



The brief history of the 7th Sarkingobir of Gwadabawa, Alhaji Muhammadu Zayyanu MFR

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Abstract

The Sokoto Caliphate is one of the most prominent domain that happened in the history of biladsuddan (in Africa) and it is still paramount in the discourse of Nigeria political and social interactions. One of the actors in the Sokoto Caliphate is the Atikawa royal ruling class (descendants of Abubakar Atiku 1, the son of Sheikh Usmanu bn Foduye). Among the Atikawa was the prominent person called Sarkingobir Muhammadu Zayyanu (aka Zayyana Gwadabawa) MFR. Thus, this paper tried to discuss about him, Gwadabawa, and his grandfathers in a laconic fashion. The preservation of history will guide the present and unborn populations. We can approximately do that through wrting.

Keywords: Sarkin Gobir, Muhammad Zayyanu, Muhammad Zayyana, Sarkin Musulmi Abubakar Atiku 1, Sultan Muhammad Maiturare, Sultan Muhammad Tambari, Sarkingobir Abdurrahman Jatau

Introduction

Sheikh Usmanu bn Foduye was a very important figure in the history of political, social and religious Africa, as well as the history of true Islamic revolution on the planet. He had many prominent scions, and descendants, but surprisingly the documented history in English about them is very rare. That is why this paper tried to preserve history by writing one of the grandsons of Shehu who was very great and prominent during his reign as the protector of the Caliphate. He was Sarkingobir Gwadabawa HRH Muhammad Zayyanu MFR. Along with him, some important person such as Sultan Maiturare, Tambari, Sarkingobir Abdurrahman were broached; through a data gathered via some Hausa books, journals, English books, personal discuss with individuals who sat with them and personal experience.

Sultan Atiku Abubakar 1

Sultan Atiku was among the seniors children of Sheikh Usman bn Foduye (may Allah be pleased with him), and among the forefronts that augmented Shehu and Islam during his lifetime. Abubakar was born in Degel on 1782 A.D by Hawwau, the mother of Sultan Bello. He was the junior to Sultan Muhammad Bello.

Abubakar 1 was the closest son of Shehu that is why he is well-known as the secret keeper of Shehu bn Foduye. He had contributed immensely in the development of Islam through teaching, writing, war, and donations among others. He participated in many jihads, including the *Zamfara* war, *Kalambaina* (a place in *Gwandu*) war and *Bubuce* war. He was onetime sent to Bakura for Ribadi (defense).

In 1873 A.D. Abubakar 1 was declared as the *Amirul Muminina* (Commander of the faithful) as the third Sultan in the history of Sokoto Caliphate at the *Wurno* Jumuat Mosque one week after the demise of his brother Muhammad Bello. One ascending the throne he said " You should make your pledge in sincerity with Allah. If I deviate, you should return me even with flogging. I

will return whosoever deviate, even with cane, even if he is Aliyu son of Bello" ^[1].

Then he asked Mudagel, the son of Umaru Alkammu to meet with some emirs at *Zamfara* to receive their pledges on his behalf.

Abubakar Atiku 1 made many transformations during his reign such as:

- He introduced scrutiny on verdicts that are delivered by judges to check the erring ones and give equality to all.
- He banning clubs and other sorts of indecent gatherings.
- He disbursed the government treasury to the poor and the needy.
- He be clouded himself with pious teachers.
- He checkmate the issues of markets in terms of buying and selling foodstuffs, to avoid frauds.
- He reconciled many disputing communities and individuals
- He dispelled backbiting and sycophants

Abubakar Atiku 1 had good manners and virtues. He was a *Shahid*, he died with sweat on his face. He was the most generous child of Shehu (he give like he fears poverty not), a peaceful son full of shyness, a brave individual, the deserter of worldly enjoyments, a just leader. Some of the books he wrote are: *Ajwibah* (discussed about politics to Shaikh Ahmad bn Bakar Masina), *Rasail* (discussed a reconciliation among Azbinawa, Kelgeres, Kelawi, Ateseyen and Wullummadam, *Kitab AlAsrar* (discussed the secrets of Shehu), *Risala Al-intiqal* ^[1].

