HAWAN SALLAH

he two most important Muslim festivals are the Eid al-Fitr and the Eid al-Adha. The Id al-Fitr is celebrated on the first of the month of Shawwal after thirty or twenty nine days of Ramadan fast. Both festivals begin with the prayer at the Id ground outside the city at Kofar Mata. The Emir dressed in white, leaves his palace before 8:00 am, he treks without any praise singing and he arrives at the praying ground in about thirty minutes. The *Hakimai* (titleholders) and all other participants ride their horses. The Governor or his representative, arrives the praying ground before the Emir, the prayer led by the Chief Imam of Kano commences immediately the Emir arrives.

After the prayer *Makaman Kano* leads the Durbar procession and is followed by other titleholders as explained earlier. The contingent moves through Kofar Wambai to Zage, Sharifai, Yola, Satatima and Kurawa Quarters before terminating at the ground in front of Gidan Rumfa (Palace) near the Central Mosque. The Emir receives greetings from his subjects as he passes through these quarters. He stops in some locations where some senior citizens come out and pray for him.

One of such locations is at the Sharifai Quarters where the Sharifai (descendants of the Prophet Muhammad peace and blessings be upon him) led by the *Sidi Fari* pay homage and pray for the Emir and the society. The *Sidi Fari* (or Sarkin Sharifai) was instituted and made a member of the *Majlisar Sarki* (Emir's Council). It is held by a descendant of Shaykh Muhammad bn Abd al-Karim al-Maghili the Muslim political theorist who provided the theoretical framework of the Kano *Sarauta* or Kingship system during the reign of Sarkin Kano Muhammad Rumfa (1463-99). Al-Maghili was partly responsible for the institution of Durbar, a celebration of Kano's power, intellectuality, superiority over other Sudanic States, economic prosperity and grandeur during Rumfa's time and this tradition has remained ever since.

The Emir passes through important quarters that make up the nucleus of pre-colonial Kano leather and textile industry this area includes Kofar Wambai, Dukawa, Darma and Zage. Kano was the textile and leather capital of pre-colonial sub Saharan Africa. It was the most prosperous region of Sokoto Caliphate tropical Africa's most prosperous State. The Emir acknowledges greetings from these merchants and craftsmen. He then passes through and acknowledges greetings from people in the nucleus of Kano aristocracy covering Yola and Satatima Quarters then Kurawa Quarters which has the highest concentration of the royalty in Kano. He moves to *Gidan Shatima*, which was residence of *Shatiman Kano* a slave official created in the 19th century and it was converted to the residence of one of the colonial officers in the early twentieth century, it now houses the Chamber of Kano State Council of Chiefs. At this location the Emir greets the State Governor in company of his Executive Council, leaderships of the State Legislature and Judiciary and Chairman of the Kano Municipal Council who is the host.

After the exchange of pleasantries the Emir moves to Kofar Kwaru, which is in the northern part of the Palace and it faces the West looking towards Kabara and Mandawari Quarters. He

delivers his Sallah Message to citizens of Kano State in this location. This address is usually made up of advices to authorities on poverty alleviation and admonishments to the citizens on various ways and means of avoiding epidemics and wastage of agricultural produce respectively.



Sarkin Kano going to Eid at Kofar Mata Praying Ground

























