

Biography

Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, SAN, FCIArb, FABS, FCIDA, HCILRM, MIICA, MIPN, RAFA (Dan Masanin Gwandu, Zarumman Kabbi) (born on the 3rd April, 1957) is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a former Minister of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, former Supervising Minister, Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity having served from 2013 – 2015 and 2014 – 2015 respectively and current Chairman of People's Democratic Party Former Ministers' Forum of Nigeria. A practicing lawyer and a politician, he contested for Kebbi State Governor's seat and in 2019, he aspired to become the Presidential Flagbearer of the Party. He is presently a member of People's Democratic Party's Board of Trustees.

Early Life and Education

Kabiru was born at the Nassarawa Area of Nassarawa 1 Ward, Birnin Kebbi Town in Birnin Kebbi Local Government Area of Kebbi State to the family of Alhaji Tanimu and Hajiya Amina.

Like other children of his age, Kabiru was sent to the Quranic school to acquire Islamic knowledge and memorize the Quran. He was equally enrolled at the Nassarawa Primary School, Birnin Kebbi to start the journey for the acquisition of Western Education. At Nassarawa Primary School, he served both as the Deputy Headboy as well as the School Time Keeper.

Kabiru then proceeded to the prestigious Barewa College Zaria, for his secondary school education, at which school he served both as the Deputy House Captain of Suleiman Barau House, as well as the President of the Young Farmers Club.

To further his education, Kabiru proceeded to the State College of Arts and Science (SCAS), Sokoto for his I.J.M.B and then to the famous University of Jos, Jos, for a degree in Law, and graduated with LL.B (Hons).

From Jos, he proceeded to Nigerian Law School, Victoria Island, Lagos, where he did his professional qualification course, earned a B.L and was subsequently called to the Nigeria Bar in 1986.

In 2009, he attended an Arbitration course with the Chartered Institute of Arbitration North-America Branch and became a Fellow (FCIArb), and in

2010, he attended The Islamic Finance Institute of Southern Africa where he studied Islamic Economics, Investment and Financing Techniques and Sukuk among others.

Personal Life

Turaki is married and has children and grandchildren. He is Hausa by tribe, and hail from Kebbi State, in the North Western geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

KTT is notably the first indigenous lawyer in Kebbi state. Exceptionally, he surpassed the benchmarks amongst lawyers in the State, being the first indigenous lawyer to become the Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) in the state and indeed the entire North-western states in Nigeria. He is also a Notary Public appointed by the Chief Justice of Nigeria since 2002.

He holds several Traditional Titles, among which are the Danmasanin Gwandu, given in February 2002, in celebration of his uncommon achievements and support for the development of his local community; Zaruman Kabi, conferred in 2012 by the Argungu Emirate Council, and the title of Chimere Eze 1 of Ibagwa Nike Ezeokwe Kingdom (means God appointed you as a King).

Turaki has been a member of the National Executive Committee of NBA since 1989, Chairman of Nigeria Bar Association Committee on the Judiciary, as well as a Member of the Governing Board of the Nigerian Judicial Institute. He was a member of the National Political Reform Conference in 2004 and in 2006, he was appointed as the Member of the Team Nigeria Trust Fund, a body that was charged with the responsibility of raising private funding for sports in Nigeria, along with Aliko Dangote, Mike Adenuga Junior etc, by former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

In 2012, he was appointed the Chairman of Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) by President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, a position he held until 2013, when he became a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, saddled with the responsibility of piloting the affairs of Federal Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as the Honourable Supervising Minister of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity.

Turaki also served as the Chairman of the White Paper Committee on the Report of the Presidential Committee of Experts on Interprofessional Relationships in the Public Health Sector.

President Jonathan also appointed Turaki as the Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Dialogue and Peaceful Resolution of Security Challenges in the North.

Professional Career

On graduation from the Nigerian Law School, Turaki embarked on the mandatory one-year National Service programme (NYSC) with the then Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), after which he went into private legal practice. He started his practice as a Counsel in the firm of Alhaji Tijjani Abdullahi & Co., in 1987. Two years later in 1989, he founded his own firm, K. T. Turaki and Company, and has been engaged in active private legal practice since then.

As a private legal practitioner, Turaki had practiced in virtually every court and tribunal in the country, from Lower Courts (Magistrate/District Courts, Area and Customary Courts) to Superior Courts of records like State and Federal High Courts, National Industrial Court, Court of Appeal and the Apex Court – the Supreme Court. He has also practiced before Election Petition Tribunals, Robbery and Fire Arms Tribunal, Miscellaneous Offences Tribunal, Failed Banks Tribunals as well as Census Tribunal.