Some children of Amirul Muminina Abubakar Atiku 1 included: Abdulqadir (eldest), Sultan Ahmadu Maicimmola, Ahmad Rufai, Alhassan, Alhusain, Sultan Abdurrahman, Is a Fari, Nuhu, Dalhatu, Haliru, Isa Gajere, Sulaimanu, Umaru Nagwamatse (who went to Kontagora and sat), Ibrahim, Khalidu, Muallledi, Muhammad Na Bakura, Abdullahi Bayero, Muallim Garko, Abdullahi Mai Bodinga, Maituta, Abubakar Kwato, Hamidu, Muhammad, Dahiru, IshaKa, Basharu, Ibrahim (last born), Jide,

Nana, Hauwau, Halimatu, Aushatu, Maryam, Hafsatu, Asmau, Khadijatu ^[1].

He participated in many wars. Some of them were : Yakin Burmi, Yakin Katsina da Cikaji, Yakin Zauma, Yakin Gobir 1, Yakin Gumi, Yakin Tsibiri, etc. He died at Katuru, because of the round he got from *Tsibiri* war on Thursday 20 Shawwal 1258 A.H / 1842 A.D in the course of Jihad.,That is why he is popularly called *Maikaturu*,which is located in Zamfara state, Shinkafi local government area.Some of his emirs died on the war included Malam Khalil bn Shehu Abdullahi Foduye and Abdulkadir bn Gidado among others ^[1].

Abubakar Atiku sired a royal family called *Atikawa*, which are among the leading people that been to the sultanate throne over the years. Some of the places where Atikawa ruled are listed below:

Table 1: Some places where *Atikawa* are *sarakuna*

S/N	Place	Title of kingship (Sarauta)
1	Kontagora	Sarkin Sudan
2	Maiyurno (Sudan Republic)	Sultan of Maiyurno
3	Gwadabawa	Sarkingobir
4	Danchadi	Sarkin Zamfara
5	Illela	Sarkin Rafi
6	Tangaza	Marafan Tangaza
78	Jabo	Sarkin Burmi
8	Gongono	Bunu
9	Wushishi	Sarkin Wushishi
10	Chimmola	Sarkin Gabas
11	Dimbiso	Bunun Dimbiso
12	Sabon Birni (Sokoto metropolis)	Bunun Sabonbirni
13	Rijiyar dorowa (Sokoto metropolis)	Durumbun Rijiyar Dorowa
14	Wauru	Bunu
25	Sabongari	Magaji

Source: ^[1]

Caliph (Amirul muminina) Ahmadu Atiku 1

Sultan Ahmad bn Abubakar Atiku 1 was born in 1805 A.D. He was the second among the grandchildren of Shehu Usman bn Foduye, he was known for braveness.Sultan Ahmad was turbaned as the 5th Amirul Muminin at Jumuat mosque barely three days after the death of Sultan Aliyu Babba on 1859 A.D. after his ascension he sought for following the footsteps of Prophet Muhamamd (peace be upon him), returning to Almighty Allah, and clamoured for rising up to the deen. He disliked injustice and laid justice among his subjects. Ahmad was a preacher who exhorts doing good things and warned about disobeying Allah's commands.

Duringg his time wars were fought to strengthen the Caliphate, some of them were: *Yakin Karazum, yakin Zandam, Yakin Tasawa, Yakin Arewa, Yakin Sawwa in Kebbi state, Yakin rowan Bore, Yakin Gummi. Sultan Ahmadu passed away* on Friday in his hometown Chimmola (which he established as form of Ribadi) on 1861 A.D at the time he was 61 years old.Sultan Ahmadu spent seven years, two months, and twenty days as head of the muslim faithfuls ^[1].

