

# The Chief of Staff, Government House PROF. MUHAMMED KUTA YAHAYA (Magatakardan Nupe)



**P**rof. Muhammed Kuta Yahaya was born on October 20, 1962 at Kuchi Ward, Jima District, of Lavun Local Government Area, Niger State. From 1970 to 1975, he had his elementary education at Kuchi Primary School where he was Head Boy (1974 to 1975), after which he proceeded to Government Teachers' College Wushishi, from 1975 to 1980 as one of the pioneer students. He later attended Niger State College of Education, Minna, from 1981 to 1984 for his NCE in Agricultural Sciences. He was mobilized for the mandatory National Youth Service Corps to Borno State for the NYSC 1984/85 batch.

His adventurous spirit for more education motivated him to proceed to the University of Calabar, in 1989 and graduated in 1991 with Second Class Upper Division in Agricultural Science Education. He proceeded to the nation's premier university, the University of Ibadan, where he obtained a Master of Science in 1992 and Ph.D. in 1995 in Agricultural Extension.

During the period of his doctoral research, Prof. M.K. Yahaya started his academic career in 1993 as an Associate Lecturer at

the University of Ibadan. He was later confirmed Assistant Lecturer in 1995. In 1999, he was promoted Lecturer I and in 2002 Senior Lecturer. In 2005, he was presented for Reader/Associate Professor, his research efforts have focused on Development Communication, Mobilizing for Social Change, and Design and Implementation of Communication Strategies, especially in Entertainment Education (EE). During this period, he successfully supervised sixty-two (62) undergraduates, forty-eight (48) M.Sc. and four (4) Ph.D. candidates.

He is an author of several books in Communication for Social Engineering and Entertainment Education. In addition, he is the author of more than 65 scholarly articles in such Journals as the Journal of Applied Communication, USA; Journal of International Communication, Australia; the Journal of Development Communication, Malaysia; African Journal of Reproductive Health; Journal of Agricultural Extension; Nordic Journal of African Studies, Finland; Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology; Journal of Social Sciences, India; Moor Journal of Agriculture; among others.

Prof. Yahaya is an accomplished researcher, a consummate development communicator, a

charismatic and articulate public speaker and an adept appreciator of values, who inspires same in all those who come across him. The fact of his being Secretary to the State Government did not constrain nor diminish his propensity to pushing further his intellectual pursuits; besides his over 65 articles in his professional field of Agricultural Extension, Prof. Yahaya is a CODESRIA Laureate, Salzburg Seminar Fellow and recipient of several other honours and awards.

As a communicator of diversified interests and dynamic accomplishments, he is a member of several professional associations such as Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Science (ACE), Florida, USA; African Council for Communication Education (ACCE); Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria (AESON), and Nigeria Rural Sociology Association (NRSA).

In furtherance of his inextinguishable passion for the development of his state, the Government of Niger State appointed him to serve as a member of the Blue Print Drafting Committee for the establishment of a state university in 2004. Owing to his impressive and selfless contribution in the Committee, he was also appointed a member of Evaluation and

Implementation Committee of IBB University, Lapai from 2004 to 2007. On the whole, in 2006 the Government of Niger State appointed Dr. Yahaya a member of Governing Council of the University.

He is an astute worker, working round the clock. A highly detribalised person, a biography of him Journey with a Pragmatic Leader, traverses his iconic transformation of the office of Secretary to State government and plots an imaginary height he raised that office; it chronicles his close-working relationships with the Chief Servant and cabinet member, his scholarly life and his cradle right from the Government Teachers' Collage, Wushishi; during the subsisting period he was also Chairman of Secretary of Government of Northern Nigeria and the biography furnishes the herculean task of working not only for the state but for the whole region and by extension Nigeria. His works are appropriately captured in the book, Muhammed Kuta Yahaya: Perspectives on his Writings and Social Engineering Projects

He had successful working relationships with several development partners and consulted for several national and international agencies. In his activities towards grassroots development and effective social reformation, Prof. Yahaya has been actively involved in

community services in the form of communication intervention and research laboratory which culminated into the establishment of an NGO that is dedicated to the advancement of frontiers in the troubled spots of human service system. He therefore established the Centre for Communication and Reproductive Health Services (CCRHS) in Bida in 1998. In recognition of his selfless service to humanity, he was honoured by his immediate community as Wazirin Jema'a Doko and Dan-Masanin Kuchi at different times.

He was appointed Secretary to the Government of Niger State (SSG) by the Chief Servant, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna) on his assumption of office as the Executive Governor of Niger State on May 29, 2007 and Chief of Staff to the Governor of Niger State on May 29th 2011. By virtue of his outstanding capacities, he has been conferred with the esteemed title of Magatakardan Nupe.

Prof. M.K. Yahaya has visited several countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. He is happily married to Hajiya Hajara Yahaya and blessed with children. His hobbies are playing tennis, writing, watching and analyzing soccer matches.