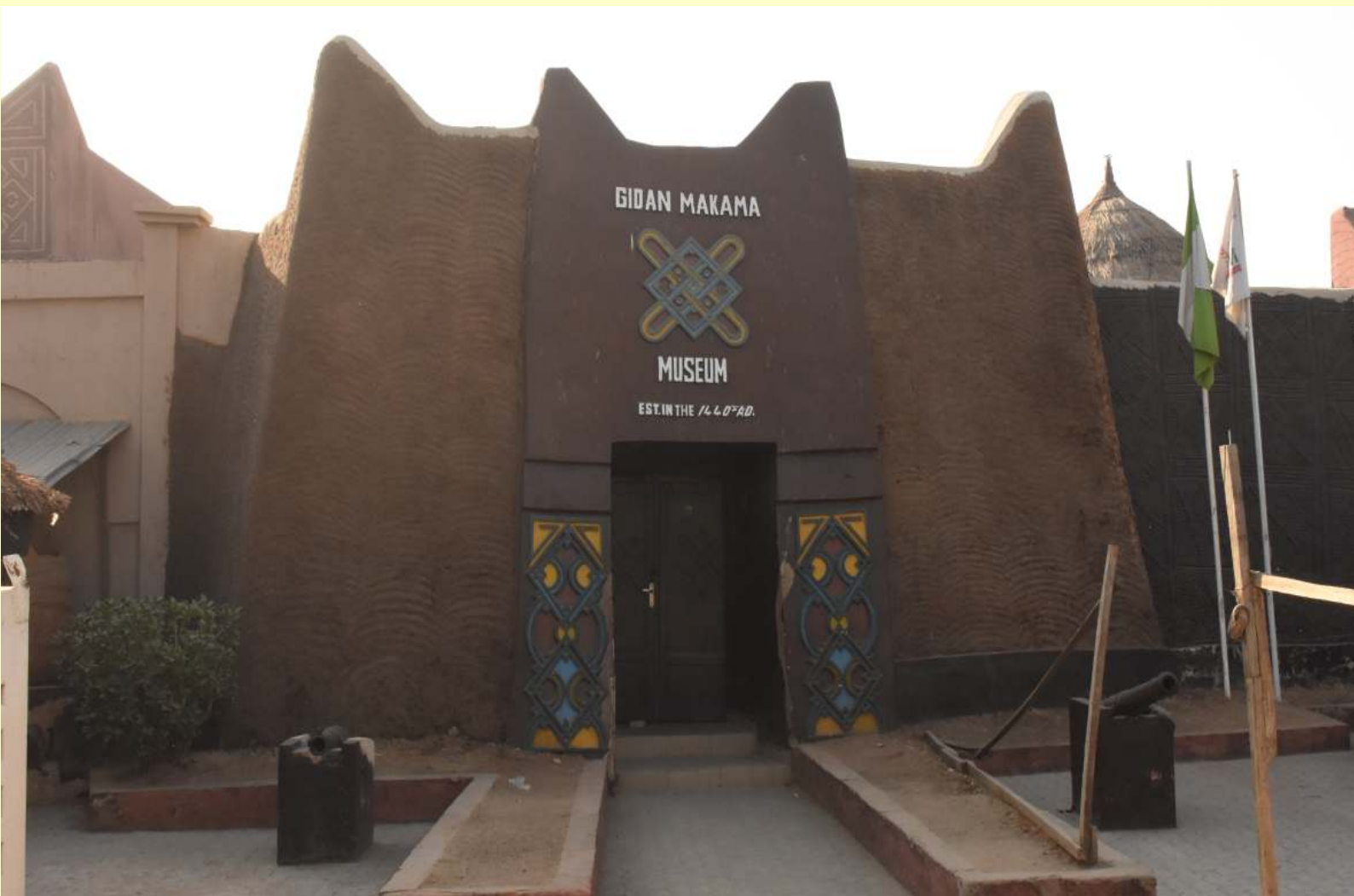


# Sarkin Kano Sulaimanu (1806-1819)

Shehu Usman Danfodio represented by Muhammad Bello appointed Sulaiman as the Sarkin Kano sometime in 1806 at Birnin Gada (Ado-Kurawa 1989: 45, Last 1966: 468, Smith 1997: 211). The Jama'ah of Kano or followers of Shehu Danfodio were given a choice and they chose him and the Shehu formalized the appointment. There are several versions on the circumstances of Sulaiman's choice as the Emir or Sarkin Kano. Apparently he might have been chosen because his kinsman Mallam Dangabuwa was the first leader of the Jihadists and he was martyred in one of the Jihad campaigns before the victory of the Jama'ah (Adamu 2007b).

Sulaiman first lived at *Gidan Makama* until the Shehu gave him the permission to enter *Gidan Rumfa*. But even before he settled in the palace, the daily sessions of the Emirate Council were held there. Some of the Jihad leaders opposed the use of *Gidan Rumfa*, as the seat of power. The most outspoken opponent of this decision was Mallam Jibril of Yolawa (Ba'awa Clan) who was reported by the Kano Chronicle to have said: "If we enter the Habe's houses and we beget children, they will be like these Habes and do like them" (Palmer 1928:128).



*Gidan Makama; Sarkin Kano Sulaimanu resided here before he moved to Gidan Rumfa*



*Tambarin Sarkin Kano Alwali Kutumbi (1781-1806) in Wamban Burum-Burum's possession. Alwali the last kutumbi king of Kano was killed in Burum-Burum during Sulaiman's reign*

According to Temple, Sarkin Kano Sulaiman made several appointments and he noted the titles (Lovejoy, Mahadi and Mukhtar 1993:55). But Alkali Zangi stated the names of his advisers, most of them without titles, because the pre-Jihad titles had not been fully restored during the reign of Sarkin Kano Sulaiman. The titles used at that time according to Alkali Zangi's account were allocated to the servants of the Sarki they were *Wambai* and *Sarkin Bai*. All the