekoni

Lt. Col. Rasheed A. Shekoni was the last military governor of Kwara State, ruling from 14th August 1998 to 29th May 1999, when democracy returned to Nigeria. His administration rehabilitated secondary schools in the state under the auspices of the Special Projects Fund and also reactivated water projects including Agba Dam at Ilorin, where he commissioned the construction of a water treatment plant. The roads again caused problems for the government. Indeed, Governor Shekoni was greatly committed to road development, especially after his much-publicised observation that Kwara State had the 'worst set of

roads on which he had ever travelled'. Consequently, he made some very fruitful contacts with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing and the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) to advance road construction in different parts of the state. Another bold step taken by the Shekoni administration was the construction of 50 housing units at Adewole Estate to serve as residential accommodation for employees of the state. Finally, on 29th May 1999, he handed the reins of government to Alhaji Mohammed Alabi Lawal and in doing so brought democracy back to Kwara State.

Kaiama

KWARA

Moro

Ilorin Ea

Ilorin

Asa Dam

Ilorin South

Asa

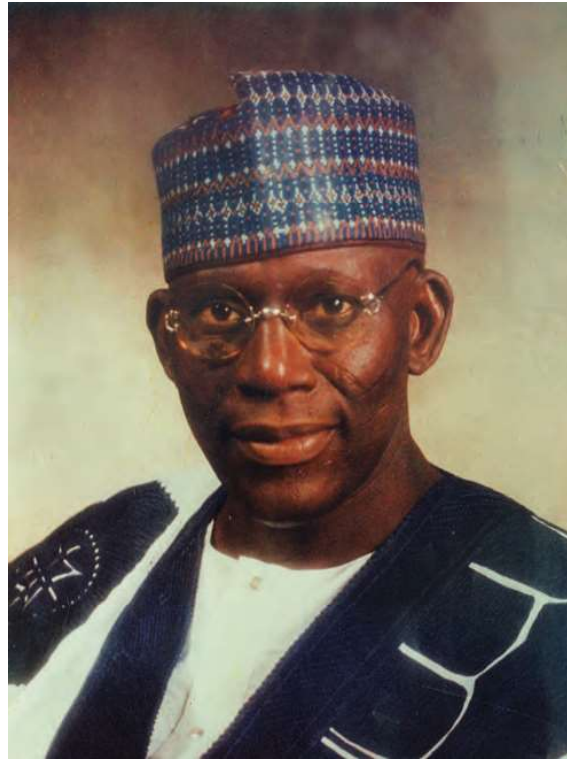
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Lieutenant Colonel Rasheed A. Shekoni



Alhaji Mohammed A. Lawal

Alhaji Mohammed A. Lawal

Alhaji Mohammed A. Lawal, now deceased, was democratically elected as the representative of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) and became the seventeenth Chief Executive of Kwara State, remaining as the civilian governor from 29th May 1999 to 29th May 2003. A retired Rear Admiral, he moved quickly and with typical military precision to address the multifarious socio-economic problems.

His administration embarked on a systematic programme of road development and rehabilitation, under which many roads were resurfaced, both in Ilorin and other major towns and villages across the state. In another bold step, autonomy and self-accounting status was granted to Kwara State Transport Corporation (Kwara Express) in recognition of the importance of mass transit as an invaluable tool for the stimulation of economic growth and 15 new air-conditioned buses were purchased for the corporation to increase its fleet.

The Lawal administration also procured and distributed N500 million worth of medical and non-medical equipment to health institutions, in order to guarantee the most effective and efficient healthcare delivery services possible across the state. The government also committed substantial resources to the improvement of the Water Supply Scheme and the installations that supplied water to about 180 different communities.

The governor and his administration did not rest there. In order to ease the acute shortage of resident accommodation in Ilorin, they instigated the construction of 150 2-bedroom houses at Irewole Ilorin at a cost of N180 million, and re-constructed and completed the abandoned Woman's Development Centre along Ajase-Ipo Road at a cost of N36 million.

