



Soldiers as Governors: A Study of Brigadier General Abba Kyari's Administration in North Central State Nigeria, 1967-1975

Benjamin Oladokun

Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria- Nigeria. oladokunbenjamin75@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines the activities of Brigadier General Abba Kyari's administration as Governor in North Central State of Nigeria, 1967-1975. This is important because it helps us understand the military's changing roles since the 20th century. Although, the main constitutional responsibility of the military is the protection of the territorial integrity of the country. However, with the political independence of Nigeria in 1960 the military started to play other roles beyond being a professionally trained combatant force. In particular, the changing role of the military is evident in its new role as military in governance that has led to its contribution to nation-building. From this background, the military administration of Brigadier Abba Kyari was studied in North Central State. For example, the period saw the completion of the projects inherited from the former Northern Regional Government and the structural reconstruction of the State Economy to generate and sustain a faster economic growth rate and to lay a solid foundation for future developments. Through historical methodology, the paper demonstrates the changing roles of the military in Nigeria, especially in the aspect of contribution to nation-building through the military in governance.

Keywords: Military, Governor, Kaduna, North Central State, Nation-Building

Introduction

The new military government in North Central Nigeria was welcomed in 1967 with a massive outpouring of jubilation and good will.¹ The vast majority of the public had never been in close contact with soldiers before, thus holding them in a mixture of awe and fear. Having seen the ease with which the soldiers dispatched politicians they did not like, many civilians looked at soldiers as invincible and fearsome creatures. Soldiers were regarded as disciplined, honest and patriotic. The public generally trusted that they would always act in the national interest and without succumbing to the temptations of corruption and avarice that so many politicians fell into. It is a measure of public exasperation with politicians, and yearnings for good leadership, that the public was willing to put so much faith and optimism in a group of soldiers with moderate education and no political experience.

Yakubu Gowon became the chief of staff of the Nigerian Army under Aguiyi Ironsi.² After the second coup of July 29, 1966, in which Ironsi was killed, Gowon was chosen by the coup's organizers to become the new head of state. Gowon ruled for the next nine years. During this period, North Central State was created from the former Northern Region.

¹ Siollun, Max (2009), *Oil, Politics and Violence: Nigeria's Military Coup Culture (1966-1976)*. Algora Publishing, p.69

² Toyin Falola and Mathew Heaton, *A History of Nigeria*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2008. p.xxv



In other words, the military³ came into power in 1966 and by 1967 twelve states were created out of the former four regions of Nigeria and the States started function on 1st April 1968. The North Central State, one of the six States created out of the former Northern Nigeria comprises Zaria and Katsina provinces. It covers an area of about 27,108 square miles with a population of about 4,098,297.⁴ Furthermore, General Yakubu Gowon appointed Brigadier Abba Kyari as Governor of North-Central State Nigeria during the period 1967-1974. The military governor made an effort to impact the major development areas which affected the state; such as Administration, Education, Health, Economy, and Urban and Rural Development. Consequently, this endeavor must be seen as effort towards improving the quality of life of people in the state and raising the expectations of people to still further heights.

It is against this backdrop that this paper will analyse the concept of 'Military in Governance'. This will then lead to a brief biography of Brigadier Abba Kyari. Then we will conclude the study by focusing on Brigadier General Abba Kyari's administration as Military Governor of North Central State Nigeria, 1967-1975.

Conceptualization of Military in Governance

The role of the military in government has generally been regarded as incorrect and illegal. This is because the military government does not have a place in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Instead, the constitution has made provisions for multi-party democracy and government by elected officials. Importantly, it does not recognize any form of government other than elected. Hence, military rule is an illegal one.

However, Max Siollun, stated that 'a military coup can establish a new government if it is effective and results in an abrupt and complete elimination of the previous constitutional and governmental framework. The legal basis for military rule in Nigeria can be found in two sources: (i) the Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decree; and (ii) the Federal Military Government (Supremacy and Enforcement of Powers) Decree.⁵ He argued that after coming to power in January 1966, Major-General Aguiyi Ironsi's government had a reality problem as it was ruling a country whose constitution did not recognize governance by the armed forces⁶. To address this anomaly Aguiyi-Ironsi's government promulgated the Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decree which decreed Aguiyi Ironsi's regime into existence and suspended certain parts of the Constitution (mainly those parts dealing with civilian governance and terms of office of elected officials). The FMG presumed that this decree gave it the power to enact any law or measures it wished without regard to the constitution or interferences from the courts.

