



Bayero
University
Kano

OFFICIAL Bulletin

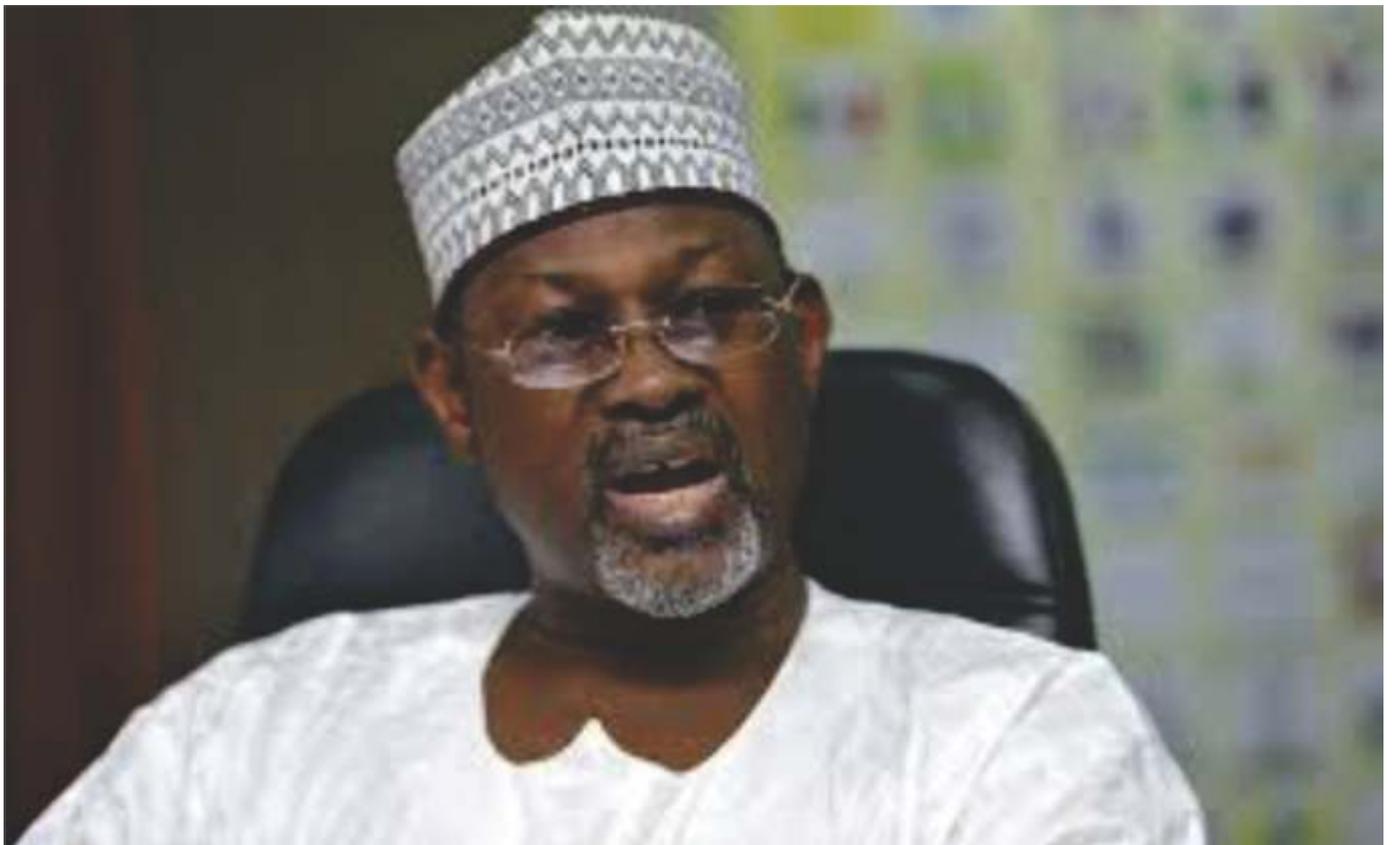
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WEEKLY

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Democracy or Deception? Jega Urges Bold Reforms

By Lamara Garba



Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega

Despite the country witnessing nearly three decades of uninterrupted civil rule, Nigeria's democracy is still dangerously underdeveloped, former National Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru M. Jega, has disclosed.