Conscious of the need for communication with the population, Lawal pushed through enhanced logistical support for the Herald newspapers, which resulted in an increase in the production of the newspaper from two to three times a week and completed the FM stereo station in the Apata Yakuba area of Ilorin. He oversaw many other improvements, including: the distribution of tractors to all the 16 LGAs at 40% subsidy; the construction of 193 prototype clinics in all final-year students irrespective of their states of origin; the launch of the state's Poverty Alleviation Programme with a sum of N8 million distributed to 160 people from all 16 LGAs; and the rebuilding of all dilapidated structures in the state's health institute.

He was succeeded by Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, a medical doctor, who was elected as the 18th Chief Executive of the State on 29th May 2003, under the umbrella of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).



The Legislature

The Kwara State House of Assembly

While Kwara State came into existence in May 1967, it was not until October 1979 that the machineries for the State Legislature were put in place – a major indication of its military rule. However in 1979, when the civilian government took over the administration of the country, Houses of Assembly were constituted in all states, including Kwara.

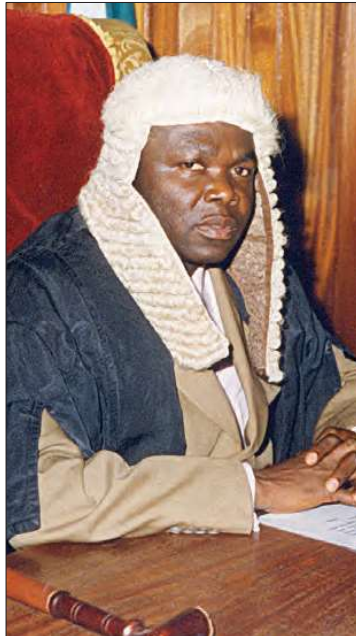
The first legislature in Kwara State became operational in 1979, when the then civilian governor, Alhaji Adamu Attah, signed the proclamation authorising the first sitting of the House in the second Republic. The Parliament comprised of fifteen elected representatives of the people, headed by the Speaker of the House Assembly, Rt. Honourable Shehu Usman. The indoor sports hall of the Kwara Stadium Complex was used as the temporary Assembly Chambers. The House was dissolved when a new democratically elected government came to power in October 1983.

The second legislature came into being in October 1983, when Chief Cornelius Adebayo, who was then Executive Governor of the State, signed a proclamation which authorised legislators to sit. But as the second Republic lasted for only three months, the life of the House was terminated when a military government, headed by Major General Muhammadu Buhari, toppled the democratically elected government of Alhaji Shehu Shagari in a coup on 3rd December 1983.

In January 1992 a new administration, marking the beginning of the third Republic, came into existence with Alhaji Mohammed Sha'aba Lafiaji as Governor. He signed a proclamation that authorised the Legislature to sit and they operated in the Assembly Complex which was newly commissioned at the time. This parliament, however, was again short-lived, ending abruptly when a military government, headed by General Sanni Abacha, toppled the interim National Government headed by Chief Ernest Shonekan in another coup d'état.

The continuation of the third Republic began on the 29th May 1999, with the fourth Assembly being born on 9th June, when the civilian Governor of Kwara State, Alhaji Muhammed Lawal signed a proclamation authorising its first sitting. This parliament came to an end in 2003, when a new democratically elected government was sworn in and started the fifth Kwara State Legislature on the 30th May when the Executive Governor of Kwara State Dr. Bukola Saraki signed a proclamation authorising its first sitting. This parliament ended with the tenure of the administration in May 2007.

The sixth Kwara State Legislature commenced in May 2007 on the authorisation of Dr Saraki, who had been re-elected as Executive Governor for a second term.



FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT Rt. Hon Shehu Usman 1979-1983; Rt. Hon Ismaila Sadiq October-December 1983; Rt Hon Saidu Ajao Gomi 1992-1993; Rt Hon Yissa Ezekiel Benjamin 1999-2003; Rt. Hon Isa Bio Ibrahim 2003-2008; Rt. Hon Babarunde Muhammed January 2009-to date.