Sarkin Musulmi Muhammad Maiturare

Muhammad maiturare, the son of Sultan Ahmadu, the son of Abubakar atiku 1 was the 10th Amirul Muminina (Sultan) of Sokoto who got to the throne on 1915 A.D after the death of his brother Sultan Attahiru Aliyu 2.Maiturare was the one who

founded Gwadabawa then he was a prince. Gwadabawa got its name from one hunter called Gwadabawa (an origin of Kwanni Niger Republic) who sat there around 16th century. There was one hunter who also sat there called Dankota. Dankota advised Maiturare about the good soil in the place and urged him to come there. Sultan Ummaru Aliyu gave the bids to establish Gwadabawa town. Maiturare was also the one who established Asara before Gwadabawa. Sultan Maiturare passed away in the year 1924 A.D ^[1-3].

Table 2: Children of Sultan Muhammad Maiturare

1	Sarki Musulmi Muhammad Tambari
2	Sarkingobir Ahmadu
3	Marafa Isa
4	Sarkin Rafi Alu
5	Bunun Kadassaka Yusuf
6	Sarkingobir Abdurrahman Jatau
7	Bunun Tangaza Shehu
8	Sarki umaru
9	Muhammadu Maihata
10	Bunun Tangaza Hamza
11	Sardauna Abdu
12	Muhammad mahe
13	Dangaladiman Sakkwato abbas
14	Gwaggo Atu among others.

Source: ^[1]

Sarkingobir Abdurrahman (Abdu Jatau)

Sarkingobir Abdurrahman, the son of Maiturare was the 5th Sarkingobir of Gwadabawa, he ascended the throne after Sarkingobir Adiya (the son of his elder Tambari). His scions are ^[1, 4]:

Table 3: Children of Sarkingobir Abdu Jatau

S/N	Males	S/N	Females
1	Muhammad Mahe (Sarkin Rafin Mammande)	17	Hajiya Fatima Sarauniya
2	Muhammad Ahmad Chimmo	18	Hajiya Maryam Daje
3	Muhd Bello Sarkingobir	19	Hajiya Tumba
4	Muhammad Zayyanu (Zayyana) Sarkingobir	20	Hajiya Antu
5	Muhammad Kabiru	21	Hajiya Rabiatsu
6	Muhammad Bello Marafan Gada	22	Hajiya Halimatu
7	Aliyu Sardauna	23	Hajiya Hafsatu
8	Muhammad Mansur Sarkin Gabas Chimmola	24	Hajiya Bargoni
9	Muhammad Sarkin Bakin Daji	25	Hajiya Saudatu
10	Umar Dan Soro	26	Hajiya Fatima Sarauniya
11	Muhammad Ladan	27	Hajiya Maryam Daje
12	Muhammad Tukur Sarkin Rafin Illela	28	Hajiya Tumba
13	Muhammad Namadina	29	Hajiya Antu
14	Usman Shehu Boda	30	Hajiya Rabiatsu
15	Umar Marafan Asara	31	Hajiya Halimatu
16	Aliyu Kyari Wamban Sokoto	32	Hajiya Hafsatu

Source: ^[4]

Brief Biography of Sarkingobir Gwadabawa Muhammad Zayyanu

The humble servant of Allah Alhaji Muhammadu Zayyanu MFR Sarkingobir Gwadabawa was born circa 1935 into the family of the descendants of the famous Islamic Jihadist, warrior, revivalist, reformer, Sheikh Usman bn Foduye (May Allah be pleased with him).His genealogy runs: Mujaddadi Usmanu bn Foduyesired Sultan Abubakar Atiku 1, himself the father of Sultan Muhammadu Maiturare, who begot Sarkingobir Abdurrahman (Audu Jatau), the father of Sarkingobir

Muhammadu Zayyanu. From the lineage, Muhammdu Zayyanu is barely five generations away from Mujaddadi (the great reformer in the Biladissudan), but his conduct has remained to show a patent semblance of the Sheikh Usmanu, his aspirations, and ideals ^[1, 9, 10].