Furthermore, the military enacted the Federal Military Government (Supremacy and Enforcement of Powers) Decree 1970 (the 'Supremacy Decree'), which is explicit on the supremacy of military authority and gave the military government sweeping powers to enact Decree whose legality could not be questioned by the courts even if the Decree conflicted with an unsuspended

³ The Nigerian Army, though an embryo of the West African Frontier Force was enlarged in the second half of the nineteenth century following the absorption of the Glover Hausas. The Nigerian Navy and Air Force only assumed prominence in the 1960s when they participated in the Nigerian Civil War. Source: Nzemeka Justus Adim, "Wives of Military Personnel in Nigerian Barracks, 1905-1999: A Socio-Economic History", Ph.D History Thesis University of Lagos, Nigeria. 2015.p.88

⁴ Achievements of the North Central State: Military Government 1968-74, Published by the Ministry of Information. Printed by the Government Printer, Kaduna.p.1

⁵ Siollun, Max (2009), Oil, Politics and Violence: Nigeria's Military Coup Culture..op.cit, p.73-74

⁶ Ibid, p.74



part of the constitution.⁷ The Supremacy Decree established that the legal basis of military rule derived not from the handover to Aguiyi Ironsi by the rump cabinet on Sunday, January 16, 1966, but directly from the violent overthrow of the civilian government by the Majors on the previous day.

The military regimes which began in January 1966 with Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi's regime and ended in 1979 with General Obasanjo's regime were all legal governments since each derived its authority from the Majors' overthrow of the government in January 1966. Consequently, the armed forces have gone from being defenders of the nation to being controllers of it⁸. Nigeria's six coups d'état were all led by members of the armed forces. The military made these power grabs because they had the communication networks, skills, and weaponry needed. Members of the military also have the best access to the head of state they want to remove. The first coup d'état took place in 1966 and was led by army Major General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi. He made himself the head of the short-lived National Military Government. A counter-coup took place in July 1966, ending with army General Yakubu Gowon as the new head of state. He ran the country through the Supreme Military Council, which served as the governing structure until 1975.

Equally important to 'Military Governance' is the concept of 'Nation Building'. Generally, people regard the process of nation-building as the process 'whereby people transfer their commitment and loyalty from smaller tribes, villages or petty principalities to the larger central political system,'⁹ e.g. the State/Nation. However, this view was debunked by scholars. Elaigwu Isawa and Ali Mazrui argued that 'it involves the widening, rather than transfer, of horizons of identity of parochial units to include larger units such as the state'.¹⁰

They further argued that nation building has two dimensions of identity.¹¹ First, is closely linked to state-building. This refers to the acceptance by members of the polity of the legitimacy of central government, and identification with the central government as a symbol of the nation. This is the vertical dimension of nation building- that is, you not only have a state, but that people accept the state's authority (and not merely its coercive power) and see its government as the symbol of their political community. For example, the end of the civil war in Nigeria indicated not only the Nigerian state's renewed acceptance by its citizens but also an acceptance by Nigerians that the central government should be the symbol of an emerging Nigerian nation.

Second, is the horizontal dimension of nation building. This involves accepting other members of the civic body as equal fellow-members of a 'corporate' nation- and a recognition of the rights of other members to a share of common history, resources, values and other aspects of the state-butressed by a sense of belonging one to one political community. It involves the feeling that all members of the polity are entitled to a share of the sweet and the bitter in the political development process- not only the sweet. Therefore, nation building is the widespread acceptance of the state-building process; it is the creation of a political community that gives a fuller meaning to the state's life.

⁷Ibid, p.74

⁸ Toyin Falola and Ann Genova, *Historical Dictionary of Nigeria*,op.cit, p.40

⁹ Elaigwu J.I and Mazrui A, "Nation-building and Changing Political Structures", In *Unesco General History of Africa*.vol.VIII: Africa Since 1935, (ed) Ali Mazrui, Heinemann. California.1989,p.438

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid, p.438-439



Biography of Brigadier General Abba Kyari

According to Wikipedia, Abba Kyari was born on 17th November 1938. He attended Borno Middle School and Barewa College, Zaria. In 1959 he enlisted in the Nigerian Army as an officer cadet. He attended the 12th Regular Officer's Training School, Teshie, Accra, Ghana from March 1959 to September 1959. Kyari also attended the British Army's Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot from October 1959 to March 1960. He served as a platoon commander and later as a transport officer in the Nigerian Army's 1 Brigade Transport Company¹². By July 1966, he was a major in the artillery branch.¹³

Major Kyari was given command of the Nigerian Army's 5th Battalion in September 1966 following the January coup and July counter-coup, which was based in the country's Northern provinces. On the afternoon of Saturday October 1, 1966, the 5th battalion's troop mutinied and opened fire as their commander Major Kyari addressed them on the battalion parade ground. The rampaging soldiers murdered their fellow Northern officers, including the second in command Captain Auna and RSM Dauda Mumuni. Their commanding officer Major Abba Kyari, the Adjutant Lieutenant Abubakar Gora and other officers had to flee for their lives and hid off base¹⁴. Kyari later became commander of 1 Brigade at Kaduna and was subsequently second-in-command and then commander of the Nigerian Army's artillery.¹⁵ In addition, during the outbreak of violence against the Igbo people in Northern and Central Nigeria in 1966, Abba Kyari assisted Igbo soldiers in escaping from Kaduna.

Brigadier General Abba Kyari as Military Governor of North Central State Nigeria, 1967-1975

General Yakubu Gowon appointed Brigadier Abba Kyari as Governor of North-Central State Nigeria during the period 1967-1974.¹⁶ The military governor made an effort to impact the major areas of development which affected the state's citizens. Such as Administration, Education, Health, Economy Urban and Rural development, e.g. industrial prosperity. Hence, the discussion will focus on this areas of development.

