



A Precursory on The Establishment of Illela Towns/ Villages in The Gwadabawa Metropolitan District by Muhammadu Maiturare Marafa

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ABSTRACT

This paper aimed to describe selected monumental locations in the old Gwadabawa created by Maiturare Marafa Gwadabawa. Maiturare Marafa Gwadabawa became sultan in 1915-1924, and was the most successful after the invasion of Sokoto Caliphate by the British. The old Gwadabawa Metropolitan District was a land and extensive district, which disorged Tangaza, Gada, Illela, and Gudu local governments of present Sokoto State, Nigeria. The great Islamic reformer of the 19th century, Shehu Usman Danfodiyo, was brought up, moulded, and taught in Degel of the present Gwadabawa local government, Sokoto State. Illela region, was part of Gwadabawa, and presently in Illela local government of Sokoto State, Nigeria. The Sokoto Caliphate was established in the 1804 ad the largest in West Africa in the 19th century that remains for about a hundred years, and left important legacies. During the struggle to laid or consolidate this caliphate popularly known as Daukar Usmaniyya, Shehu and his people or descendants had being moving from place to place preaching, teaching, and waging wars wherever necessary just to place the word of Allah on the crest. This had led to impacts on countless aspects of Hausaland. Maitaturare Marafa Gwadabawa was among the indelible and influential descendants of Shehu, who ascribed to his paths in jihad before the coming of Europeans in Hausaland. Maitaturare succeeded in creating Gwadabawa Metropolitan District from the scrap, in tandem with the bid of Shehu and Abubakar Atiku to protect the Caliphate from the Northeastern region towards Konni, with the provisions of fertile and and extensive agriculture, clearing of lands to settle the immigrants and displaced people, protect the citizens against invasion and wild animals and to provide market for the nation among other objectives. The Gwadabawa was to provide cash crops, food crops, animals and other means of livelihood to the entire region and Sokoto at large. Maitaturare vehemently formed Illela major towns with their subterritories. In Illela, places such as Damba, Araba, Gidan Hamma, Darnar Tsolawo, Sabongarin Darna, Garu etc were formed.

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Introduction

The 19th century situation was identified with a point when Islamic clerics of the time had to challenge the wrongs of the rulers, firstly by preaching and teaching, and ultimately on the battlefield to defend the religion and their lives. Around the age of twenty in 1774 Shehu Danfodiyo barked on a teaching and preaching the basics of Islam to the people of Hausaland. He and his disciples had written atleast 258 books and pamphlets to propagate and propell Islam, leading to the expansion of Jihad struggle in the Hausaland. Wherever, they travelled, they had left their own students who could take over the education of the people. This had attracted continued confrontation and opposition from the rulers of Hausa, especially the Gobir King. The tension led Shehu and some of his people to left for Gudu. Along the course of Shehu's jihad he had travelled to many locations and left several monuments connected to his unique history in Hausaland. In the course of the said jihad, Shehu was raised in Degel near (present) Chimmola, and migrated to Gudu along Tangaza. All these three major points are located in the Metropolitan Gwadabawa District, which was created by Marafa Maiturare Gwadabawa (with the blessings of Shehu, because Shehu assigned his son Abubakar Atiku(who later became Caliph, to guard Degel, Ahmadu to guard Chimmola; a course that was left to Maiturare after Ahmadu ascended the throne of Caliphate). In line with tenets and aspirations of Caliph Muhammad Bello, (extended by Abubakar Atiku and his predecessors) to build Metropolitan Districts to feed the Caliphate, built settlements, and ensure security development, and civilization (Sayudi and Boyd, 1974; Ministry of Information, Cultural, and Internal Affairs, Sokoto State, 1979;Abba *et al.*, 2017; Sheriff and Altine, 2018). This paper will discuss the formation of Illela towns/ villages by Maiturare Marafa, the creator of Gwadabawa Metropolitan District along the course of Sokoto Caliphate.

