

Born in Kano on July 25th 1928, Isa Wali was the fifth son of Wali of Kano, Sulaiman and the first son of Hajia Maryam Nene.



He started his education with Quranic school in 1932. After completion in 1936, he enrolled in the Kwaru Elementary School, and moved to the Kano Middle School in 1940. He was admitted to the School for Arabic Studies, Kano on May 15 1944, where his courses included 'A study of Islamic Law, the Koran, the Principal Commentaries, Tradition, and early Mohammedan History, with some Arithmetic, Geography and General Knowledge.' The language of instruction was Arabic.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE No. 1203

.....Kano. MIDDLE SCHOOL N.P. REG. No. 371.....

Name*Isa*.....
 Town and Division*Kano*.....
 Parent and Occupation*Sulaiman, late Wali*.....
 Guardian and Occupation*Muhammadu, Sunai, Chairman Kano*.....
 Tribe*Hausa*..... Religion*Islam*.....


.....*Kwaru*..... Elementary School 1936..... to 1940.....
*Kano*..... Middle School 1940..... to 1944.....


Ago at leaving*14*..... Class at leaving*IV*.....
 Position in Class*5th*..... Passed Middle*IX*..... Exam.....
 Examination Distinctions and Credits*None*.....

SUBJECT REPORTS:

English*Very good*.....
 Mathematics*Very good*.....
 History*Good*.....
 Geography*Good*.....
 Science*Good*.....
 Arabic*Very good*.....
 Handwork*Good*.....
 Shows aptitude in*Arabic*.....

Games*None (the smallest boy in the class)*.....
 Other activities*Health Good*.....
 Character and General Recommendations*Satisfactory (Imaginative)*.....


 Signed *M. Mella* Headmaster
 Date of leaving *24th Nov 1945*


 Education Officer

Note:—(1) A copy of this Certificate is retained at the Provincial Education Office.
 (2) If this Certificate is lost, a duplicate will not be issued, though a typed copy may be made at the discretion of the Education Officer.

NAME: Isa Wali Sulaiman. KANO EMIRATE
CLASS: II KANO PROVINCE

Subject	Remarks
Law	V. Good
Koran	V. Good
Commentary	V. Good
Tradition	V. Good
Grammar	V. Good
Reading	V. Good
Composition	V. Good
Arithmetic	V. Good
Geography	V. Good
History	V. Good
Dictation	V. Good
General knowledge	Good

He is punctual to school and intelligent. He is good in both manners and studies.

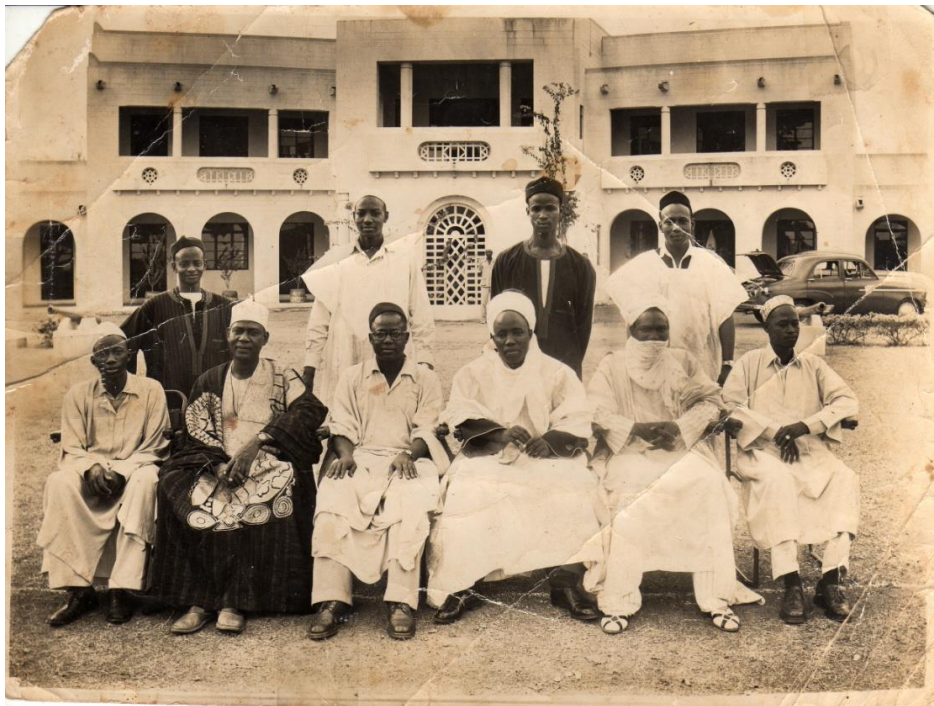
Headmaster of School of Arabic Studies Kano

His class work has not come under my notice as he is no more from his school studies. As regards character he is far more developed than his age or size would indicate. He has a P.S.O.

stroke of fortimacy in him and is nobody's "yes man". This gives him the courage of his convictions and shows he would intelligently directed for the next year or two he ought to be a distinct asset, for he is above the average intellectually.