Administration:- When the State was created, there were barely 40 Administrative Officers and very few senior officers from other cadres.¹⁷ This number was not sufficient to effectively man the new Government structure. The demands made upon the new state to achieve an overall national objective expanded the roles of the administrator into the realms of social and economic development. This is a direct consequence of the rising expectations created by the country's independence and carried forward by the formation of the state.

It made it necessary for the government to look into ways and means of improving and developing the administrative service. By recruiting suitable graduates and converting capable officers with administrative experience to the administrative cadre, the number of officers has increased from 40 in 1968 to 95 in 1974. Development has not, however been limited to expansion only. The content and quality of the administrative service has been improved and developed

¹² Bosoma Sheriff, "Brigadier Abba Kyari (rtd)", Kanuri Studies Association. Cited in Wikipedia.

¹³ Siollun, Max (2009), Oil, Politics and Violence ...op.cit p.114

¹⁴ Ibid p.134

¹⁵ Bosoma Sheriff, "Brigadier Abba Kyari (rtd)", Kanuri Studies Association. Cited in Wikipedia.

¹⁶ Siollun, Max (2009), Oil, Politics and Violence...op.cit p.186

¹⁷ Achievements of the North Central State...op.cit,Kaduna.p.2



through specialized training in various aspects of administration and administrators at home and abroad. Similar expansion was also recorded in other cadres of the service. The Local Authorities continued to supply the government with experienced and often well trained staff.

During the period under review, the state witnessed a steady growth in all spheres of its activities. At the creation of the State, Zaria was made the temporary Capital to allow the winding up of the Interim Administrative Council. When the Capital moved to Kaduna only two Secretariat blocks plus the present building housing the Public Service Commission were available. The shortage of office accommodation became more acute as new Ministries were created. The state started with seven Ministries, three Ministerial Departments and two Provincial Offices at Katsina and Zaria and five Divisional Offices at Katsina, Zaria, Kaduna, Daura and Jema'a. Since then, the number of Ministries has increased to thirteen, with four Ministerial Departments.

The Administrative Reform in 1969 which changed the name of Administrative Divisions to Administrative Areas increased the number from five to ten.¹⁸ The sum total of this expansion reflects the efforts of the Government and its organs to meet the ever-increasing demand by people for better services. The Administrative Reforms in 1969 aimed to bring the people nearer to Government. The new Administrative Areas act as focal points for development and provide the most effective structure for administration. The two tables below show the population of administrative divisions before and after the Reforms:-

Table 1: Administrative Divisions As At April, 1968

Divisions						Population (1963)
Katsina-	-	-	-	-	-	2,286,032
Daura-	-	-	-	-	-	258,973
Zaria	-	-	-	-	-	1,183,082
Jema'a	-	-	-	-	-	220,300
Kaduna	-	-	-	-	-	149,910
					Total	4,098,297

Table II: Administrative Areas As At April, 1969

Area						Population (1963)
Katsina	-	-	-	-	-	900,745
Dutsin-Ma	-	-	-	-	-	686,591
Funtua	-	-	-	-	-	698,696
Daura	-	-	-	-	-	258,973
Zaria	-	-	-	-	-	666,819
Kachia	-	-	-	-	-	326,813
Saminaka	-	-	-	-	-	160,282
Birnin Gwari	-	-	-	-	-	29,798
Jema'a	-	-	-	-	--	220,300
Kaduna	-	-	-	-	-	149,910
					Total	4,098,297

Furthermore, as a result of the disturbances of 1966, many Nigerians fled from their places of abode back to their home towns.¹⁹ The Government stepped in immediately to look after the

¹⁸Ibid, Kaduna.p.3

¹⁹ Ibid p.4



properties they left behind. After the war, many of those who fled returned and the Government made special arrangements to receive them back and handed over their properties to them. Almost all abandoned properties have been handed back to their rightful owners. This has contributed immensely to the speedy normalization of relations conducive to developing national unity and cohesion.

More government agencies²⁰ were also created in the state. They are as follows:

1. State Boards- In order to cope with the demands of the public for the provision of more amenities, the government set up the North-Central State Water Board and the Kaduna Capital Development Board. A Bureau for Rural Development was also set up.
2. Fire Services- Prior to the creation of the State, the Fire Service was under the Kaduna Native Authority. In 1971 this was taken over by the government and later transferred to the newly created Kaduna Capital Development Board. However, the responsibility for fire services in the other parts of the state remains with the Internal Affairs Division of the Military Governor's Office. The fire service was expanded by the establishment of Brigades at Zaria and Katsina.
3. Pilgrimage Affairs- Before the creation of the States, Pilgrimage Affairs were chaotic because private agents who were often unscrupulous, organized everything. Consequently, the Government established the State Pilgrims Welfare Board which is now responsible for all matters relating to issue of passports, visas, in oculations to and from Saudi Arabia, and Pilgrims' welfare in general. This has minimized difficulties for the pilgrims who have increased from 2,500 in 1968 to 6,500 in 1974.