Illela

Initially, the title is Ubandawakin Illela had been used to denote the Hakimin Illela appointed by Sarkingobir Gwadabawa Abdurrahman, later it was change to Sabongarin Illela. The list of the succesive village heads of Illela are listed in the table 1

Table 1: Names of leaders of Gundumar Illela

No	Name of occupant	Title	Duration
1	Amadun Matankari	Ubandawaki	21
2	Muhammadu Awakin Karo	Ubandawaki	13
3	Muhammadu Almustapha	Ubandawaki	21
4	Idi	Ubandawaki	9
5	Usuman Dan Tsoho	Ubandawaki	13
6	Bako	Ubandawaki	8
7	Isa (Gado)	Sabongarin	4
8	Muhammadu Dan Aljimma	Sabongarin	37
9	Abdu Dan Baro	Sabongarin	3
10	Isa Ummar	Sabongarin	29

Araba

Initially, one prince of Konni who was defeated in the race to occupy the throne of Sarkin Konni migrated and sat a place called Araba with the permission of the incumbent holder of Maiturare land. Some years later, Araba ward (village head) was formed by removing some villages from from Garu (such as Lakoda, Lafani, Idikki and Danboka). Some villages were removed from Sabon Garin Darna, such as Gidan Dogo, Gidan Kwanni and incorporated in the new Araba ward (gunduma). Since the many people had been on the throne of Yammatan Araba (Ummaru, 1999).

Table 2: The ward of Araba and it's past leaders

No	Name	Title	Duration
1	Dausa	Yanmatan Araba	30
2	Gado	Yanmatan Araba	5
3	Aliyu	Yanmatan Araba	7
4	Yusufu	Yanmatan Araba	10
5	Haruna	Yanmatan Araba	25
6	Garba	Yanmatan Araba	26

Kalmalo

Is an a town with rich history since during the jihad of Shehu Usmanu Danfodiyo to date. It is located in the domain of old Gwadabawa established by Muhammadu Maiturare Marafa, a scion of Shehu, and with the goodwill of Shehu. Kalmalo was also known for their agriculture and fishing activities because of the water resources they have. The list of people who have been Matankari of Kalmalo is given in the table 3(Jabo, 2008; Ummaru, 1999; Abba etal. 2017; Ayama, 2018).

Table 3: Past leaders of Kalmalo ward

No	Name	Title
1	Samama	Matankari
2	Samaila	Matankari
3	Muhammad	Matankari
4	Tuga	Matankari
5	Dan Kubai	Matankari
6	Saidu	Matankari
7	Sulaimanu	Matankari
8	Buba	Matankari
9	Kadi	Matankari
10	Muhammadu	Matankari
11	Alu	Matankari
12	Garba	Matankari
13	Saddi	Matankari
14	Amadu	Matankari
15	Manu	Matankari
16	Gadanga (Alu)	Matankari

The meaning of Matankari is Sarkin Yaki (commander of the war). The town of Kalmalo is very important and enriched with an ancient history during Shehu's jihad. Once Shehu visited Kalmalo for his preaching activities, and was greeted with a letter from Sarkingobir of Alkalawa which was delivered by one brave macho, who later surrender to Shehu and was appointed as the pioneer Matankari of Kalmalo. It is indeed worthy to note that Kalmalo had been there before Illela, and it was the servant of Matankari who was appointed as the pioneer Village head of Illela by Sarkingobir Gwadabawa Abdurrahman.

Sabon Garin Darna

It is an old Gwadabawa domain, and presently belongs to Illela District. It is famous and with rich history in the region. Their tribe origin is Kyalmawa. The list of people who led Sabon Garin Darna are in the table 4.

