

No. 2806/26.
Lokoja, 10 February, 1948.

The Secretary,
Northern Provinces,
K a d u n a.

Kabba Province Annual Report, 1947

Further to my memorandum No. 2806/14 of the 3rd
of February I forward herewith, in duplicate, Parts
II to IV of the Annual Report.

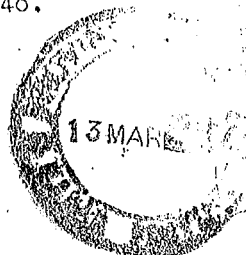
Sp. 27-32

AR
Ag. Resident,
Kabba Province.

HIM.

No. 2806/33A.
Lokoja, 17 February, 1948.

- D.O. Igala *DM 27/2/48*
- D.O. Igbirra *AWK 4/3*
- D.O. Kabba *L 7/5*
- D.O. K/Karifi. *M 1/13*



The attached copy of Kabba Province
Annual Report for 1947 is circulated in the above
order for perusal and early return.

AR
Ag. Resident,
Kabba Province.
No. 2806/33B.
Lokoja, 16th March, 1948.

CI

- The Asst. Supt. of Police.
- The Provincial Engineer.
- The Inspector of Works.
- The Superintendent of Prisons.
- The Divisional Marine Officer.
- The Medical Officer.

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AR
Ag. Resident,
Kabba Province.

EO.

bu 30/4 ✓



No. 2806/33B.
Lokoja, 16th March, 1948.

- The Asst. Supt. of Police. *13/3/48*
- The Provincial Engineer. *13/3/48*
- The Inspector of Works. *13/3/48*
- The Superintendent of Prisons. *13/3/48*
- The Divisional Marine Officer. *13/3/48*
- The Medical Officer. *13/3/48*

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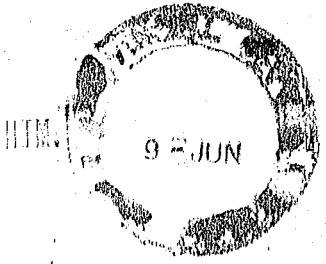
[Signature]
Ag. Resident,
Kabba Province.

ANNUAL REPORT ON ROAD DEVELOPMENT, 1947.

I forward herewith, for circulation in the following order, a copy of the Kabba Province Annual Report, 1947. Will Resident, Benue Province, please return it to this Office :-

- | | <u>Signature</u> | <u>Date.</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| The Resident, Ilorin Province. | <i>W.L.</i> | 5/4/48. |
| The Resident, Niger Province. | <i>J.W.B.</i> | 15.4.48. |
| The Resident, Zaria Province. | <i>C.W.</i> | 19.4.48 |
| The Resident, Sokoto Province. | <i>J.</i> | 22.4.48 |
| The Resident, Kano Province. | <i>W.A.R.</i> | 26.4.48 |
| The Resident, Katsina Province. | <i>A.P.</i> | 6.5.48 |
| The Resident, Plateau Province. | <i>C.K.G.</i> | 8.5.48. |
| The Resident, Bauchi Province. | <i>W.F.</i> | 13.5.48 |
| The Resident, Bornu Province. | <i>G.M.</i> | 19.5.48 |
| The Resident, Adamawa Province. | <i>G.M.</i> | 25.5.48. |
| ✓ The Resident, Benue Province. | <i>W.L.</i> | 3 JUN 1948 |

W.L.
Ag. Resident,
Kabba Province.



No. 43494/24

Kaduna, 5th June, 1948.

The Resident,
Kabba Province,
Lokoja.

Kabba Province Annual Report, 1947.

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 2806/14 of the 3rd of February, and to say that His Honour has commented on the Kabba Province Annual Report as follows:-

"I am fully aware how discouraging it must be that another year has gone by without any improvement in the position as regards the technical Senior Service Staff. The era of "development" which was ushered in after the war with such a blow of trumpets has, I fear, fallen very short of general expectation. It must in fact be admitted that many of our plans were too optimistic and were not of practical attainment in the immediate post-war years. Development, as it is popularly understood, is going to develop, but it is going to be slow and I hope that we can avoid turning the early enthusiasm into a sense of frustration.