The Judiciary

As mentioned above, the Kwara State Judiciary is made up of the High Court of Justice, the Sharia Court of Appeal, Magistrate Courts, Juvenile Courts and the Area Courts. The Judiciary is headed by the State Chief Judge, while the State Grand Kaddi heads the Sharia Court of Appeal.

The Judiciary of Kwara State came into being with the creation of the State in 1967, although it was known then as Central-West State. During this period, the Chief Justice of the Northern Region of Nigeria, Honourable Justice Wilfred H Hurley, also became the Chief Justice of the State. When he retired in 1968, Honourable Justice Reed took over as the Chief Justice of the then six Northern States, including Kwara. He retired in 1974, to be followed by Honourable Chief Justice Mohammed Bello as Acting Chief Justice for the Northern States from 1974 to 1975.

The first resident High Judge, Honourable Justice Raymond Hague, was appointed on 1st April 1968, but seven years later a substantive and first indigenous Chief Justice was appointed. This was Honourable Justice Saidu Kawu and he held the position until 1984 when he was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of the Country. He retired fully in September 1993.

Honourable Justice Timothy Adepoju Oyeyipo was the next Chief Justice of the state, appointed in July 1984 and serving in that capacity for 21 years. He had risen up the professional ladder, serving first as Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary, before being promoted to the post of Acting Court Judge on September 1976 and then High Court Judge in July 1977.

After his retirement, Honourable Justice Saka Yusuf was appointed as Chief Justice of the State in January 2006. He had joined the judiciary as Magistrate Grade I in 1981, had been appointed High Court Judge in Kano State in February 1986 and later became Acting Chief Judge of the same state from 2001 to 2006. He retired on 20th May 2007.

On 25th May 2007, Honourable Justice Eletu-Habbeb was appointed Acting Chief Judge of the State, having been made a Judge of the High Court with effect from 6th May 1986. She was sworn in as the substantive Chief Judge of the State on 28th March 2008, a post she held until April 2009. She was succeeded by Honourable



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Hon Grand Khadi Abdul-Quadir Oba Imam-Fulani; Hon Grand Khadi Idrees Abdullahi Haroon; Hon Grand Khadi Abdulkadir Orire; Hon Grand Khadi Muttalib Ahmad Ambali.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Hon Justice Saidu Kawu 1967-1984; Hon Justice Timothy Adepoju Oyeyipo 1984-2005; Hon Justice Saka Yusuf January 2006-May 2007; Elelu Habeeb Raliat March 2008-April 2009; Hon Justice JF Gbadeyan April-July 2009; Hon Justice Bamigbola Ayinla July 2009-2010; Hon Justice Sulyman Durosinlorun Kawu 2010-to date.

Justice Joseph Fola Gbadeyan, who had been appointed Magistrate Grade I in August 1974, and had risen through the ranks until being appointed the Acting Chief Justice of the State in November 2007. He continued as Acting Chief Justice until his retirement in July 2009.

In the same month, Honourable Justice Ayinla Olatunji Bamgbola became Chief Justice, having been a Judge of the High Court since December 1994. Upon his retirement in 2010, he was succeeded by the Honourable Justice Sulyman Durosinoluwa Kawu (as Acting Chief Justice), who had served as a High Court Judge since 1994.

The State Sharia Court of Appeal has been presided over by four Grand Kaddis: Honourable Justice Abdulkadir Orire (1975-1999), Honourable Justice Mutalib Ambali (2000-2008), Honourable Justice Abdulqadir Oba Imam-Fulani (2008-June 2010) and Honourable Justice Idrees Abdulahi Haroon (June 2010 to date).

Honourable Justice Abdulkadir Orire was appointed pioneer Grand Kaddi by the Supreme Military Council in 1975 and held the post for twenty-four years until December 1999. Before then he had been appointed Judge of the Sharia Court of Appeal for North Central and Kwara State in 1971. After his retirement, Honourable Justice Mutali Ambali took over the position, having started his career with the Kwara State Sharia Court of Appeal, first as its pioneer Chief Registrar, then as the Kaddi. He was appointed the Grand Kaddi in July 2001 and held the post until April 2008 when he retired from active judicial service.