Education: - Military Governor Abba Kyari said special emphasis had been laid on education which was expected to claim £5m in a year, and made determination to close the existing gap²¹. The state had inherited quite a large number of educational institutions, the maintenance of which alone costs substantial amounts to the state exchequer. Despite this the state government forged ahead to expand the existing institutions and built new ones. In the State Programme 1975-80, the sum of N431.5 million was allocated for the five years Plan period for the achievement of the State Objectives²² which in broad terms are:

First, to bring about through the provision of infrastructural facilities and productive services a rapid economic growth translatable into increased road income. Second, to mobilize human, financial and other resources into a framework of an ordered strategy necessary for the achievement of rapid modernisation of the state. In more specific terms concerning the educational sector the objectives is to expand and consolidate manpower and training programme and explore further avenues for training manpower employment opportunities throughout the state.

As from 1st April 1968, the Ministry of Education started with having to execute the spill-over capital projects from the former Northern Nigeria Government²³. As illustrated in Table 1 below, the projects were for supplying more facilities to existing post-primary institutions. Nine of the eleven projects were the (IDA) International Development Agency projects financed by the World Bank Loans, while the remaining projects were transferred to the state by the Interim

²⁰ Ibid, p.4

²¹ YEAR BOOK 1970,p.117, 418

²² Kaduna State of Nigeria, Third National Development Plan, 1975-1980, Kaduna State Programme, First Progress Report, Ministry of Economic Development, Economic Planning Division, Kaduna, Nigeria. Printed by Gaskiya Corporation, Zaria.p.1

²³ Achievements of the North Central State..op.cit.p.59



Administrative Council. Thus, between 1969-70, the State Government expended N2,055,944 in implementing all those projects.

Table: A Statement of Spill-Over Projects of the Former Northern Nigeria Government 5 Year Development Plan up to 1969-70

	Description of Project	E.T.C.
1	Government Secondary School, Funtua	174,296
2	Government College, Kaduna	220,060
3	Government Secondary School, Kachia	37,000
4	Technical Training School, Kaduna	825,000
5	Government Secondary School, Katsina	141,796
6	Women Teacher's College/Teachers College, Katsina	356,120
7	Government Secondary School, Malumfashi	67,862
8	Government Secondary Technical School, Mashi	46,968
9	Government Secondary Technical School, Soba	62,692
10	Barewa College, Zaria	17,950
11	Government Secondary School, Zaria	105,680
	Total	N2,055,944

Expenditure on Education-Education continued to be given top priority by the Government and, as such, the sector contained the largest share of the total Government budget.²⁴ For instance, out of the 1970-74 Plan, the Education Sector was allocated N18.3 million from the N76.2 million budget, representing 24 percent of the total outlay. However, by April 1974, the revised or estimated total cost of the Education Sector projects was N21.4 million. Similarly, for the 1974/75 financial year, N22.2 million was allocated to this sector, just under one-quarter of the State's Capital budget. Tables II and III below depict how, over the years, government expenditure on education has continued to increase both at the primary and post-primary levels.

Table : Expenditure on Primary Education

Year	Capital		Recurrent		Total		Difference		Percent Increase
	N	K	N	K	N	K	N	K	
1968/69	Nil		656,064.82		656,064.82				
1969/70	320,484.00		1,036,586.00		1,036,586.00		701,006.00		106.9%
1970/71	214,220.00		1,159,309.00		1,357,071.00		16,459.00		1.2%
1971/72	471,611.00		1,116,263.00		1,587,875.00		214,345.00		16.0%
1972/73	572,400.00		2,039,410.00		2,611,810.00		1,032,935.00		64.7%
1973/74	1,408,410.00		2,829,594.00		4,238,005.00		1,626,195.00		62.3%

²⁴ Ibid.p.60



Table (B)

		N	K	N	K
1968/69	Nil	656,064.82	656,064.82		
1973/74	1,408,410.00	2,829,594.96	4,238,005.00		
Increase (1968/74)	-	173,530.14	3,581,940.18		
Percent increase (1968/74)	-	26.4%	545.9%		

Table III (A) Expenditure on Post Primary Education

Year	Capital		Recurrent		Total		Difference		Percent Increase
	N	K	N	K	N	K	N	K	
1968/69	1,168,250.00		516,600.00		1,684,850.00				
1969/70	621,231.00		1,178,720.00		1,800,951.00		116,101.00		6.9%
1970/71	3,274,240.00		4,010,860.00		7,285,100.00		5,484,100.00		304.5%
1971/72	5,094,064.00		4,548,760.00		9,642,820.00		2,457,720.00		32.4%
1972/73	6,890,660.00		4,376,920.00		11,267,580.00		1,624,760.00		16.9%
1973/74	7,509,715.00		4,837,400.00		12,347,115.00		1,079,535.00		9.6%

Table III (B): Achievement: 1968-74

	N	K	N	K	N	K
1968/69	1,168,250.00		516,600.00		1,684,850.00	
1973/74	7,509,715.00		4,837,400.00		12,347,115.00	
Increase (1968/74)	6,341,465.00		4,320,800.00		10,662,265.00	
Percent increase (1968/74)		542%	836%		632%	

Expansion in Facilities and Enrolment- As would be expected, the considerable increase in Government expenditure over the period was reflected in the addition of facilities and enrolment growth at all levels of the sector²⁵. The following tables IV-VIII illustrate these increases in primary, secondary, teacher education, and commercial education respectively, between 1968 and 1974. Table IV summarizes the expansion between 1968 and 1974. Thus, since the establishment of the state, the enrolments at the primary, secondary, teacher training, and technical/commercial levels have risen by 89.4 percent; 300.2 percent; 150.1 percent, and 140.3 percent respectively.