"2. The present position in regard to the shortage of consumer goods for the normal internal trade of the country and, in particular, the very high prices now ruling, is causing general dissatisfaction, but unless we attempt to change the whole distribution system which evolved itself in normal times I fear there is no real solution to the problem, and I am sure we cannot change it.

"3. The price of foodstuffs has been rising throughout the Northern Provinces, but I would advise against any re-imposition of restriction on movement now that general decontrol has taken place."

R. G. S. S.
Ag: Secretary,

R. G. S.

Part III

31 Medical. The health of the Province has been normal and all diseases have been reported. Smallpox vaccination teams have been sent to all parts of the Province. The public has been greatly appreciated by the Public. Once again no Nursing Sister was posted to the Province during the year, but Lokoja was fortunate in securing the services of a temporary nursing sister for several months. There is a great and vocal demand for the extension of health and medical services throughout the Province. Refresher courses have been provided for N.A. dispensary attendants, more of whom have been entrusted with the giving of injections, the demand for which continues unabated.

32 The S.I.M. Laper Settlement at Oyi River, which was adversely reported on in 1946, is now more satisfactory. The settlement, which is supervised by a mission doctor, his wife and a nurse, is financially dependent on contributions from the Mission and N.As but recently received a generous grant from Govt. Lepers number approx. 1000 of whom one fifth are unable to support themselves. One of the objects of the Mission is to make the settlement self supporting ~~for food~~ so far as food is concerned and a mixed farming scheme is in course of preparation. The work of the Mission is greatly appreciated locally.

33 Housing and Social Welfare. The Province contains a variety of Tribes and types of housing. The chief building materials are still mud and thatch. Most progress is to be found West of the Niger, in parts of Igbirra Division and in Kabba Division where the outlook of the people is towards the Western Provinces. Here, considerable interest is taken in building improved houses ~~giving~~ better ventilation and more room for the occupants. Double storied houses built of mud blocks are met with not infrequently and, as in the larger towns in other parts of the Province, carpenter made doors and windows are popular and corrugated iron for roofing is in great demand. Elsewhere types vary from the grass shelters of the fisherfolk and the primitive round huts of the Bassa to dark Yoruba-style houses and the untidy mud huts of the Igalas. Better built houses in the Iupe style are found in K.N.S. and the northern type of round hut in K.K.

34 E. Authority Sanitary and Building Rules apply to the more important towns and villages throughout the Province and advantage is taken of new layouts to encourage improved building. A new layout is in course of preparation for Lokoja Town which will relieve existing congestion and a new town is being planned at Atanogoma, the new headquarters of Igala Division. No progress has been made in the settlement scheme in Igbirra.

35 The relief of the destitute and disabled is still regarded as a matter for the family concerned but provision is made from N.A. funds for the maintenance of paupers attending hospital. Juvenile delinquency is negligible and such cases as occur are invariably dealt with adequately by parents or guardians. The need for Probation Services has not yet arisen.

Part IV.

The unceasing demand for social and economic advancement, particularly in Igala Division and that part of the Province west of the Niger where the outlook of the people is towards the Western Provinces, is equalled only by the sense of frustration as yet another year goes by with little or nothing to show for the extensive Development plans so frequently discussed. The lack of it, the people not unnaturally are concerned with results, not reasons, and regard it as a further instance of neglect on the part of Government. With this frustrated urge to go ahead one is apt to lose sight of progress which has in fact been made. Self help in Igala has been responsible for the opening of schools and the making of roads, new layouts have been planned and greater interest is noticeable in improved housing. Food has been plentiful and the farmer has had a good return. Administration may be said to have held its own and advanced in Igala. By the end of the year a start had been made on the long awaited construction of the Kampe bridge and foundation work had begun on the building of two new post offices and there were welcome signs of an increase in Administrative staff. One may conclude with the pious hope that expressed last year that the better

~~Kabba~~ Lokoja

Inspector of Mines
Deputy Director of Medical Services
Archdeacon Lennon

Twice.
"
"

Events of Importance:

7. A brief visit by His Honour the Chief Commissioner was paid to the division on 30th April. His Honour accompanied by Lady Patterson and his Private Secretary arrived for lunch with the District Officer. A discussion of local affairs with the Resident and District Officer was followed by a short talk to the Obaro of Kabba and a large following. After tea His Honour departed for Okene.