Presenting a paper titled "Required Reforms for Stronger Democratic Institutions in Nigeria" at the Platform Nigeria: June 12, 2025 edition, organized by The Covenant Nation Global in Lagos on Thursday, June 12, 2025, Jega, a Professor of Political Science from Bayero University, Kano noted that, "we have perfected the rituals of democracy—elections, party campaigns, political handovers—but have failed to build the substance: institutions that work, leaders who serve, and a citizenry that trusts. We are stuck in a vicious cycle where those elected to protect democracy become its greatest threat."

He posited that if we are to salvage the republic, Nigeria must embrace far-reaching institutional reforms that will ensure accountability, strengthen the rule of law, and make governance truly serve the people.

"At the center of Nigeria's crisis of governance is the immunity clause in our Constitution. It was meant to protect high office holders—presidents and governors—from frivolous litigation while in office. Instead, it has become a protective shield for corruption and abuse. Under this provision, executives have looted public funds, manipulated institutions, and trampled on rights without consequence. They know that for four or eight years, they are above the law. This is not democracy—it is elected autocracy. The immunity clause must go. Real-time accountability should apply to all public officers, regardless of rank," he noted.

Professor Jega explained however, that removing immunity is only the beginning. Therefore, to build a democracy where power truly serves the people, we must fix the broken judiciary. “In recent years, the courts have become compromised by political interference, underfunding, and opaque appointments. Judges are too often beholden to the executives who determine their career progression and salaries. The result is a judiciary that delays justice, tolerates impunity, and sometimes becomes a willing accomplice in subverting the will of the people. A democracy without an independent judiciary is like a car without brakes—it’s only a matter of time before it crashes”.

Judicial reform he affirmed must be both comprehensive and urgent. Other measures to strengthen the democratic tenets are that all election petitions must be resolved before winners are sworn in to prevent courts from becoming post-election war rooms. The appointment process for judges should prioritize merit, experience, and character—not political loyalty. And contradictory court orders, often issued on the same issue from different courts, must end. These practices have turned the judiciary into a playground for desperate politicians. The courts must once again become temples of justice—where the poor and powerful are treated equally.

The Political scientist argued that strong democracy also depends on a free and responsible press. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, he said the media is under siege. Journalists are routinely harassed, denied access to public information, or co-opted by political actors. Many operate in fear, while others compromise truth for patronage. If the press cannot freely investigate, question, and report without fear, then democratic oversight collapses. The Freedom of Information Act must be fully enforced, and government agencies that violate it should face meaningful sanctions. At the same time, media professionals must adopt and uphold ethical standards to fight disinformation and hate speech, which also threaten democracy.

According to Professor Jega, elections remain the formal expression of democracy, but their credibility is what gives democracy its substance. INEC has made strides, particularly in deploying technology, but deep challenges remain. Executive control over the appointment of INEC leadership continues to cast doubt on the commission's independence. Moreover, the body is overburdened—tasked not only with conducting elections but also prosecuting electoral offenders and regulating political parties. This is neither practical nor sustainable. INEC must be unbundled, with specialized, autonomous institutions taking on these additional roles, leaving the commission to focus solely on election management.

Technology is crucial to electoral integrity—but only if it is used transparently. Electronic transmission of results, biometric accreditation, and digital tracking must be standardized and secure. We must eliminate the space for human manipulation and back-end rigging. Citizens must be able to trust that their votes count and that elections are won fairly. Without credible elections, democracy

becomes a hollow ritual—expensive, time-consuming, and meaningless.

Another major problem according to him is the unchecked dominance of the executive arm at both state and federal levels. He posited that over the years, this arm of government has become bloated with power and surrounded by an ever-growing army of political appointees. “Often, governors and the president operate as if they are above scrutiny—allocating security votes without transparency, ignoring legislative oversight, and appointing cronies without merit. The result is government as personal enterprise, not public service”.

However, as a panacea to this imbalance, he suggested that the country must drastically cut the number of political appointments and enforce strict transparency in public spending—especially security-related funds, which have become slush funds in many states. “Budgets must be adhered to, not treated as mere suggestions. And we must demand the highest ethical standards from our elected officials, not celebrate mediocrity or reward loyalty over competence.”

Professor Jega, maintained that institutions alone are not enough, the long-term solution to the survival of democracy depends on the engagement and commitment of citizens. He said too many Nigerians have lost faith in the system—and for good reason. “Corruption, impunity, and exclusion have driven apathy. But democracy cannot be outsourced. Citizens must demand accountability, participate actively, and reject vote-buying, ethnic politics, and the politics of handouts. Democracy belongs to the people—but only if the people claim it.”