²⁵Ibid.p.62



Table IV (A) Primary Schools Enrolment

YEAR	No. of Schools	Classes	Enrolment	Percentage of School Age Children
1968	406	2,261	84,629	(6 to 12) 10.4%
1969	505	2,622	98,109	11.3%
1970	624	3,062	116,383	13.2%
1971	642	3,582	134,092	14.8%
1972	646	4,017	146,615	15.7%
1973/74	646	4,277	160,000	17.9%

Table IV (B) Statement of Primary School Buildings and Enrolment

Achievement	Schools Added	Classes Added	Total Enrolment	Percentage Increase of Enrolment	Percentage of schools age children	Capital Expenditure (Government)
1968 to 1973/74	240	2,016	75,371	89.4%	15.4%	N136,000.00

Table V (A) Secondary Grammar Schools Enrolment

YEAR	Enrolment	No. of Schools	No. of Classes	Percentage of Total Number of Post-Primary Education
1968	4,304	18	148	59.3%
1969	4,841	21	164	63.1%
1970	5,858	22	194	61.4%
1971	7,218	25	230	62.7%
1972	8,913	28	271	63.1%
1973	10,572	27	311	61.6%
1973/74	17,221	27	337	71.0%

Apart from the addition of 240 primary schools, 9 secondary schools, 5 grade II teachers college and the Kaduna government technical school, two other achievements during the period include the government takeover of all former Voluntary Agency and private post primary institutions and the establishment of a College of Arts and Science.²⁶ As from 1st April 1972, the Ministry assumed full control and management of all the 22 Voluntary Agency and private post-

²⁶ Ibid p.66



primary institutions in the state, with the primary objective of offering comparable facilities and opportunities to all students and teachers in the state.

Colleges of Arts and Science- This institution was established on the site of the former Advanced Teachers College of the former Northern Region in September 1973.²⁷ The primary objectives in establishing the College was to maximise the utilization of facilities for the production of matriculants for degree courses, by concentrating all the teachers, facilities and students in one institution. The direct result of this was abolishing the Higher School Certificate courses in several Secondary Schools. The students of the College will sit for the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level), which will enable them to gain admission into any universities at home and abroad for degree courses.

Scholarships- In 1968, only 78 scholarships were awarded while in 1973, the awards were 754, which shows numerical increase of 676, representing 867 percent increase. For the same period, the expenditure increased from N93,240 to N608,635 representing a 553 percent increase. See Table IX.

North-Central State Scholarships Awards: 1968/69-1973/74

Session	Number Awards	Increase over Previous Session	Percentage increase over Previous Session	Cost of awards (Money Voted)	Percentage Increase Previous Session %
1968/69	78	-	-	93,240	-
1969/70	136	58	74% approx..	148,880	60 approx
1970/71	220	84	62%	196,480	32 approx
1971/72	151	Minus69	Minus31%	117,660	Minus40
1972/73	336	187	124%	260,540	11
1973/74	754	416	123%	608,635	134
Overall increase (1968-74)	676	Overall Increase (1968-74)	% 867%	515,395	553 approx

In January 1972 a new system, called the Comprehensive System of Education was introduced to all Post Primary institutions in the state.²⁸ This comprehensive system was thought about and introduced so as to meet the needs of the state and the country in general for an opportunity to be given to all pupils so as to meet the nation's manpower requirements in the economic, social and cultural sectors; so that every child may be given equal opportunity to develop their natural gifts for a career in any of these sectors.

This philosophy accepts the fundamental belief in the intrinsic value of every human being and in furtherance of his belief, it must cater effectively to the educational capabilities and aptitudes of every child to develop his or her natural gifts. Thus, by the comprehensive system, all pupils entering post-primary institutions, whether Secondary grammar schools, Teacher Training Colleges, Technical or Commercial Colleges, undergo a two-year course in general education designed to broaden the pupils' experience beyond the subjects normally taught into such areas as Fine Arts and Crafts, Domestic Science, Technical and Commercial subjects. At the end of the 2 years general education pupil is given an aptitude test and, through experienced guidance and counselling teacher,

²⁷ Ibidp.67

²⁸ Ibid p.67



he or she is placed in the most appropriate course, which they will pursue until the end of the 5th year.

Under the comprehensive system, the following options are offered for the West African School Certificate with subject bias on the following core curricula:-
WASC with bias on: Arts, Science, Technical Subjects, Commercial subjects, Home Economics, Agriculture Science, Teacher Training (for Grade II Teachers Certificate); Trade Training for City and Guild Certificate. Thus, this new innovation was introduced in the educational system of North-Central State since the creation of the state. There is no record of it having been introduced in any other State in the Federation.