8. The Divisional Chiefs' Conference held at Isania Makutu on 26th March was more encouraging than previous conferences. There was, of course, the usual demand for immediate implementation of development projects but in addition definite resolutions were made regarding tax rates and new marriage rules.

Part III Native Administration and Departmental Activities.

Aworo District:

9. More attention has been paid to this district during the half-year, Agbaja having been visited for several days on two occasions. The Olu Aworo becomes more senile but still holds the respect and loyalty of his people. He continues to be intransigent in his attitude to disputes over the islands in the Niger between Aworo and Koton Karifi. He is quite unable to appreciate the difference between an administrative boundary and the establishment of farming rights under native custom. All known territorial disputes have now been settled and the policy followed has been to deal severely through the courts with any persons who attempt to settle disputes by a breach of the peace. Once this is thoroughly understood it is thought that disputes will tend to be settled locally by the people themselves without bad blood between the two Native Administrations being engendered.

10. Consideration has been given during recent months to the future of Aworo and the matter was discussed with the Chief Commissioner during his recent visit. The Olu has asked that Aworo funds be kept in the Lokoja Native Administration Treasury instead of at Kabba. He is definite that he has no quarrel with the other members of the Kabba Native Administration; his reason being the inaccessibility of Aworo from Kabba. Alternatives discussed were (a) Lokoja and Aworo Native Administrations to be combined in association and to share the Lokoja Native Treasury under Koton Karifi Division (b) To be associated with Igbirra and Lokoja Native Administrations under Igbirra Division (c) To share the Koton Karifi Native Treasury. The matter remains under consideration.

..... This

Bunu District:

11. This large but very thinly populated 'bush' district has been satisfactorily administered during the half-year. After a period of neglect the district has received more attention recently. The old enmity between the Kirri and Bunu sections of the population remains in abeyance but is never far from the surface and will undoubtedly flare up when the question of succession to the District Headship occurs.

Ijumu District:

12. There is little to add to my report for 1946. The Central Council remains as advisory body and fulfils no executive function. The incompetence of the Group Heads as executives for the decisions of the Council precludes any real advance in administration. Apart from the routine work of tax collection no initiative or energy is shown and the District Officer is virtually forced into the position of Native Authority.

Kabba District:

13. The Obaro continues to administer his district with firmness and efficiency. His energy and readiness to recruit volunteer labour for development works is at times embarrassing since his desire to get things done is greater than his ability to carry-out the work efficiently.

Yagba District:

14. The Yagba Council continues to be ineffective and administration through the Agbana of Isanlu and the Olu Okeri is now accepted and some improvement is shown, particularly in West Yagba. The future constitution for this district was discussed with the Chief Commissioner, who expressed his doubt of the advisability of creating a joint Native Authority. His preference was for separate Native Authorities for East and West Yagba in association. It was agreed that this would achieve the object of improving the executive function of the Native Authority and His Honour expressed his willingness to recommend the proposal to the Government for his approval.

15. A good sign for the future co-operation between East and West Yagba was given recently when the Disciplinary Committee of its own volition recommended the transfer of the Native Court Clerks thus having an East Yagba man as Scribe to the West Yagba Native Court and a West Yagba man for the East Yagba Native Court. It will be of interest to see how the experiment works.