“Inclusive participation is vital. Nigeria must make room for the diaspora to vote, provide early voting options for essential workers, and create legislative quotas for women, youth, and persons with disabilities. We cannot continue to lock out the very groups whose energy and innovation can revitalize our politics. A democracy that does not reflect the diversity of its people is not representative—it is a lie,” said Jega.

On the other hand, he said ultimately, what Nigeria needs is not just periodic elections, but a full democratic reset. We must abandon the illusion that civil rule is the same as democratic governance. That myth has held us back for too long. If we continue down the path of weak institutions, unaccountable power, and silenced dissent, we risk not just democratic stagnation—but democratic collapse.

Professor Jega revealed that “this is a generational task—but one that cannot wait. We must remove executive immunity, strengthen the judiciary, empower the media, protect the vote, and curtail executive overreach. We must shift from a culture of impunity to a culture of responsibility; from patronage to public service; from autocracy dressed as democracy to the real thing. Nigeria is not doomed. But we are running out of time. This republic can still be saved—if we act with urgency, clarity, and courage. Let the reforms begin. Let the people rise. Let democracy, finally, be real.”

BUK Student wins Nigerian Society of Plant Protection Essay Competition, As Prof. A.U. Yusuf Re-elected President of the Society

Bayero University Student from the faculty of Agriculture, Ahmad Gano (AGR/19/01023) emerged the winner of this year's Essay Competition organized by the Nigerian Society for Plant Protection.

Gano won a prize worth 50,000 naira and automatic membership of the Society.

Meanwhile, Professor Abdulhameed Umar Yusuf and Dr. Baba Sani Wudil have been re-elected President and North-West Zonal Coordinator of the Society respectively

for second term. The election took place during the Society's Annual Conference and 50th Anniversary celebration tagged: Yola 2025 from 11th to 15th May, 2025.

Both Professor Abdulhameed Umar Yusuf and Dr. Baba Sani Wudil were from the Department of Crop Protection, Bayero University.

It could be recalled that last year, the two female winners of the competition were from the Forestry and Wildlife Department of the same Faculty of Agriculture.



From left to right: The reelected NSPP President, Prof. A. U. Yusuf, the reelected Vice President, Prof. Anne Malgwi and the Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT), Prof. D. B. Olufolaji

BUK Management Condoles Prof. Gaji Dantata, Mal. Nasiru Zage

By Suleiman Salihu

The Management of Bayero University, Kano on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 paid a condolence visit to the family of Prof. Gaji Dantata, at Koki Quarters in Kano Municipal over the death of her son, Halifa Muhammad Ibrahim who died on Sunday, 8th June, 2025 at the age of 41.

In the same vein, the Management paid a similar visit to the family of Mal. Nasiru Dahiru Zage who died on the 10th of June, 2025 at Zage Quarters in Kano Municipal.

Until his death, Mal. Nasiru Dahiru Zage, was a Senior Staff in the Directorate of Examinations Admissions and Records (DEAR).

According to the family sources, Zage's died after a brief illness. He left behind seven (7) children, including four (4) females and three (3) males, among them was Dahir Nasiru Zage (Halifa), a staff of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas commiserated with the two families and prayed to Almighty Allah to give them the solace and fortitude to bear the irreparable losses.

During the condolence visits, special prayers were offered by Mal. Sheriff A. Ahmed for the repose of the two souls and many others that died.

Members of the entourage during the visit included, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. Haruna Musa; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Management Services, Prof. Aliyu Mu'azu; Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Development, Prof. Amina Mustapha; Registrar, Mal Haruna Aliyu; University Librarian, Dr. Kabiru Dahiru Abbas; Director VC's office, Mal Sheriff A. Ahmed and Head of Publicity and Outreach unit, Mal. Muhammad Salisu Rabi'u.

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, has approved the appointments of the underlisted staff into various positions.