Kaiama

K

MORO

Asa

Ona
Oyun

FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT Mr. E.I. Odama 1975-1976; Alh. Alarape Salmon 1976-1978; Dr. S.E. Mosugu 1978-1979; Mr. Saka Yusuf 1979-1983; Mr. P. Olorunishola 1983-1983; Mr. Baymono Erin 1984-1985; Mr. J.K. Obasa 1985-1986; ;;; Alh. Muritala A. Sanni 1994-1999; Adisa Shuaib Adelodun Oloolu Jan-May 1999; Titus Olasupo Ashaolu 1999-2003; Saka Abimbola Isau 2003-2010; Dr. Ali Ahmed 2010-to date.

Attorney Generals

The office of the Attorney General is an important constituent of the State Judiciary. The State Attorney is the chief legal advisor to the State Government and the State's chief law enforcement officer. By statutory provisions, the Attorney General doubles as both the Commissioner for Justice and the Head of the Ministry of Justice, the latter post giving him membership of the cabinet with executive responsibilities similar to the other commissioners. Since 1975, the State has had fourteen attorney generals including the sitting attorney general Dr Ali Ahmad. These are: Mr E. I. Odama (1975-1976), Alhaji Alarape Salmon (1976-1978), Dr S.E Mosugu (1978-1979), Mr Saka Yusuf (1979-1983), Mr P Olorunishola (1983), Mr Baymono Erin (1984-1985), Mr J. K. Obasa (1985-1986), Dr. Mose Bamidele Oyebanji (1986-1992), Alhaji Babatunde Abdul (1993-1994), Alhaji Muritala A. Sanni (1994-1999), Mr Adisa Shuaib Adelodun Oloolu (Jan-May 1999), Mr Titus Olasupo Ashaolu (1999-2003) and Alhaji Saka Abimbola Isay (2003-2010).



Local Government Administration

As mentioned above, local governance is the joint responsibility of each of the LGA's Executive Councils, comprised of the Chairman, who is the head of the Council, the Vice Chairman, Supervisory Councillors and the Secretary to the Local Government, but there are also traditional and community leaders.

There is a Council of Chiefs for each LGA in Kwara State, as well as a traditional Rulers Council comprising of graded traditional rulers and community leaders. Their responsibilities include the maintenance of peace, order and communal harmony within the State.