General Tax:

16. As the result of a decision taken at the Divisional Chiefs' Conference in March and later approved by the Chief Commissioner, the taxation of women, except in Aworo, was abandoned and to offset the loss of revenue the rate per adult male was increased to a flat rate of 12/-. In Aworo the rate per adult female remained at 3/-, the rate per adult male being raised to 9/-. A comparison of the assessment for 1946-47 and for 1947-48 is given below :-

.....Native.

Native Administration	Actual Collection 1946-47	Assessment 1947-48
Kabba	£5834.13. 4	£5814.10. 8
Yagba	5175.19. 4	5063.17. 8
Total	£11010.12. 8	£10878. 8. 4

Native Treasuries:

17. The work of the Kabba Native Treasury has been satisfactory and the Treasurer has improved in the financial as opposed to the accounting side of his work.

18. As forecast in the Annual Report for 1946, Mr. Akure the Yagba Native Administration Treasurer, was relieved of his appointment on 1st May, 1947, the post being filled by the clerk Mr. Arogbonle, who promises to be a great improvement on his predecessor. Mr. Akure was transferred to the post of East Yagba Tax Scribe which had fallen vacant. A new clerk was engaged toward the end of May.

Judicial

19. Supreme and Magistrate's Courts: One homicide case was heard by the Magistrate Kabba and remanded for trial before the Supreme Court. The accused, however, escaped from custody two months later and has not yet been recaptured and brought to trial. Three criminal cases were heard by the Magistrate Bonin at Kabba, and two civil cases were heard by the Magistrate Kabba.

20. Native Courts: The work of the Kabba, West Yagba, Bunu and Aworo courts continues to be satisfactory, though the number of civil cases heard is still very large. The Ijumu and East Yagba courts have shown little improvement though the number of judgments reversed on review has dropped.

21. 27 reviews were heard during the period of which 11 were criminal and 16 civil cases. Of these 10 were from Ijumu, 9 East Yagba, 4 West Yagba, 3 Kabba, 2 Bunu and none from Aworo.

22. The following cases were heard and fees and fines collected :-

Court	Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Fees	Fines
Kabba	14	164	£118.13.10	£ 11. 5. 0
Ijumu	34	174	100.12. 6	42. 5. 0
Bunu	22	69	52. 1. 0	20. 5. 0
Aworo	7	10	11. 2. 2	2.10. 0
East Yagba	62	212	185.17.11	32. 5. 6
West Yagba	33	203	162. 9. 3	24.17. 6
Total	172	832	£630.16. 8	£133. 8. 0

Police:

23. Owing to continued inefficiency and laziness the Kabba Chief of Police was retired in January. The Corporal has remained in charge since his dismissal and a suitable successor is being sought. The work of the Kabba Native Administration Police has shown improvement and most of the more useless members have been replaced by ex-servicemen.

24. The Yagba Native Administration Police have also been weeded-out and ex-servicemen recruited to fill the vacancies. Their work has been satisfactory.

25. The following attended courses of instruction with the Nigeria Police in Lokoja :-

	<u>Kabba</u>	<u>Yagba</u>
General Duties	Samuel Obarafor	Jeremiah Igunu
	Jacob Olorunfemi	Elijah Sunday
	M.A. Solomon	Samuel Kolado
	D. Olorunfemi	Audu Mopa

26. The new barracks have been completed at Kabba with the exception of kitchens and washhouses. Quarters have been completed at Egbe for the detachment of Yagba Native Administration Police stationed there.

27. Both forces have been supplied with finger printing outfits. Records are sent direct to the Criminal Investigation Department, Nigeria Police at Lagos.

Prisons:

28. The daily average in the Kabba Native Administration prison was 11.66 as compared with 11.38 for 1946. The health of the prisoners has been good.

29. The warder-in-charge reverted to the Kabba Native Administration Police in June, being replaced by an ex-NCSM. Provost.

Medical and Health:

30. Attendances at the Kabba Native Administration Dispensary for the period were 24832 as compared with 10434 for the same period in 1946.

31. The Kabba Native Administration midwife-in-training at Lokoja went to Ilorin on 1st May to the midwives Training Centre. A second Dispensary Attendant is now in training at Lokoja.