By Whiting
Lecturer
22.9.47

His career started as the Deputy Clerk of the Northern Regional House, where, with a fluent knowledge of classical Arabic, English as well as Hausa, he was the Official Translator and was said to have performed his duties so well, that he even “translated the sound of laughter from Hausa into English and from English into Hausa.”



Northern Regional House of Representatives

Back Row - Isa Wali, Baba Gana, Umaru Bauchi, Ibrahim Dasuki.
Front Row - Ahmed Talib, unknown, Abba Jiddum Gana, Umaru Gwandu, Sarkin Yauri, unknown

During this period in Kaduna, Isa Wali was an advocate of women's rights in Islam, drawn from his in-depth knowledge of the Qur'an. He was well known in the Northern region as a critic of religious and political suppression during the pre-independence period. He wrote a series of articles, 'The True Position of Women in Islam,' which was published in the Nigerian Citizen in 1956, that set the tone of debate on women's place in the polity, that is still on-going today:

'As for public life, there is nothing in Islam which prevents a woman from following any pursuit she desires. There is no distinct prohibition against her taking part in public leadership as Aisha, the Prophet's widow demonstrated...

When discussing the rights and scope given to women by Islam, I touched on some leading Moslem women such as Aisha and 'The Mothers of the Believers,' the wives of the Companions of the Prophet, and their successors, who played a full and active part in public life, education and leadership in Moslem history.....Aishaas a widow...turned her energies and talents more and more into political channels, until, for a time at least, she came to dominate the political situation with great spirit and energy

*'See what they are doing in other Countries'
The Nigerian Citizen, August 4, 1956*

Isa Wali married Zainab Metteden in 1953 in Kano. The wedding reception, which was well attended, had Maitama Sule as the Best Man. At the time Zainab was a student at the Kano Girls Senior Primary School. Isa, who was then working in Kaduna, decided that Zainab's Senior Primary education was inadequate, so he enrolled her at the Holy Rosary Convent, Kaduna for the Teachers Training Course, where she attained both her Grade III and Grade II Teaching Certificates.



Wedding Reception.
Maitama Sule making a speech

Early in 1958, Isa transferred to the Nigerian Foreign Service, where he was posted to Washington DC.

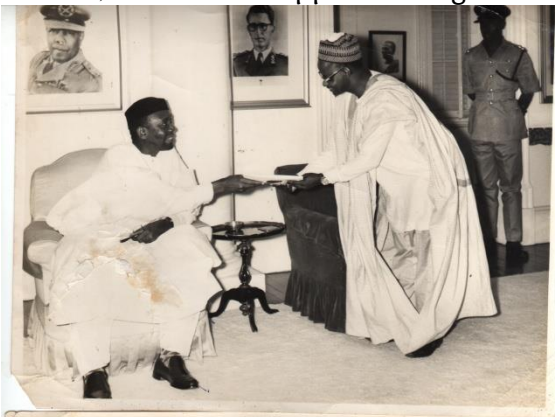


Nigeria Office, British Consulate, Washington DC

L-R Aliyu Yerima, Ochonu, Francis Ella, Dabiri, Oyediran, Isa Wali, Olu Sanu, Goerge Dove-Edwin

Isa Wali returned to Nigeria in 1960, to the Foreign Division of the Prime Minister's Office, as it was then known. The pioneer staff included Ade Martin, John Garba, Omololu and Alhaji Ngileruma. Isa's colleagues also included Ciroma Aminu Sanusi, John Ukegbu, Ifeagwu, Haastrup, Dove Edwin, Sule Kolo and Jolaosho. Also were Ambassadors Sanu, Chukwurah, Asiodu, Olisaemaka, Adegoroye, Dankaro, Ogunsulire and others.

In 1963, Isa Wali was appointed Nigeria's High Commissioner to Nigeria.



Receiving his Letters of Credence from President Nnamdi Azikwe



Visit to Accra by Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa. Godfrey Eneli is to the right of the Prime Minister

Isa and Zainab had four children – Suleiman, Fatima, Maryam and Hadiza



Isa Wali fell ill in Paris, on his way back from attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He returned to Lagos and passed away a few weeks later, at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), on Sunday, February 19th 1967.

Nigeria's High Commissioner in Ghana. Alhaji Isa Wali, has died in Lagos at the age of 39. He was admitted to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital last month. He had returned to Nigeria just before Christmas after spending several weeks in the American Hospital in Paris. The Supreme Commander Lt.-Col. Gowon, is reported to have urged him to remain in Europe. In a tribute, Lt.-Col. Gowon said, "Nigeria has lost a diplomat with outstanding foresight and capability to promote African unity." A tribute from general Ankrah said that Wali was a "trusted envoy" who had proved himself to be a successful diplomat. The Northern Government said that it was no exaggeration to attribute to Isa wali and a handful of his colleagues, some twenty years ago, the beginning of the social changes the North has been going through in this period." He was buried in Kano on Monday.

West Africa magazine
February 25 1967