clan leaders were members of his council when Jamo died Sulaiman appointed Dabo to succeed him and when Abdurrahman Goshi died he appointed his nephew Umaru Nayaya son of Jibril to succeed him. Although Sulaiman's rule was the beginning of the Emirate under the Sokoto Caliphate it was nevertheless peaceful except for a few uprisings. The most notorious was the Fagam revolt and he was able to subdue the area. Dantunku of the Yarimawa clan also began his preparation to revolt, which came up later during the reign of Sarkin Kano Dabo (Ado-Kurawa 1989: 45-46).

During the reign of Sarkin Kano Sulaiman, Islamic scholarship flourished in Kano and the area was blessed by the sojourn of the great scholar, Shehu Abdullahi Danfodio. He was in

Kano on his way to Makkah when he decided to leave Sokoto because he was dissatisfied with the administration of the Caliphate at that time. In Kano he established the position of the *qibla* (direction of the Ka'aba for prayer) of the Central Mosque as well as for the mosque he established at Zangon Dan Abdu in Rimin Gado. He led the eclipse prayer in the month of Ramadan and delivered the *Tafsir* (Commentary) sessions of the Qur'an. He also wrote his book titled *Diya al-Hukam* when the Kano Jama'ah requested for guidance on the process of establishing Islamic government (Ado-Kurawa 1989: 46).

Kano's economic preeminence over other Hausa States began during the reign of Sarkin Kano Sulaiman because of the uneasiness in Katsina, its main rival. He encouraged merchants and artisans to settle in Kano. Sulaiman would also be remembered for his uprightness and commitment to the ideals of the Jihad. Material comfort was not important to people like him. It was reported that: "he continued to work on his farm and owned so little property that he lacked the sacrificial lamb for a festival" (Isichei 1983: 307 and Fika 1978: 18). He died on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1819 (Last 1966: 468).