32. A vaccination campaign during the dry season lead to the total of vaccinations for the half-year of Yagba Native Administration 920 Kabba Native Administration 4346.

33. The Sudan Interior Mission dispensaries at Isanlu Makutu, Mopa and Egbe continued to treat a large number of patients.

.....The..

34. The conditions at the Oyi River Leper Settlement are now satisfactory but the forecast of the Medical Superintendent that he would be ready to increase the number of inmates to 1200 by March proved too optimistic. It now seems probable that the numbers will be kept at 850 - 900.

Posts and
Telegraphs:

35. At long last the Postal Agency at Ekinrin was opened on 1.5.47. It is hoped that the new Postal Agency at Aiyetoro will be opened before the end of the year.

Education:

36. The high spot of news under this heading is the greatly increased grants to approved mission schools and the decision that approved Community Schools also qualify for assistance.

37. There are now four Community Schools in the Ifo - Ejuku area of Yagba, of which the Ifo School is Government assisted. Finances of these schools are now on a sounder basis and it is hoped that the other three will be up to the standard of the Ifo School in the near future. The Moslems and Christians in the Odokoro - Aiyetoro area of Igbedde have now agreed to combine in a community school and approval is awaited. £30 has been collected and deposited in the Kabba Native Treasury.

Agriculture:

38. For the first year since 1940 there is promise of a good yam harvest. Rainfall has been heavier and better distributed than for some years. Swamp yams are now being harvested and show a good average yield though the Gbaro of Kabba has expressed disappointment of the size and weight though not of the quantity. Upland yams show good leaf growth and prospects are very encouraging.

39. Rainfall figures for the period January - June compared with the past four years are of interest :-

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	Total
Kabba	18.49	17.51	19.42	17.09	27.83	100.34
Yagba	25.64	16.86	20.83	19.16	17.42	99.91
Total	44.13	34.37	39.25	36.25	45.25	200.25

40. The Kabba Native Administration dairy continues to function satisfactorily but the size of the herds serving it preclude any profit being made. The loss however amounts to under 10/- per month which is more than justified by the results. An experienced Fulani herdsman paid from Native Administration funds has recently taken over care of the herd and it is hoped that with more expert milking production will increase.

41. The value of the two Native Administration unit farms is very small as a demonstration of proper manuring and crop rotation, since the farmer employed is paid as a labourer and the produce of the farm is the property of the Native Administration. It is hoped that next year men with average-sized families may be found to take-over these farms.

.....They.

They will receive a small honourarium in return for which they will follow the advice and methods of the Agricultural Department. The crops will, of course, belong to them. As a demonstration it is thought that this will be of practical value.

42. Cattle kraals have now been walled and grass shelters for the cattle built in many villages. Many, however, remain to be done. The number of improved cattle is slowly increasing but the policy at present can be only a long-term one. It is difficult to get the people to take any practical interest except in so far as having a beast available for slaughter on festive occasions is concerned.

43. The Kabba Native Administration nursery had a fair supply of fruit trees for issue and the new Yagba Native Administration nursery will be issuing for the first time. Local interest is being shown in the Mopa Rice Demonstration plot.

Forestry:

44. The absence of a Provincial Forest Officer has resulted in routine work only being carried-out by the Native Administration Forestry Staff. Revenue from fees and royalties remains high.

Veterinary:

45. The division was toured by Mr. D.A.W. Walker, Veterinary Officer, during January and February and his report and recommendations for the future development of livestock was received in June and is now under consideration.

46. A prospective Native Administration Veterinary Assistant, to be shared by Kabba and Yagba Native Administrations, went to Ilorin in April for preliminary training prior to proceeding later in the year to the Veterinary School at Vom.

Public Works:

47. Government: The replacement of all bad bridges on the Kabba - Ilorin road (Kabba - Onuo-Oke section - 26½ miles) has been completed. Routine repairs to other Trunk 'A' roads and to permanent and temporary bridges have been carried.

