

MATAWALLE

RIDING ON THE CREST OF HARD WORK, INTEGRITY
AND COMMITMENT TO HIS FATHERLAND

By Peter Emuekpere

From a little and humble beginning Bello Mohammed Matawalle rose from obscurity to limelight. Born in 1962 in Maradun Local Government Area of Zamfara State, he attended Township Primary School in his place of birth from 1975 to 1985 after which he proceeded to secondary school at a Vocational Training Centre Bunza in Kebbi State. In the quest for more knowledge the young Matawalle went further to Tafawa Balewa University where he bagged an advanced Management Certificate in 1989. He was engaged as a schoolteacher in Government Girls College Kwatarkoshi and Government Girls College Moriki both in Zamfara State for some years. His leadership qualities and exploits started manifesting as a young teacher whose commitment and dedication to duty earned him special recognition and respect from across his constituent and entire Zamfara state. As a result of his passion and zeal to positively impact the lives of his people he relocated to Abuja where he secured appointment with the Federal Ministry of water resources where he worked till 1996 before he

resigned to go into active politics where he believed he would have a better opportunity and platform to serve his people and the nation. He cut his first teeth in politics when he contested elections into the Federal House of Representatives under the then United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP). He won the election to represent his Bakura/Maradun Federal Constituency, but the victory was short lived because of the death of General Sani Abacha which led to the cancellation of the election and the reorganization of the entire political system by General Abdusalam Abubakar. The young ambitious Matawalle had no choice than to go back to his business of buying and selling cars until 1999 when the third Republic kicked off. He contested for the Chairmanship



position of his local Government Area Maradun under the platform of APP (which later became ANPP) and lost. But as a result of his resilient, zeal and strength of character, Matawalle was appointed as Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in Zamfara State under the then administration of Alhaji Ahmed Yerima. His hard work and knack for excellence was responsible for his redeployment to the Ministry of Rural Development where he brought his expertise to bear. Satisfied with his performance the administration redeployed him again as the Commissioner to the Ministry of Environment and Solid Minerals. His penchant for excellence and Midas touch to turn things around saw him being moved again as Commissioner to

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the Ministry of Youths and Cooperative. He was seen by the Yerima Administration as Mr. Fix it and so his great ability and competence earned him redeployment to three different Ministries to put things right throughout the tenure of the administration.

Propelled by a unique blend of personality and grassroots resonance that struck a chord with the masses, Matawalle resigned from the Yerima administration to contest to represent his people in the Federal House of Representative. He won the election and became a Hon. Member of the House of Representative for Bakura/Maradun Federal Constituency of Zamfara State. While in the House and because of his passion for truth and integrity he was appointed as the Chairman of Ethics and Privileges Committee by the then Speaker, Rt. Hon Bello Masari during their four-year tenure. While in the green chambers, Hon. Matawalle was able to attract a lot of people-oriented projects to his constituency prominent amongst which are in the area of Health care, water, road construction, youth empowerment amongst others. This good works facilitated his re-election again into the green chambers in 2007 where he was made the Deputy Minority Whip.

His blend of political prowess of performance and experience reverberated throughout Zamfara political corridors and so when he contested for the gubernatorial position in the state, he won election and became the Governor of Zamfara State where he served his people

from 2019 to 2023. During his four years tenure as governor his administration impacted the lives of the people of the state in the area of education where he constructed over 613 primary school classrooms, equipped them with 14810 desk and chairs, 962 desks for staff and modern ICT Centers. He also secured a N1billion Intervention fund for Abdu Gusau Polytechnic, Talata Marafa and the enlistment of Zamfara State University by the National University Commission. As a result of his astute leadership and foresight he also granted over 200 students' educational scholarship to study specialized courses abroad so they can be equipped when they come back to contribute to the development of the state. In the area of health his administration established ultramodern women and children Hospital across the 14 Local Government of Zamfara at a free cost for pregnant women and children under five. This coupled with the construction of 147 Primary Health Centers across Local Governments and wards in the State created an avenue for indigenes of the state to have easy access to health care. His administration constructed and rehabilitated several roads within and outside Gusau the state capital. His political trajectory underscores his dedication to serving his constituent with community-oriented projects which echoes his holistic approach to improving lives and advancing the interest of the state and Nation. His leadership roles at the different stages of his engagements demonstrate his strategic acumen and ability to solve problems and navigate complex issues. Through his actions he has demonstrated that responsible leadership is not merely an aspiration, it is an imperative for sustainable development.

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His dedication to transparency, accountability and responsible leadership shines as a beacon of hope. With his track of record of service, commitment and passion for excellence there is every reason to believe that his new position of responsibility will usher in an era of peace, progress and development in the Defence Sector. For Alhaji Bello Mohammed Mutawallen Maradun, a two-terms Hon. Member Federal House of Representatives, immediate past Governor of Zamfara State and now the Hon. Minister of State Defence, Federal Republic of Nigeria, the day is yet dawn. The sky is just the beginning. Keep rising on the wings of destiny.