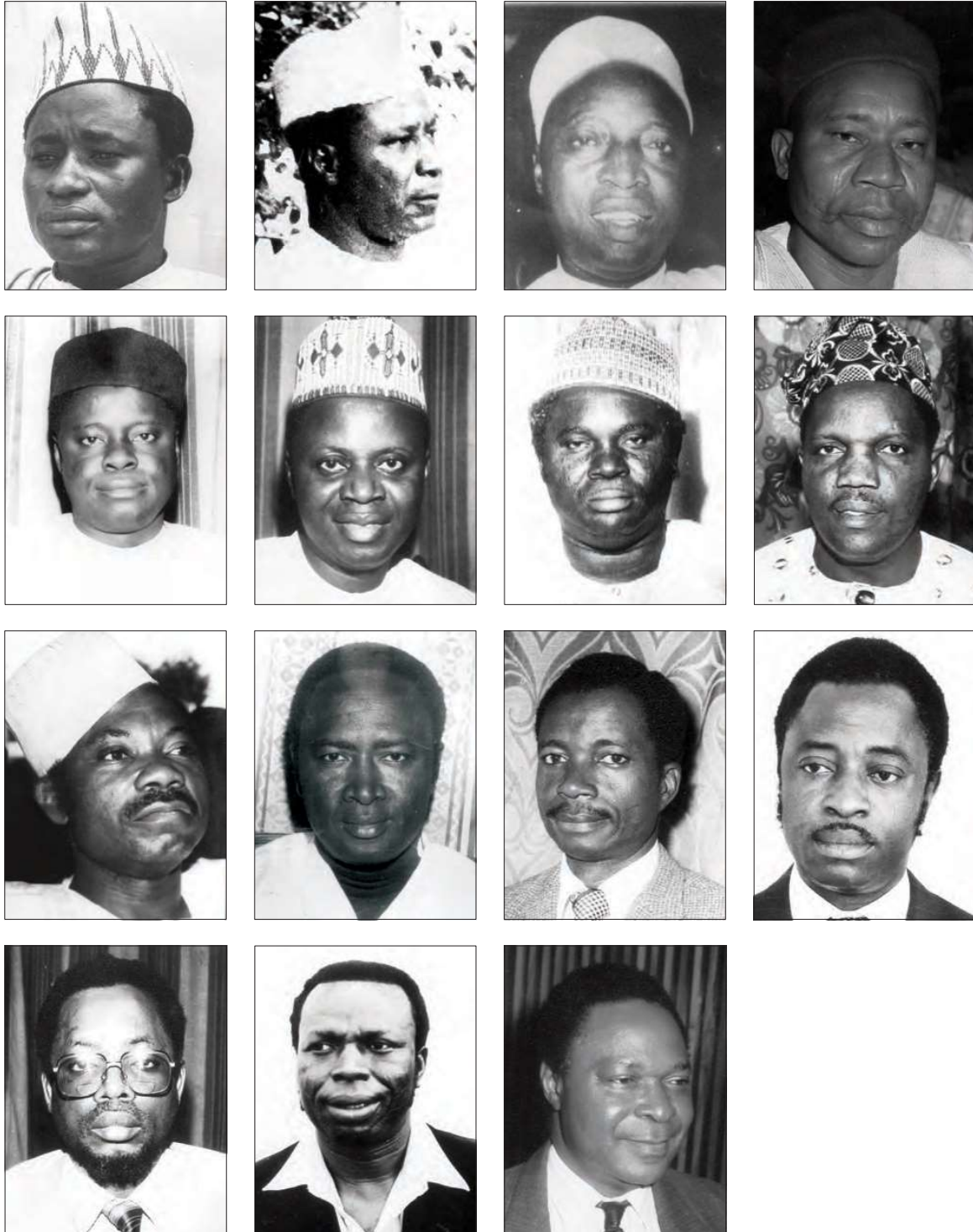
Kaiama



Asa



FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT Elerin of Erin-ile Oba Abdul Ganiyu Ajibola Ibrahim Olusokun II; Elese of Igbaja Alhaji Ahmed Arepo; Emir of Ilorin Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari (CFR); Emir of Kaiama Alh. Muhammed T. Umar; Emir of Lafiagi Alhaji Sa'adu Haliru; Emir of Shonga Alh. (Dr.) Ndanusa Hliru Yahaya; Etsu Patigi Alhaji Ibrahim Chatta Umar (OON); Etsu Tsaragi Alhaji K. Abdullahi; Olofa of Offa HRH Oba Mufutau Gbadamosi Esuwoye; Olofa of Offa Oba Mustapha Olawore Olanipekun Ariwajoye II; Olomu of Omu Aran Oba Charles Oladele Ibitoye Adogbajale II; Olupo of Ajase Ipo Oba Sekiru Attenda Oladolu Sanni.



FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT Alh. A.R. Salimonu SSG 1979-1983; Alh. Abdulrahman Okene SMG and Head of Service 1967-1969; Alh. Liman Umaru SMG and Head of Service 1970-1972; Alh. M.S. Koro SSG 1994-1995; Alh. Saidu Isa SMG and Head of Service 1990-1992; Alh. Saka Sa'adu SMG and Head of Service 1988-1990; Alh. Shehu Abdul-Gafar SSG 1992-1993; Chief J.A. Aderibigbe SMG and Head of Service 1972-1975; Chief Z.O. Mowaiye SSG Oct 1983-Dec. 1983; Dr. A.S. Oniyangi SMG and Head of Service 1984-1985; Dr. E.E.Soladoye SSG and Head of Service 1976-1979; Mr. Gilbert Obatoyinbo SMG and Head of Service 1975-1976; Mr. Joshua Ogunlowo Head of Service Oct. 1983-Dec. 1983 and SMG and Head of Service 1985-1988; Mr. M.O. Oyejipo Head of Service 1979-1983; Mr. T.A. Oyawole SSG 1995 to date.