Table 4: Leaders of Sabongarin Darna ward in Illela

No	Name	Title
1	Abubakar	Galadima
2	Arzika	Galadima
3	Usumanu	Galadima

4	Muhammadu	Galadima
5	Mazu	Galadima
6	Musa	Galadima
7	Muhammadu Bello	Galadima

Gidan Hamma

Gidan Hamma is an old Gwadabawa domain. It is presently in Illela local government, Sokoto State of Nigeria. Malam Hamma (a warrior and Islamic scholar) left the Eastern land and passed through Nijar and established (with the permission of the Sarkin Musulmi) the town Gidan Hamma during the time of Sarkin Musulmi Atiku Dan Shehu. It is a place with fertile land suitable for agriculture and inhabitation. He then moved back to his origin and brought more people to live at Gidan Hamma, in turn ensuring the development of the new settlement. They have contributed to the jihad and more especially during the time of Muhammad Maiturare Marafa Gwadabawa, they remained among his core people. The Gidan Hamma ward had been in possession of other villages such as Ambursa, Takalmawa, Tsangalandan, Gidan Makers, Gidan Abuba, Mansalawa, Gidan Gidan Kara, Gidan Almu, Takatsaba, Gidan Faja, Here, Hura Girke, Dambarewa, Gidan Rabo, Darnar tsolawo, and Inwala. There had been changes in the Gidan Hamma ward, with insertion and deletion of some villages in its possession. In Gidan Hamma there are tribes such as Gobirawa, Adarawa, Kwannawa, Fulani, Arawa, Fulani and Buzaye (Umbaru, 1999; Abba et al. 2017; Ayama, 2018).

Table 5: Names of past leaders of Gidan Hamma Ward in Illela

No	Name	Title	Duration
1	Muhammadu Hamma	Magaji	Died in 1914
2	Adamu Dan Hamma	Magaji	1914-1968
3	Amadu Hamma	Magaji	1968-1979
4	Muhammadu Sarki	Magaji	1979

Darnar Tsolawo

One of the minor Gundumomi (village heads) of Illela, is originated from Sarkin Musulmi Muhammad Maiturare Marafa Gwadabawa. It is located near Mamamnde, Sabon Garin Darna and Gidan Hamma. A town populated with Hausa tribe was initially holding the possession of villages such as Yar Darna, Birnin Isa, Gidan Alaskan, Dan Tulle, Kalaba, Gidan Takari, Gidan Sarki, Jago, albeit changes might occur over the years in insertion and deletion of villages (Umbaru, 1999; Abba et al. 2017; Ayama, 2018).

Table 6: Past leaders of Darnar Tsolawo in Illela District

No	Name	Title
1	Dodor Jirlinma	Dan Galadima
2	Muhammadu Dan Ruwa	Dan Galadima
3	Isah	Dan Galadima
4	Musa	Dan Galadima
	Umbaru	Dan Galadima

Damba

Damba is a historical town inaugurated during jihad, usually led by people who are vast in Quran and Islamic knowledge. Traditionally, any person to be appointed on the throne of Damba has to recite Quran to show proficiency in Islamic knowledge. The population of the town is originally Fulani tribe the reason why their leader is called Dikko (Umbaru, 1999; Abba et al. 2017; Ayama, 2018).

Table 7: Past leaders of Damba from Illela District

No	Name	Title
1	Magaji Manuga	Dikko
2	Muhammadu Ruga	Dikko
3	Abdu	Dikko
4	Ummaru	Dikko
5	Magaji Dare	Dikko
6	Aliyu	Dikko
7	Bello	Dikko
8	Oro	Dikko
9	Ladan	Dikko

Garu

Garu was laid during the time of Muhammadu Maiturare Marafa by Muhammadu Almustapha, a friend of Maiturare. The title of the leadership is Sarkin Magorin Garu (Ummaru, 1999; Abba et al. 2017; Ayama, 2018).

Conclusion

Maitaturare vehemently formed Illela major towns with their subterritories. In Illela, places such as Damba, Araba, Gidan Hama, Darnar Tsolawo, Sabongarin Darna, Garu etc were formed.

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