Similarly, the President-General of the Northern States Teacher Union, Mallam Mamman Maina, has called on members of his union to embrace and co-operate with the Government of the North Central State in the execution of educational revolution in the state²⁹. He was addressing the Zaria Provincial Conference of his union and pointed out that the co-operation of his members was necessary in order to enable the government reach the target set for educational development in the state. Importantly, he stated, "The aim and objectives of our union is to see the educational gap between the southern and northern states bridged".

Health: - According to a report, the death rate in Kaduna Capital Territory dropped sharply by over 80 percent in the first half of this year³⁰, 1970. Birth rate in the first half of this year also doubled that recorded in the same period last year. This was disclosed by the Birth/Death Registrar for the Capital Territory, Alhaji A. Abubakar. He said that from January to July last year, there were 142 death, his office recorded 874 births but in the same period this year, he said, 1,263 had so far been recorded.

Commenting on the births and deaths statistics in the capital territory, the North Central State's commissioner for Health and Social Welfare, Miss D. M. Miller, said that the figures had shown that members of the public were fully utilising health facilities³¹. She also observed that contrary to the views held by some people that the medical personnel were not doing their best, the figures had proved beyond doubt that the medical personnel were doing their best.

In 1968 the state had ten hospitals, ninety dispensaries and two leprosia distributed as follows³²

S/N	Hospital	Places
1	State Government Hospitals	Katsina, Daura and Kafanchan
2	ABU Hospitals	Kaduna, Zaria and Malumfashi
3	Voluntary Agency Hospitals	Kaduna, Zaria and Zonkwai
4	Armed Forces Hospital	Kaduna

90 Local Authority Dispensaries and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres distributed all over the state.

For a population of approximately 4.6 million people in North-Central State in 1968, the total number of beds in all hospitals were 1,370. This gives a ratio of 1 bed to 2,600 people compared

²⁹ New Nigeria, Monday, 4 October, 1970. No.1466., p.1 "Teachers Urged to Co-operate with North-Central Government".p.2

³⁰ New Nigerian, No.1,419 Tuesday 11th August, 1970, "Death Rate in Kaduna Drops by 80 percent" From Clement Ende.,p.12

³¹ Ibid,p.12

³² Achievements of the North Central State....op.cit. p.71



to one bed to 750 people in developed countries. Considering the rate of 2.5 percent increase in population and the fact that 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas, it was decided to upgrade the existing dispensaries to Basic Health post, or Sub-Health Centers.³³ The Basic Health post has Community and curative facilities. In fact it is a combination of a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Health Office and Dispensary.

The Ministry has already constructed 8 Health Centers at Kaduna Tudun Wada, Kaduna Kakuri, Birnin Gwari, Kachia, Zaria, Funtua, Dutsin-Ma and Saminaka. Each Health Centre is a nucleus of a hospital and is equipped with a modern Laboratory, Blood Bank, X-Ray, Operation Theatre and Maternity Wards. Adequate provision has been made for Children and Women. Facilities for educating the mother in simple rules of hygiene and mother-craft have also been provided. Air conditioning has been provided in Operating Theater, Labour Ward and Laboratory. Five of the Health Centers are already functioning and the remaining 3 will start functioning soon. In addition to these, construction work has started on 2 more Health Centers at Baure and Batsari in Katsina Province. The total cost of these Health Center is estimated at about 3.7 million Naira.³⁴

In 1968 there were only 7 doctors. This number increased to 39 by 1974. The number of Nurses/Midwives has also increased from 120 in 1968 to 291 by 1974.³⁵ Community Nurses are being trained at Community Nurses Training Center, Kaduna. The number in service has increased from 6 in 1968 to 33 in 1974.³⁶ There were no Laboratory Technologists or Radiographers in any State Hospitals. Now we have four Laboratory Technologists one Radiographers in service while three other Radiographers are in training. The number of trained Nurses and Midwives has been increased from 77 in 1968 to 221 by March, 1974.

There has been considerable effort by the state over the last six years to control communicable diseases.

Small-Pox and Measles. - Small-pox and Measles eradication campaign was launched in 1968 and virtually all people in state were vaccinated within four months. As a result of this, no case of out-break of small-pox was reported since 1970. Maintenance operation is being carried out to ensure that there is no relapse.

Cholera- In 1970 there was an outbreak of cholera and prompt action was taken to eradicate it. A Committee was formed-“The State Cholera Prevention and Control Committee” and has since then been taking all the necessary preventive and control measures. As a result of these measures there has not been any major out-break since 1972. The table below shows cholera cases and vaccination figures between 1971 - 1974.