S/N	NAME	DEPARTMENT	APPOINTMENTS	EFFECTIVE
1	The Vice Chancellor	Vice Chancellor's Office	Chairman, Management Board of the Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Immediate effect
2	The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics)	Vice Chancellor's Office	Member, Management Board of the Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Immediate effect
3	The Provost, College of Health Sciences	AKTH	Member, Management Board of the Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Immediate effect
4	Administrative Officer	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Secretary, Management Board of the Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Immediate effect
5	The Director	Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Member, Management Board of the Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Immediate effect
6	The Dean	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Member, Management Board of the Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Immediate effect
7	The Dean	Faculty of Agriculture	Member, Management Board of the Bayero University Veterinary Teaching Hospital	Immediate effect
8	Professor Arabi Sulaiman Abdullahi	Department of Geology	Director, Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnership (DRIP)	30 th June, 2025 to 29 th June, 2027
9	Professor Mukhtar Shehu Aliyu	Department of Business Administration	Deputy Dean, (Research and Innovation), Dangote Business School	10 th June, 2025 to 9 th June, 2027
10	Dr Aisha Aminu	Department of Business Administration	Deputy Dean, (Programmes), Dangote Business School	10 th June, 2025 to 9 th June, 2027
11	Dr Mu'azu Hassan Mu'azu	Department of Business Administration	Sub Dean, Dangote Business School	10 th June, 2025 to 9 th June, 2027
12	Dr Ahmad Gambo	Department of Food Science and Technology	Head, Department of Food Science and Technology	11 th June, 2025
13	Professor Umar Sani	Department of Pure and Industrial	Dean, Faculty of Physical Sciences	29 th May, 2025 to
14	Professor Abdulkadir Muhammad Nura	Department of Physics	Deputy Dean, Faculty of Physical Sciences	29 th May, 2025 to 28 th May, 2027
15	Muhammad Mansur Zubairu	Department of Mathematics	Sub Dean (Academics)	29 th May, 2025 to 28 th May, 2027
16	Dr Hassan Muhammad	Department of Mathematics	Sub Dean (Facilities)	29 th May, 2025 to 28 th May, 2027
17	Dr Salisu Bello Sadau	Department of Science and Technical Education	Deputy Director, Center for Economic, Social and Population Research (CESPOR)	20 th June, 2025 to 29 th June, 2027



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

Theme:

Transforming Public Policy, Public Finance & Governance for Sustainable Development in Africa: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward

Sub-themes:

- Public Policy and Sustainable Development
- Public Finance and Sustainable Development
- Governance and Sustainable Development
- Security and Sustainable Development
- Leadership and Sustainable Development
- Ethics and Sustainable Development
- Digitalization and Sustainable Development
- Human Resource Management and Sustainable Development
- Any other related area

Submission Guideline:

Authors are encouraged to submit an Abstract of not more than 300 words that clearly outlines the objectives, methods, expected results and recommendations /contributions of their paper. All full paper submissions must be in APA style 7th edition.

Registration Fees:

- Standard Fee (Physical) N35,000
- Standard Fee (Virtual) N25,000
- Student Fee N20,000
- International \$100

Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline = 2nd September, 2025
- Full Paper Submission Deadline = 5th September, 2025
- Conference Date = 9th - 11th September, 2025

Contact:

Conference Email: padconference@buk.edu.ng

DATE: 9th to 11th September 2025.

VENUE: Faculty of Economics & Management Sciences, CBN Centre of Excellence Building, Bayero University Kano

Chairman LOC:
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abubakar Tabi'u
+2348036043342

LOC Secretary:
Dr. Riyaudeen Z. Maitama
+2348037970725

DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION: M.SC. PROPOSAL/INTERNAL DEFENSE

Candidate 1: Fiddausi Kabir Adam
(SPS/21/MMC/00029)

Topic: Effect of Family Expectations and Socio-cultural Norms on Professional Careers: A Study of Women Registered Journalists in Kano Metropolis

Supervisor: Professor Hadiza J. Ibrahim

Candidate 2: Khadija Abubakar Muhammad
(SPS/21/MMC/00012)

Topic: Access and Use of Social Media Platforms for Entrepreneur Activities among Housewife in Nasarawa LGA of Kano State

Supervisor: Professor Umaru A. Pate

Candidate 3: Binta Ali Bala (SPS/17/MMC/00010)

Topic: Knowledge and Risk Perception of Symptoms of Preeclampsia among Pregnant Women in Kano State

Supervisor: Dr. Ruqayya Yusuf Aliyu

Candidate 4: Hamza Shatima
(SPS/19/MMC/00018)

Topic: Funding a News Coverage among State Broadcast Media in Taraba State

Supervisor: Professor Umaru Alhaji Pate

Candidate 5: Patience Peter Gapkong
(SPS/21/MMC/00014)

