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STATECRAFT

**Laying The Foundation For
Modern Development**

Edited by: Mary Kolawole and Muritala Awodun

Revised Edition



Foreword: Professor AbdulRasheed Na'Allah

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Honourable Dr Rafiu Adebayo Ibrahim,
Honourable Mashood Mustapha,
Honourable Zakari Muhammed, and
Honourable Akeem Aiyedun.**

DEDICATED TO:



DR ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARA

Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki, 49, became the Governor of Kwara State in 2003 at the age of 40. Aptly described as 'the governor, born with a silver spoon in his mouth,' because of his circumstance of birth as the first son of Dr Olusola Saraki, the wealthy 'Godfather of Kwara Politics'. Despite this favour by pedigree, he however, has earned respect and honours by rising above his favoured background and applying himself to the assignment of governing Kwara State by dint of hard work.

In his service to Kwara State, since 2003 when he became the fifth Executive Governor of the state, Dr Bukola Saraki has impacted significantly on the economy of Kwara State through the transformation of the various sectors from agriculture to education, roads to electricity, water to health, sports to youth empowerment, urban to rural development, housing to environment such that visitors and the citizenry could not but acknowledge his leadership and vision that have placed the state in the list of one of the most developed states even when it is the 34th of the 36 states in revenue collection from the federation purse.

Dr Bukola Saraki is undoubtedly the highest achieving governor of Kwara State. He was the chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum, a position he held from 2007, after he won a second term as governor till the very end. In the last four years of his leadership, the Forum has become more coordinated and united in articulating positions, as a powerful lobby group that often gets criticised but cannot be denied by its plaudits as an instrument that has helped solve many national problems under Saraki's able leadership.

To this end he was awarded the national honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON), the fourth highest of such honours in Nigeria. Dr Bukola Saraki is the first incumbent governor to be so honoured in the nation.

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Foreword

There is no better time than now to present this piece of research work on the activities of the administration of Governor Abubakar Bukola Saraki, who since 2003 was bestowed with the rare privilege to govern Kwara State with an opportunity of 29 'hundred days' (specifically 2,922 days from 29 May, 2003 to 28 May, 2011) at his disposal. The resolve by this group of researchers who have worked as a team to appraise objectively the various sectors of the economy of Kwara State from a comparative point of view is highly commendable. Kwasu has a responsibility to research and document this prime community development record for posterity.

It is therefore not a mere coincidence to find out that the research initiated at the instance of The Center for Entrepreneurship of Kwara State University had a tremendous initial response of over forty willing contributors that ended with meaningful and solid research contributions from exactly twenty-nine researchers working as separate teams in different areas of their expertise that make up the twelve chapters of this book, appropriately titled; *Statecraft – Laying the Foundation for Modern Development*.

I am particularly delighted that the enterprising creative abilities of Governor Bukola Saraki was uniquely revealed in the course of study of the administration's efforts and the vision and strategies behind those things that we all can see as the contributions of Governor Saraki's administration to the development of Kwara State.

While many struggle for appointments and positions, very few people know what to do with such opportunities when bestowed on them. Right from the beginning of the administration in focus, one thing that is very obvious, as revealed in this book, is the fact that the Governor had a clear-cut vision of a modern state of Kwara, and in eight years, he has not only

laid that solid foundation, but has begun the building process of that modern state of Kwara. From the developmental infrastructural provisions of electricity, roads, health, water and education, the administration had touched directly and indirectly, the lives of the people of the state, leaving them by far better than he met them. With the above life-touching sectors of the economy, the developmental efforts to encourage the commercial and industrial development of the state had been the focal points of the progress made in agriculture, housing, industry and the business environment through the conducive and harmonious development of Kwara as a true 'state of harmony.'

Of particular interest to me is the methodology of research adopted by this book as copious analysis and references were made to the speeches and presentations of Governor Bukola Saraki, as the nucleus of the eighteen case studies, from his very first day in office to the ending days of his administration in May 2011, as it concerns the various sectors of the state. The questions revealed by this research method are 'questions of character,' particularly in this part of the world where promises are made and broken at will.