Statistics Reports of Cholera Cases and Vaccination, 1971-1974³⁷

Year	Cases	Cholera Cases Death	Cholera Vaccination No. of People Vaccinated
1971	1,777	144	504,137
1972	73	4	59,243
1973	8	1	18,255
1974	18	2	21,949

³³Ibid.p.71

³⁴Ibid.p.71

³⁵Ibid.p.72

³⁶Ibid.p.72

³⁷Ibid.p.73



Economy: According to Abba Kyari:

The North Central State is now posed for a leap forward in economic development. In the aftermath of the civil war, the North Central State Government is determined to give a new dynamic and progressive orientations to its economic policies. The government policy to industrialize the state in full measure will, therefore continue. Having worked together to crush the rebellion, we must continue together to reconstruct and build our country. This calls for hard work and for sacrifices. I have no doubt whatsoever that with the willing participation of the people of our state we will be able to successfully implement the state government programs of development and transcribe into realities our hopes and aspirations for agricultural development, educational advancement and industrial prosperity.³⁸

This statement demonstrates the readiness of the Military Governor and the people of the North Central State to leap forward in economic development. It is to make this declaration a reality that the State Programme 1975-80 stated as parts of its objectives “To expand industrial development in the State within the context of the indigenisation policy.”³⁹

According to reports, Col. Abba Kyari, the North Central State Military Governor, reminded all the foreign industrialists operating in the state, of his government’s desire, ‘to see that indigenous employees are encouraged to take over some of the more responsible positions now being held by expatriates’.⁴⁰

He pointed out that the country’s immigration laws were liberal and had allowed companies and firms to recruit many experienced and qualified expatriate staff to help them run their industries. These expatriates, he added, were very expensive to employ and their remunerations were a crippling cost item to those organizations that employed them.

The governor declared: ‘it is therefore more economical to train Nigerians to take over from expatriate employees. It is absolutely wrong to continue to employ expatriates where capable indigenous people can adequately serve’. Col Abba Kyari, who was addressing the formal opening of the £1.3million third mill of Kaduna Textiles Limited, said that he understood that the company had a training programme and that it was making tremendous progress in developing local technical staff. He expressed the hope that similar arrangements would urgently be made for the administrative personnel in order to ensure complete and rapid Nigerianization of all the departments of the mill⁴¹. Also addressing the opening ceremony, the acting Chairman of the Northern States Marketing Board, Alhaji Yahaya Gusau, said that the setting up of the KTL was not solely for making profit. He said the purpose was to fulfil the aspirations and wishes of the masses of Nigerians that cloth was locally woven in Nigeria.⁴²

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives came into being in April 1970.⁴³ The Ministry is charged with the responsibility for the promotion of Commercial and Industrial development in the state. The Ministry also has the responsibility for Co-operatives. In April 1968, there were only two industrial areas in the State at Kaduna and Zaria. In pursuance of its policy of

³⁸ YEAR BOOK 1970,p.117

³⁹ Kaduna State of Nigeria, Third National Development Plan, 1975-1980,...op.cit.p.1

⁴⁰ New Nigeria, Tuesday, 17th November, 1970, No.1,503, “KTL Opens Third Mill” From Clement Ende, p.12

⁴¹ Ibid p.12

⁴² New Nigeria, Tuesday, 17th November, 1970, No.1,503, “KTL Opens Third Mill” From Clement Ende, p.12

⁴³ Achievements of the North Central State...op.cit p.35



industrial dispersal designed to bring about even development throughout the study, the government decided to create new industrial areas at Katsina, Funtua and Kafanchan- thereby providing the basic infrastructure for industrial development in these parts of the state. The availability of these facilities has enabled the government in partnership with foreign and indigenous investors to pursue this policy successfully by establishing groundnut and cotton Mills at Katsina and Funtua respectively. So far, the state government has invested over N2.00 million in various industries as shown in the following table:

Enterprises	Amount invested (N)
Funtua Cottonseed Crushing Limited (F.C.C.Co)	300,000
Zaria Industries Limited (Z.I.L.)	862,400
Peugeot Automobile of Nigeria Limited (P.A.N. Ltd)	200,000
Turners Asbestos (Nigeria Limited)	80,000
United Nigeria Textiles Limited (U.N.T.L.)	125,000
Katsina Oil Mills Limited	310,000
Cement Company of Northern Nigeria Limited (Capital re-injected (C.C.O.N. Ltd)	112,000
Nigerian Surgical Products Limited (N.S.P.L.)	40,000
Total	029,400

Urban and Rural Development: The Ministry of Works and Housing is responsible for all public works in Buildings and Roads constructions and maintenance of plants and machinery.⁴⁴ Initially, it had the responsibility for water supplies, but later on, this function was transferred to the North-Central State Water Board. The period under review can be conventionally divided into two distinct phases, i.e. the 1968-70 and 1970-74.

