

Appendix I Documents on the Construction of Kano City Mosque. (source: the Resident's Office, Kano)

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JUMA'A MOSQUE

The site on which this Mosque was built was originally a Court Yard of the Emir's Palace where boys and girls used to play about.

The Mosque was sited by Shehu Abdullahi Dan Fodio during his visit in 1803 on the request of Emir Sulaiman and the Chief Mallams of the time.

Shehu Abdullahi being a Saint, ably sited the Mosque in the perfect direction towards the Ka'aba and this was quite peculiar of the Mosque.

The Original building was in mud and so it was until the time of the Emir of Kano Alhaji Abdullahi Bayero, who on his own initiative rebuilt it in the permanent materials on the original site and since then it has become one of the imposing buildings in West Africa.

The total cost of the rebuilding was £43,000. This money was contributed by the Emir, Kano Native Treasury, Districts Heads, Native Authority employees, traders and also the late Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Mohammadu Dikko.

The Emir Alhaji Abdullahi Bayero, laid the foundation stone of this permanent Mosque in the site of the original Mosque on a Friday in October, 1943.

The building was carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Provincial Engineer Mr. W.A. Dow and his successors, and was finished in 1951.

It was opened in the same year by the Emir Alhaji Abdullahi Bayero in the presence of Sir John Macpherson Governor General of Nigeria, and the ceremony was attended by thousands of people and also Emirs from the neighbouring Emirates.

The Mosque has been designed to be a copy of El - Obeiyd Mosque, although there may be some differences.

The present Emir of Kano, Sir Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi has decorated the Mosque with ceiling fans and loud speakers.

On each Friday the Mosque is attended for prayers by thousands of people, men and women, from the City and the surrounding Villages. The Mosque has an annex specially for the women.

This Mosque now stands as the religious centre in Kano Emirate and in most cases, on Fridays, the Emir leads the Prayers himself.

The late Alhaji Alhasan Dantata was the treasurer.

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THE RESIDENT'S OFFICE
KANO

23rd January, 1959

File

You asked for a short article on the history of the Kano Mosque. I attach a copy of an article prepared by the Native Authority which has been approved by the Emir of Kano. It will be necessary to alter its form before it is sent to London. You will no doubt be able to do this in your office.

B. CREATCH

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