As a child, Muhammad Zayyanu was quickly enrolled into Islamic school by his father, Sarkingobir Abdurrahman. Albeit, he came from a highly revered and elite family, the young Muhammadu Zayyanu was not allowed to wallow in the loose privileges of powerful and the venerated because seeking for knowledge is paramount and it takes precedence to anything in any conscious family. Thus, Muhammadu Zayyanu, as a child was made to take up boarding at his Islamic school, his singular experience that shaped him to the vigorousness in the life of the common people, and subsequently moulded him with celebrated qualities of piety, humility, benevolence, and empathy ^[1].

In 1943, he was enrolled into the Elementary school, and he had to attend both Islamic and western schools. It is worth declaring that his boarding Islamic school remained. Thus, he had to go back directly to his Islamic school after closing from the Elementary school, a rare practice among princes. In 1946, he proceeded to Middle school Sokoto (now Nagarta College Sokoto) together with people like Alhaji Garba takardawa, Alhaji Ali Kangiwa, which he finished in 1952. Noteworthy, during his stay at Nagarta College he had to trek to Gwadabawa because of the paucity of vehicles. After the graduation, Muhamamd Zayyanu went to Northern Clerical Training College zaria (now Ahmadu Bello University) where he received a one year training, which he accomplished in 1953. Between 1953-1954, he was employed by Sokoto native authority in the department of Works under the heradship of Dr Waziri Junaidu. In 1954, he was turbaned as the *Sardaunan Chimmola*, where he stayed for fourteen years (1954-1968). Inbetween these years, he participated in the federal politics as House of Representative under the platform of Northern Peoples Congress (NPC). In the Federal Legislature, he was a contemporary to late President Shagari, Late Bunun Sokoto Alhaji Garba Jabo, Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau (Education Minister during Shagari's regime), Marafan Kontagora Alhaji Abdullahi bauchji, and Alhaji Bello Alkammawa among others ^[1].

By the year 1968, Muhamamd Zayyanu was appointed as District Head of Tangaza, a position he succeeded his uncle Bunu Hamza. Six years later, he was transferred to Gwadabawa, the epicenter of his traditional political authority, as the 7th Sarkingobir of Gwadabawa. Muhammad Zayyanu was a well-travelled personality. He travelled to many places such as: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, England, America, Egypt, and Niger Republic among others. His last trip was to Dubai for medical treatment of his illness, after which he was flown back and died at Usmanu Danfoduye University Teaching Hospital ICU Unit circa on Friday June, 2013 A.D ^[1, 4, 5, 6].

In 2002 Muhammad Zayyanu was among the distinguished personalities that were conferred with honorary awards by President Olusegun Obasanjo. He was honored with Member of Federal Republic (MFR).

Some of his peers at that occasion were HRH Saidu Namaka (Emir of Kontagora), Alhaji Bello Gidadawa, and Ambassador Hamzat Ahmad Walin Sokoto among others ^[5].

Muhammad Zayyanu MFR was a pillar to Sokoto state, his communities, Atikawa, and the entire Usmanu Danfoduye scions. He was the eldest surviving son from the Atikawa royal family in the country after the Emir of Kontagora HRH Saidu Namaska (because Namaska is an emir, and Muhammad Zayyanu was a district head, but the respect, reverence and position Muhammad Zayyanu held during his time had superseded that of any prince in the whole sultanate after Sultan). The leadership and reverence accorded to him by Almighty Allah, Who made him with good manners and stirring abilities, and gave him a very significant throne to manage (ie Sarkingobir stool, which is rated second to Sultan in the Caliphate). It is noteworthy that, Muhammad Zayyanu had been the front prince, who waited for the sultanate throne during his life. On that ground he at least joined the Sultanate race after the death of Sultan Abubakar 111, and that of Macchido. It was widely known that during selection of Sultan after the death of Macchido, Muhammad Zayyanu had been the one with highest number of votes among the contenders, and he was the most preferred by the public; but because of the will of Allah, an old political intrigue between him and the then state government played a role in swaying the position to Muhammad Saadu (who just came for condolences from his military workplace abroad). Muhammad Zayyanu died at UDUTH after a protracted illness on Friday, June 2013 ^[1, 2, 3, 6, 7].