1968-70:- This may be regarded as a 'Settling-in' or 'Consolidation' period with the State Government and Ministries setting out the framework of their organisations, considering State priorities and drawing up plans for the 1970-74 Development Plan. It was a period of a stringent financial economy and limited executive capacity. Nevertheless, some development progress was achieved as follows: -

i) Good progress was made on the dam construction at Mairuwa and on investigations and designs for extensions to Kaduna and Zaria Water Works.

iv) Major items of capital expenditure involving this Ministry approved for this period was

	1968/69	1969/70
Roads Development	-	1,168,000
Water Development	55,100	735,000
Buildings (Education)	13,800	1,445,680
Buildings (Health)	-	285,130
Buildings (Administration)	-	462,600
	1968/69	1969/70
Total Revenue Maintenance Funds were:-	903,100	1,367,800

1970-74:- The launching of the 1970-74 Development Plan marked the first co-ordinated step of a leap forward in the State's Development.⁴⁵ Apart from its own extensive development programme,

⁴⁴ Ibid p.46

⁴⁵ Ibid p.46-47



the Ministry of Works and Housing is the executing agency for other Ministries building projects. On 1st April 1971 the North-Central State Water Board and Rural Development Board were created out of the Water Division of the Ministry. On 1st April 1972 the Survey Division became the Ministry of Lands and Survey. At the same time, responsibility for Staff Housing was transferred from the Military Governor's Office to the Ministry.

Importantly, the need for the preservation, enhancement and development of open spaces for sports and general recreation; and a serious determined effort to combat the lack of effective sanitary services such as the collection and disposal of refuse.⁴⁶ All these needs resulted in the formation of the Kaduna Capital Development Board in April, 1972. The Edict establishing the Board empowered it to be the Town and Country Planning Authority for the area and foster Kaduna Capital Territory's development.

The general brief to the Board in relation to Town Planning was to implement in principle the Max Lock report "Kaduna 1917-2017."⁴⁷ In August the master plan⁴⁸ for Kaduna was approved by the Board. The master plan in general follows the Lock recommendations and includes provision for inter-alia, the realignment of the railway to the West of Kaduna a new North/South ring also to the west of Kaduna and three new river crossings. It has since been on display in the Board's Map room. Supplementary action plans have also been approved by the Board, including layouts for the Kawo Industrial, a hotel site, a policy for Ahmadu Bello Way, the Kaduna South Industrial area, a portion of the Kabala Housing Estate, an outline for Barnawa residential area, a housing development of Keffi Road, a layout for Unguwar Rimi, a policy drawing for medium cost housing, and a development for Mogadishu Barracks, first phase. Specific proposals were submitted in relation to an extended planning area: Detailed recommendations have also been made to give legal effect to a planning scheme for Kaduna to incorporate the above plans.

In addition, following the direction by Government that the Board should take over the Central Market⁴⁹ and rebuild it the Board's Chief Engineer carried out considerable engineers surveys. Due to the heavy work was carried out by consultants, Ward Ashcroft and Parkman. At the end of the year, the complete market design and its infrastructure of roads and services had been completed, submitted for tender, and a tender for construction accepted by the Board and approved by Government. To facilitate the movement of traders on the commencement of construction the Board carried out an extensive improvement to the Tudun Wada Market. The Administrator had completed plans to move traders from the Central Market to the new Tudun Wada Market.

Furthermore, the Kabala Housing Estate was part of the assets given to the Board by the Government.⁵⁰ The Estate, was rented to the Nigerian Army in its entirety at an annual rent of N100,000 per annum. As a first step to developing further housing units on the site the Board built two models of four four-roomed and four two-roomed houses each by direct labour. Thereafter the Board proceeded to build sixteen four-roomed houses units by direct labour and took steps for the construction of twelve similar units on contract. The overall aim was to fill up the vacant land around the Kabala Housing Estate with similar houses which would be rented out to public and private organisations by block allocations.

⁴⁶ Ibid p.56

⁴⁷ Kaduna Capital Development Board: Annual Report 1972-73, p.4

⁴⁸ Max Lock and Partners, Kaduna 1917,1967,2017: A Survey and Plan of the Capital Territory For the Government of Northern Nigeria, Faber and Faber Limited, London. 1967

⁴⁹ Kaduna Capital Development Board..op.cit p.7

⁵⁰ Ibid, p.10



Equally important, is the development of rural development. The Governor said the intensification of the development of the country's rural areas would solve imbalances in education and economic development in the Republic of Nigeria.⁵¹ He argued that the development should be based in the country's rural areas where the bulk of the population lived, 'by the establishment of educational institutions, the provision of health services and means of communications and transport.' Suggesting Kaduna while being interviewed on the weekly Radio Kaduna Television programme, "Meeting Point", the North Central State Military Governor, Colonel Abba Kyari, said that all the state governments were concentrating their efforts towards the provision of better social services.

Conclusion

The study has attempted to explain the changing roles of the military, particularly in the aspect of contribution to nation building through military in governance. First, we explain the concept of the military in government. We argue that though it is generally believed that the military does not have any place in the constitution but due to the revolt that led to the removal of the civilian government, the military in power is legal. Secondly, we gave a brief biography of Brigadier General Abba Kyari, with focus on his military career. And finally, we ended by examining his contribution to North Central State of Nigeria as a Military Governor. His impact on the state includes his establishment of a sound administration, modernization of local government, creation of more government agencies, opening of new educational and health institutions, among others.

⁵¹ New Nigeria, Saturday, 3rd October 1970, No.1,465 "Governor Abba Kyari urges-Development of the Rural Areas" by A. Coomassie and C.E Nde, p.1