Turaki is a retained external solicitor and legal adviser to many organisations, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) Blue Chips Companies, Embassies, Banks and Other Financial Agencies and institutions.

Turaki was appointed a member of the Kano State Law Reporting Committee in 1999, and a member for the review of Current Legislations in Kano State in 2000. The following year he also served in the committee that reviewed the Northern States Panel Code Law.

When the Nigerian Bar Association was going through one of its trying moments, as a result of the crisis that arose from the botched Port Harcourt 1992 Convention, Turaki was one of those called upon by the Body of

Benchers under the Chairmanship of the Late Legal Luminary, Chief F.R.A. Williams, SAN, to resolve the impasse.

Turaki was a member of the National Political Reform Conference in 2004, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Team Nigerian Trust Fund, a body that was set up to galvanize private sector participation in the sports development and financing in Nigeria.

When the defunct Bank of the North was in murky waters, Turaki was on the intervention board that was set up by the regulatory agencies to restore the bank that was on the verge of collapse to profitability.

He was at various times a member of the Council of Legal Education, as well as member for the review of Investment Laws in Nigeria. He was also a member of the Ministerial Committee for the Implementation of Reforms in the Nigeria Police Force as well as the committee set up by the Body of Benchers to review the laws regulating legal practice in Nigeria. His contributions to the development of our laws and legal profession led to his appointment as a Notary Public by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, and his elevation to the prestigious rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2002.

Turaki was, and has remained on the Board of several companies that are active in Oil and Gas, Investment, Publications, Insurance, Assets and Portfolio management, etc.

Turaki is a member of many professional bodies, including:

- Member, Nigerian Bar Association, 1986
- Member, African Bar Association, 1989
- Member, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, 1990
- Member, International Bar Association, 1992
- Member, National Executive Committee, NBA, 1990 – 1995
- Member, Kano State Law Reporting Committee, 1991
- Member, Body of Benchers Committee for Resolution of NBA Crisis, 1992
- Member, Committee for the Review of Current Legislations, Kano State, 1993
- Member, Lawyers in Defence of Human Rights (NGO), 1995
- Member, Institute of Industrialists and Corporate Administrators, 2000

- Member, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, 2001
- Member of the Inner Bar, 2002
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 2009
- Member, Body of Benchers' Committee for the Reform of the Laws Regulating the Legal Profession in Nigeria, 2010
- Elected Chairman of the Centennial Class of the Nigerian Law School, 2010
- Council Member, Section on Legal Practice, NBA, 2012
- Member, Governing Board, National Judicial Institute, 2012
- Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association Committee on the Judiciary, 2012
- Member, Committee on the Reconciliation of E-payment in Kebbi State, 2012

Political Career

Turaki's political career began during his school years, when he was chairman of the Caretaker Committee of the Students' Union of SCAS, Sokoto. At the University of Jos, he was a member of the Senate of the National Association of Nigerian Students, a member of the Students' Representative Assembly of the University, President of the Federated Organisation of Sokoto State Students Association and President of Birnin Kebbi Youths Association.

After graduating, Turaki continued participating in politics. He was secretary of the Youth Wing of the National Party of Nigeria in 1981. He joined United Nigeria Congress Party in 1996 where he stood as Kebbi State Gubernatorial aspirant for the party. In 1998, Turaki joined All Peoples' Party where he was a member of its National Executive Committee and in 2000, he was elevated to its Board of Trustees.

However, as the political pendulum in the country shifted, Turaki moved to United Nigerian Peoples' Party (UNPP) and contested for the seat of Kebbi State Governor in 2003. After the 2003 elections, he joined the People's Democratic Party the same year and was the Party's Kebbi State Gubernatorial aspirant in 2007. Following series of controversies within the party at the time, Turaki decided to join ACN in 2011. This, however, did not last as he later returned to People's Democratic Party the same year. In 2014/2015, Turaki was appointed Deputy Director General (North) of the People's Democratic Party Presidential Campaign Organization. Similarly, he

was also called upon again to pilot the PDP 2019 Presidential Campaign as Deputy Director General.

Ministerial Appointment

In 2013, Turaki was chosen by President Goodluck Jonathan for the rebirthing Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs. The President added the responsibility of Supervising Ministry of Labour and Productivity in 2014. Turaki managed the two ministries until 2015. He was also saddled with the responsibility of implementing and executing the constituency project of all members of the National Assembly, as well as supervising the activities of Sure-P.