Sarkingobir Zayyanu as a prominent farmer

The sole occupation relied upon by Sarkingobir Muhammad Zayyanu was the Agriculture. He practiced both rearing, dry and rain farming. He had many cattle cared by his Fulani aides, and practice extensive and commercial farming throughout his lifetime. Every day he had to go to his farm usually after ASR prayer to supervise routines. It was his source of income, food and utilized farm produce to assist the needy and relatives ^[1].

The human relations of Sarkingobir Muhammad Zayyanu

Sarkingobir Muhammad Zayyanu had good and righteous manners of the peak. He was just, forgiving, truth-sayer, obedient, brave, feared by many, knowledgeable, and monotheist among others. He loved relatives so much, that is why during his time the bond of friendship among the Atikawa descendants was very strong and more unified. He visits relatives whenever there is need, and he help them within his capacities. He was indeed generous and kind disbursing possessions like he fears poverty not. There was good relation between him and all Atiku scions, like Danchadi, Kontagora, Jabo, the Sultans of his time, Katsina Emirates (where Sultan Tambari and Maiturares daughters were married during the time of Mamman Dikko), and Sultan of Sudan Republic among others. He had related with all descendants of Shehu cordially, may Allah be pleased with them all. There is no any prince that had good virtues as Muhammad Zayyanu during his lifetime in the whole Sokoto caliphate.

One person that is second to him as reported by the public was the Sarkingobir Gabas Muazu Lamido

(Who was from the Bellawa royal family, may Allah have mercy upon them all ^[1])

Children of Muhammad Zayyanu

Table 4: children of Sarkingobir Muhammad Zayyanu MFR

S/N	Males	S/N	Females
1	Alhaji Muhamamd lawal (the current Sarkingobir)	12	Hajiya Hawwau
2	Alhaji muhamamd Bashir	13	Hajiya Lubabatu
3	Alhaji Abubakar Chika (Phd)	14	Hajiya Maryam
4	Mustapha	15	Hajiya Umaima
5	Murtala	16	Hajiya Salamatu
6	Muhammad Moyi	17	Hajiya fadimatu
7	Malam Shehu	18	Zainab
8	Alhaji Yusuf	19	Suwaiba
9	Pharmacist Ahmad	20	Hajiya Hawwau
10	Muhammad Hafizu	21	Hajiya Khadija
11	Aliyu	22	Asmau
		23	Hafsatu

Source: ^[1]

The old and new Gwadabawa district (Masarautar Gwadabawa)

Gwadabawa has always remained very important and versatile in the Bilad Sudan history and it continues to exert that force. It is the head of fiefdom, including Chimmola and Dagele (few kilometres away). Dagele was the birth place of Sheikh Usmanu bn Foduye, where he was also raised and started his education, preaching, and strive. His parents resided there, and their tombs are still there (including that of Shehu Foduye and Hawwau, about thousands of them). Gudu, the place where Shehu Usman sat after Hijra, was part of Gwadabawa district for several decades until recently it was carved out. These indicate the versatility of Gwadabawa. In fact, Gwadabawa was created to serve as ribat (defense and protection) to the Sokoto Caliphate from that zone. It is noteworthy, Sultan Ahmadu Atiku utilized Chimmola (a town under Gwadabawa fiefdom) as a dual capital of the Caliphate together with Sokoto metropolis during his reign. For several reasons, Gwadabawa has been the centre of Atikawa dynasty in the history of Sokoto Caliphate, and it continues to hold that prestige. In an undocumented tradition sultanate was based on rotational basis between the Bellawa and Atikawa, until recently when an abrupt occurred. Up to date, the Gwadabawa and the fiefdom leader of the place enjoyed privilege, reverence and prestige in the sultanate of Sokoto. During Governor's Wamakko's regime when new districts were created in the state; and Gwadabawa was among the leading chiefdoms quoted by the people and experts to be made as emirates. Albeit, it is unclear whether the Atikawa royal families will accept that in good faith or not. From the Gwadabawa fiefdom is and the Muhammad Zayyanu who lead the fiefdom for over fifty years ^[1, 2, 3]. The Gwadabawa town is situated about 24 miles away from the Sokoto metropolis. The old Gwadabawa district (*masarauta*) included:

Table 5: The old Gwadabawa chiefdom

S/N	Salame	20	Gwadabawa
1	Araba	21	Tangaza
2	Gongono	22	Gada
3	Gidan Madi	23	Wauru
4	Asara	24	Kadadi
5	Atakwanyo	25	Kadassaka
6	Gigane	26	Balle
7	Tambagarka	27	Ilela
8	Huci	28	Chimmola
9	Kalmalo	29	Gongono
10	And Dukamaje among others.	30	Gidan Madi
11	Salame	31	Asara
12	Araba	32	Atakwanyo
13	Tambagarka	33	Gigane
14	Huci	34	
15	Gongono	35	
16	Gidan Madi	36	
17	Asara	37	
18	Tambagarka	38	

Source: ^[1]

A lot of changes has taken place, thus today Gwadabawa district (masarutar Gwadabawa) consists of:

Table 6: The New Gwadabawa chiefdom

S/N	Gwadabawa ta kudu
1	Gwadabawa Arewa
2	Atakwanyo
3	Meli
4	Makina
5	And Gigane among others.

Source: ^[1]

Sarakunan Gwadabawa

Sultan Maiturare was the one who founded Gwadabawa mand he was the pioneer person to rule Gwadabawa. From Maiturare's

time to the time of writing this paper the following people ascended the Gwadabawa throne:

Table 7: The *Sarakunan* Gwadabawa throne

S/N	Name of Sarki	Date	Time spent on the throne
1	Sarkin Musulmi Muahmmadu Maiturare, he was on the throne as Marafan Gwadabawa, later the title was changed to Sarkingobir	1882-1914	32
2	Sarkin Musulmi Muhammadu Tambari son of Maiturare, he was the first to be called as Sarkingobir	1914-1924	10
3	Sarkingobir Ahamadu, the son of Sultan Maiturare	1924-1929	5
4	SarkingobirAdiya, the son of Sultan Tambari	1929-1931	2
5	Sarkingobir Abdurrahman Jatau, the 4 son of Sarkin Musulmi Maiturare	1931-1968	37
6	Sarkingobir Muhammad Bello, son of Abdujatau	1968-1974	6
7	Sarkingobir Zayyanu (Zayyana), the Son of AbduJatua	1974-2014	39
8	Sarkingobir Muhammadu lawal, the son of Muhammadu Zayyanu	2014-date	

Source: ^[1]

Some developments that happened during his reign as Sarkingobir

1. Improvement in Islamic knowledge, including the establishing of islamiyya schools. He made one at his house.
2. Establishment of College of Health Technology Gwadabawa
3. Construction of roads linking Gwadabawa with environs
4. Extension of Gwadabawa town
5. Construction of Gwadabawa gates
6. Electrification
7. Secondary schools
8. Banks
9. Housing estates
10. Two Gwadabawa scions became acting Governors of Sokoto state etc



Fig 1: The present Sarkingobir Rt. Hon Lawal Zayyana



Fig 2: the 7th Sarkingobir Muhammad Zayyanu at his farm



Fig 3: Sarkingobir Muhammad Zayyanu



Fig 4: Sarkingobir A Abdurrahman Gwadabawa

Conclusion

This paper tried and discussed the brief biography of Sarkingobir Gwadabawa, HRH Muhammad Zayyanu MFR, the famous descendant of Sheikh Usmanu bn Foduye (may Allah be pleased with them).

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