48. Work has not yet commenced on the new District Officer's house and office or the Post Office and Postmaster's quarters.

49. Native Administration: The final estimate of £10,000, of which the Yagba Native Administration is to bear 50%, has been confirmed for the Egbe - Isanlu road and the Kampe bridge. It remains to be seen however whether the cost of steel girders etc. will not increase this amount still more.

50. With the posting of a Public Work Development Officer to the Province work commenced on the bridges and culverts in February and by the end of the period the abutments of the larger bridges were either completed or well on the way to completion, the house for the Officer

-in-charge and the store were completed, sand had been collected in preparation for casting the concrete caissons for the Kampe bridge, and a large stock of pipe-culvert sections had been cast.

51. Work on the Ofere - Akutukpa and the Ijowa - Ejuku roads was nearing completion by the end of the half-year. The former will, it is hoped, be passable all the year, the latter impassable only during August - September. The Luke - Ofere road has had "giginya" trunks placed as road-bearers in all the "bush" bridges in place of timber which was being attacked by white ants. The Lokoja - Agbaja road was still passable only to the foot of the escarpment at the end of the half-year owing to the delivery of timber of a wrong size from the Aponmu Sawmill. Timber of the right size is being cut locally.

52. The police lines at Kabba are completed but are not yet occupied owing to lack of funds to build kitchens and wash-houses, which it is hoped to complete in the near future. The police office and lock-up at Usanlu has been satisfactorily completed, as also accomodation at Egbe for the detachment stationed there.

53. The new drains in Kabba Town were completed before the end of the financial year 1946-47 and heavy early rains have proved their efficacy in stopping erosion.

Mining:

54. The number of labourers engaged in mining has postponed indefinitely the withdrawal of the Sleeping Sickness Staff from the division. A fatal accident at Okelom on the London and African Mining Trust camp resulted in the death of two labourers, a Mines Department inquiry and an inquest being held subsequently.

55. Illegal mining and the sale of illicit gold is believed to be flourishing in West Yagba. The failure of the Mines Department staff, however, to obtain any definite information on which action can be taken sadly handicaps the Yagba Native Administration Police in giving any assistance.

Trade and Economics:

56. Prices remain very high in all local markets and a black market in all imported goods in short supply flourishes. With an increase in salaries and daily wage rates inflation is unlikely to cease until the flow of imported goods becomes normal. The prospects of a good harvest it is hoped will prevent a further rise in the price of foodstuffs.

57. Enquiries as to the future demand and price of castor seeds, which are easily produced in this division, was disappointing - no one could forecast the future demand. It was decided, therefore, that it would be unwise to encourage any increase in production.

58. The export of peppers and tobacco remains large. Specimens of the three types of tobacco grown were sent to the British and America Tobacco Company with an enquiry as to whether they would be interested. The reply again was disappointing, stating that the type was of too strong a flavour for them to use. It is of interest to record that I have met buyers of peppers and tobacco in local market who have come from as far as Abeokuta, Lagos and Badagry; the latter in connection with a flourishing trade overland to Dahomey, I understand.

59. Produce exported, not including an unknown quantity through the Western Provinces, was :-

Palm-Kernels	27	tons
Cocoa	133	tons
Castor Seed	444	tons

Missions:

60. The relations between the people and the missions remain cordial. Greater readiness by missions to co-operate in education shown and it is only to be regretted that the attitude of the Roman Catholic Mission prevents complete harmony in this respect.

Part IV. General.

61. A more satisfactory period than 1946, due mainly to the presence of an Assistant District Officer for a part of the period. The division still sadly lacks intensive touring, a necessity in an area where a tradition of public service, as found in the Northern Emirates, does not exist. One man alone may keep the administrative machine from running backwards, it requires two to make it move forward.

See at

Fromy. 30.11.47 ✓

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Howland
Asst. District Officer,
i/c Kabba Division.
(Mr. Hopkins' draft).

MOA.