Security Challenges

When the need arose to open up dialogue with the Boko Haram insurgent, Turaki was the choice of the federal government and was appointed Chairman of the Presidential Committee for Dialogue and Peaceful Resolution of Security Challenges in the North. A committee which for more than two years engaged the insurgents in discussion that saw many leaders of Boko Haram accepting the dialogue option as a means of resolving the insecurity situation in the North-East geo-political zone of Nigeria. Later on, when the need arose to constitute another Presidential Committee for Continuing Dialogue, Turaki was again appointed to carry out that assignment.

Other Contributions

Turaki was chosen to lead Federal Government delegations on many occasions to countries such as Niger, Senegal and Belarus in 2014. He was chosen by President Goodluck Jonathan to serve as the Deputy Director General of his campaign, and in 2015 was appointed to the board of trustees of the People's Democratic Party.

In 2018, Turaki was one of the people who contested for the Presidential ticket of the PDP against the 2019 General Elections, and conducted a robust campaign that was essentially issue based.

Publications

Turaki has published a lot of papers both for scholarly and national discourse. Among some of his publications are:

- (a) INTRUSION OF ENGLISH LAW ON THE INHERITANCE OF LAND IN NIGERIA, 1985.
- (b) PROBLEMS OF BAIL IN NIGERIAN LOWER COURTS, 1990.
- (c) PROBLEMS MILITATING AGAINST THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTHS IN THE POLITICS OF THE THIRD REPUBLIC, 1996.
- (d) CONTRIBUTION OF NIGERIAN YOUTHS TO NATION BUILDING, 1997.
- (e) THE CHALLENGES OF POLITICAL PARTIES: INEC REGULATORY FUNCTIONS VS ELECTORAL ACT, 2010, 2011
- (f) LEGAL PROFESSION: PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES, 2012.
- (g) THE ROLE OF CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP IN A TIME LIKE THIS, 2021.

Award and Recognition

Turaki has been conferred with several awards and recognitions both Nationally and Internationally, as a result of his achievements, outstanding public service, philanthropy and sterling qualities. Some of these awards and recognitions are as follows:

- (1) DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD BY SUG, UNIVERSITY OF JOS, 2006.
- (2) DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR AWARD BY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY, UNIJOS, 2006.
- (3) AFRICAN MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD FOR GOOD LEADERSHIP, 2007.
- (4) NUKESS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE, 2007.
- (5) GRAND PATRON, AREWA PUBLISHERS UNION, 2008.
- (6) NIGERIAN YOUTH AMBASSADOR, 2008.
- (7) AREWA PUBLISHERS UNION DISTINGUISHED MERIT AWARD, 2008.
- (8) BEEMA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED GOLDEN STAR AWARD, 2008.
- (9) BAREWA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION MERIT AWARD, 2008.
- (10) ZENITH INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE, 2008.
- (11) ICON OF HOPE AWARD BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS (NAPS), 2008.
- (12) LIFE PATRON, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NANS), 2009.

- (13) NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, KANO BRANCH, MERIT AWARD, 2009.
- (14) NIGERIAN STUDENTS' MERIT AWARD, 2009.
- (15) GLIBALINK INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP GOLD AWARD, 2009.
- (16) GLOBAL NEWS WEST AFRICAN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, 2009.
- (17) NYLF EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD, 2009.
- (18) LAWSAN MERIT AWARD, 2009.
- (19) 2009 KWAME NKRUMAH DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD, 2009.
- (20) FELLOW, CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS NORTH AMERICA BRANCH, 2009.
- (21) AIDON COMMUNICATIONS' AFRICAN OUTSTANDING LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST AWARD (GHANA), 2009.
- (22) DINMA'S THE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA MERIT AWARD, 2009.
- (23) KEBBI STATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (KESSA) STUDENTS' FRIENDLY AWARD, 2009.
- (24) AFRICAN ROLE MODEL LEADERSHIP GOLD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE, 2009.
- (25) AFRICAN CREDIBILITY AWARD (ACA), 2009.
- (26) ASSOCIATION OF ZAMFARA, KEBBI AND SOKOTO STATES STUDENTS (AZAKSS) MERIT AWARD, 2010.
- (27) CHILD'S DREAM GREAT ACHIEVERS' AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE, 2010.
- (28) TEMSEEM COMMUNICATIONS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR INTEGRITY AND SELFLESS SERVICE, 2010.
- (29) SHIM FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, 2010.
- (30) FENAN INTERNATIONAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA, 2010.
- (31) SPECIAL AWARD BY BELARUSIAN SECURITY ORGANISATION (KGB), 2014