The research efforts presented in this book remind me of the strong pattern that runs through many works of serious literature which reveals certain fundamental challenges that test the characters of leaders in particular ways, and enable them to understand themselves. These challenges tend to arise at different points in the leader's life and career. This pattern, though old and enduring, runs through the classics of Western literature, like *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *War and Peace*, as well as many other contemporary works.

The basic challenges of leaders reflect two fundamental, enduring aspects of leadership. One is the humanity of leaders revealing their hopes and fears, traits and instincts of the human nature they also share with the ordinary people. Second, is the unchanging agenda of leadership, in all

times and places revealed in the setting of goals, plan, purpose, strategies and working through and with other people to actualise their vision in a world that is often uncertain, recalcitrant and sometimes perilous. It is from the above perspectives with these challenges as the underlying assumptions that the methodology adopted by *Statecraft* becomes particularly unique and interesting to me. The promises made by Governor Bukola Saraki in 2003 and several others in between were therefore appraised by the book with the submission that the Governor made conscious efforts to live up to his promises despite the overwhelming challenges, and today these are results of his efforts which are hereby documented for posterity. Without question, his government is a result of team work, the team of people he has put together, but without doubt that he has led with passion, firmness, hard work, and unambiguous dedication to ushering in a better future for Kwara.

I hereby recommend this book to all, as it provides a basis for realistic leadership lessons and encouragement for entrepreneurship as demonstrated by the 'social entrepreneurship' of Governor Abubakar Bukola Saraki who has laid the foundation for the modern development of Kwara State.

Professor AbdulRasheed Na'Allah

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Kwara State, Nigeria

Preface to the First Edition

A book on governance that focuses on the link between stated objectives and the achievement of such set goals is expected to be versatile. When various categories of readers are asked to state the purpose of reading such a book, the answers will come in various dimensions. What we look for in a book differs from one person to another. While many look for information, some look for entertainment, facts, knowledge and education. Whatever you may be looking for, this book, *Statecraft: Laying the Foundation for Modern Development*, will provide it.

We discovered in the course of research that leaders of states and nations have come to realise that they are competing to develop. This is obviously as a result of globalisation that makes them compete for markets, technologies, skills, investments, and distribution channels needed to grow their economies and raise the standard of living of their people. It is therefore the responsibility of governments to prepare the states or nations for the challenges of this competitive environment. How this is done depends on the strategies of the leadership of a government who invariably must provide distinctive advantages attractive enough for firms to operate favourably within their domain.

Statecraft represents the art and science of governance which from the perspective of the focus of this book examined governance from the point of view of promises made and the extent to which such promises have been fulfilled. In twelve chapters, various researchers from diverse backgrounds examined different aspects of the economy of Kwara State, from revenue to education, health, electricity, agriculture, housing, religion and culture, in an attempt to explain the growth experienced in the eight years of Governor Bukola Saraki's administration of the state.

The research adopted a unique methodology in appraising the activities of the government under review. The approach subjected the administration

of Governor Bukola Saraki to the promises made, particularly at the inception, making copious references to the words of the Governor in most cases. The purpose of adopting this research method is to begin the process of subjecting our leaders to objective and empirical assessment and accountability.

While trying not to be judgmental, we have in various chapters revealed the promises and efforts made by Governor Bukola Saraki's administration in laying the foundation for the modern development of Kwara State, leaving the readers to make their judgement from the facts as presented by the various contributors.

We like to appreciate the cooperation and support received from various individuals and government institutions, without which this project would not have been successful. First is the Office of the Chief Press Secretary to the Government of Kwara State that accorded us the required support to have access to documents which ordinarily would have been impossible. We also like to acknowledge the support received from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Planning, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Youth and Social Development. We also acknowledge the support of the Vice Chancellor of Kwara State University, who, on receiving the proposal for this research gave us the necessary encouragement and financial backing to make a success of this project.

We hope that this book will serve as a veritable source document for people in government, students of government and researchers interested in governance issues.

Professor (Mrs) Mary Kolawole
Professor Muritala Awodun
December, 2011

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