Topic: The Coverage of #Endhunger and #Endbadgovernance Protests in Nigeria by Daily

Trust and the Nation Newspapers

Supervisor: Professor Maryam Umar Mukhtar

Candidate 6: Isah Muhammed Lawal
(SPS/21/PMC/00009)

Topic: Social Media Audience Engagement: A study of Selected Private Radio Stations in Kano

Supervisor: Professor Usman I. Abubakar

Candidate 7: Abubakar Safyanu Sa'idu Al-Sadique
(SPS/18/PMC/00002)

Topic: Social Media and Political Participation in Bauchi State between 2015 and 2023

Supervisor: Professor Umaru A. Pate

Candidate 8: Hadiza Mustapha Namadi
(SPS/19/PMC/00015)

Topic: Survey of COVID-19 Information Seeking Behavior among Residents in Kano Metropolis

Supervisor: Professor Usman I. Abubakar

Chairman: Dr. Gambo Shehu Nababa

Time: 9:30am

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025

Venue: Mass Communication Departmental Board Room

All Submissions have been distributed (Soft copies and presentation Slides) along with this notice

Request for Submission of Unserviceable Equipment, Waste Papers and Other Unserviceable Items

The University Board of Survey wishes to request Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department to please furnish the Board with a comprehensive list of all unserviceable items situated in their respective locations. This is to enable the Board of Survey determine the practicability or otherwise of disposing off the items in

accordance with extant regulations.

Signed:

Hajiya Halima Shehu Hayat

Secretary, Board of Survey,

For: Chairman

ACTU-BUK CALLS FOR 'WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION'

Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU), Bayero University, Kano urges the University Community to join hands in fighting corruption in the University system. You can report any act of corruption and other corrupt practices in the University through our complain/suggestion boxes at strategy places in the University as follows:

1. University libraries – new and Old Campuses
2. University clinics- New and Old Campus
3. Students Hostels -New and Old Campus
4. ACTU Secretariat - Old Admin. Block, New Campus

5. Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rashheed Senate building New Campus

Or direct complain to the Chairman, **Nu'uman Mohammad Habib**, PhD of Sociology Department with phone number: 07010081010/08023214862 or Secretary to the Committee, **Barr. Nura Musa Abdullahi** of S E R V I C O M with phone number : 08100575642/08093862528.

Our success is the university community success.

SIGNED:
SECRETARY

FARMLANDS AND TRACTOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

Announcement: This is to notify the University Community that henceforth, it is mandatory for any individual that is willing to use the University farmlands for farming to obtain an allocation form from the Office of the Farm manager upon the payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Naira (N500.00) only.

Note that for this year's rainy season, the forms will be ready for collection as from Monday, 16th June, 2025 We expect your positive response in that direction as we are determined to sanitize the whole process

Signed:

Dr. Abubakar K. Karaye (Secretary)

For: Chairman



ANTI-CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY UNIT (ACTU) BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

in collaboration with

ASUU, SSANU, NAAT, NASU and SUG

Invites you to

3-Days " Campus Walk" to Sensitize the University Community on ACTU's Anti-Corruption Activities

Theme:

WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION

Date:

Tuesday, 24th-
Thursday, 26th June, 2025

Time:

11:00am
Daily

Venues:

New Campus, Old Campus,
AKTH and SCE

Motto: Accountability and Transparency

WORDSCAPE

With Yusuf M. Adamu, PhD, MNAL, FANA, FANG (Dept. of Geography)

I AM A LECTURER

I am a lecturer and I am not ashamed
I am on strike to ensure my existence
the existence of a sane and great society
a society that is rational and productive

The future of my nation is at stake
some oppressors have taken over its soul
they've turned my country into a milk cow
squandered its resources and embezzled its riches

The nation has become so docile and submissive
shrouded in sold ethnic and religious bigotry
every sector has been destroyed without remorse
the leaders are not concerned about our fate
I am on strike and I am not ashamed
called names by the people whom I'm fighting for
I have been punished by hunger and poverty

I promise I will not go down nor
give up

I am entitled to a good salary
I am entitled to good working
conditions

I am entitled to be respected by all
I am not ashamed to fight for these rights
I chose to join this noble profession
I choose to stay and make a difference
I choose not to run away even with options
I am a lecturer and I am not ashamed

Let all Nigerians know

let the irresponsible government note
we have not come this far to abandon the
battle

we will remain the last bastion against
tyranny.



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