

## **SENATOR WALID JIBRIN: BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** **EXPERIENCE ACHIEVEMENTS AND VISION**

I was born at Marmara, schooled at Nasarawa Primary School and Keffi Teacher's College. From Keffi, I was among the Northern students transferred to National Teacher's College Ode-Aye Okitipupa, Ondo State under a special exchange programme between the North and the Western region initiated by Late Sardauna of Sokoto, Premier of the Northern Region and Late Chief Akintola, Premier of Western Region. While at Ode-Aye, we interacted with the Yorubas freely and made lasting friends. Such interactions made me a true Nigerian devoid of any tribal or religious sentiments. I attended Ahmadu Bello University where I graduated with B.A. Honour in Geography/Islamic and Postgraduate Certificate in Education. I also hold Middle Managerial Certificate from Institute of Administration ABU Zaria, and a Diploma in Personnel and Industrial Relations from the famous Industrial Society, London (UK).

I served my National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Lagos and Maiduguri. After the NYSC, I joined United Nigerian Textiles, the biggest Textile Industry in West Africa under various position up to General Manager and Director. UNT Plc, used to have 59% shares to foreigners (Chinese) and 41% to Nigerians, but now being limited liability company it has 100%. This combination of business partnership made me to participate in major business and Board Room decisions. UNT has the following subsidiaries in Nigeria:

- a) UNTL
- b) Unitex
- c) Supertex
- d) Zamfara Textile
- e) Funtua Textile
- f) Nitchem Tex

With tremendous exposure in the Private Sector and a broadminded Manager, I am a member of over a dozen professional Associations, including Nigerian Institute of Management, Nigerian Institute of Personnel Management, Institute of Management

Consultants, Institute of Administrative Management, Marketing and Educational Foundation, Textile Institute, Institute of Corporate Executives of Nigeria and Nigerian Institute Industrial Management.

For the past 35 years, I have devoted my life for the service of the Private Sector Nigerian Textile Industry, Manufactural Association of Nigeria.

I served as a Vice President of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Chairman of Textile Carpets, Wearing Apparels, Leather and Leather Products Sectoral Group of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), current Chairman NECA Geographical Group Northern Zone, Chairman Textile Institute (Nigerian Section) 19 Northern States and Abuja Chapter, Council Member World Governing Council of Textile Institute with Headquarters at Manchester England, Member Kaduna State Manpower Board, Member Kaduna State Committee on African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Vice President, Kaduna Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Industrial Group, Member Presidential Committee on AGOA, Member Presidential Committee on Revival of Textile Industry and Committee on Cotton & Textiles, Member Cotton Development Committee, Member CTCTC, Chairman Cotton Revolving Fund Management Committee.

In recognition of my positive and beneficial activities the Federal Government and some professional organizations have recognized me with so many awards such as Fellow Nigerian Chartered Institute of Personnel Management, Fellow Institute of Management Consultants, Fellow Nigerian Institute of Administrative Management, Fellow Marketing and Educational Foundation of Nigeria, Fellow Nigeria Chartered Institute of Management, Chartered Textile Technologist, Fellow Institute of Corporate Executives. Earlier, I served as National Chairman of Textile Manufacturers Association (NTMA), for 12 years. Member Nigerian Institute of Industrial Management, Chairman Federal Government Cotton Revolving Fund Management Committee, Director National Craft Advisory Committee; Member National Labour

Advisory Committee, Member National Manpower Board. I was a member of Council of the Federal University of Technology (FUT) Minna, Board Chairman of Federal Neo Psychiatric Hospital Sokoto, Chairman of Chairmen of the Boards of 8 Psychiatric Hospital in Nigeria, Chairman Conference Planning Committee of 53 Tertiary Hospitals in Nigeria. Currently I am Member National Board for Technical Education, Member Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa, Member National Veterinary Institute Vom, Plateau State. Chairman Federal Government Raw Materials Research and Development Council.

I have written and presented over 20 books and papers in seminars and conferences and possess tremendous experience and exposure in the organized Private Sector being a strong National Council Member of NECA, MAN and NACCIMA.

A distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the second Republic and Chairman Senate Committee on Science and Technology and member of three Senate Committees. I was among the first recipients of the Prestigious Presidential Merit Award for Productivity and Excellence (NPOM). On the International front, I was awarded the Chartered Textile Technologist bestowed upon me by the World Governing Council of Textile Institute Manchester England. I once led a Nigerian delegation to USA, England, Egypt for study of cotton production. I also visited Germany, China, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.

During the last Kaduna Religious riot, I was appointed Chairman for peace among Muslims and Christians in Barnawa Kaduna. To keep abreast with my civic responsibility, I am a special Marshal Federal Road Safety, Kaduna.

During the last transition in 1999, I was a Gubernatorial Aspirant in Nasarawa State under the PDP and Board of Trustees Chairman.

In order to curb the menace of counterfeiting and piracy the Senate Committee on Commerce in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Commerce and organized

private sector set up a special committee for Stakeholders Forum/Seminar on combating Piracy appointed me as the Chairman. I was a Member of the National Political and Reform Committee. I am one of the distinguished Nigerians appointed by the Federal Government to serve in the Vision 20-20 National Conference and the Chairman of the Technical Working Group on Manufacturing which includes, Textiles, Cotton and Garment Sectors.

My concern for the Cotton, Garment and Textiles is to see that it is shaped in a manner that meets our yearning aspirations and our dream. I have a strong vision and dedication to serve the sector in order to give a course of rapid socio-economic growth consistent with maximum standard of integrity and full service to the members. Internationally, I want to see that Africa is properly recognized and respected in the Cotton, Textiles and Garment Industries.

I have a vision for purposeful and dedicated leadership and direction which is people oriented giving a fuller support to all policies aimed at achieving well balanced Cotton, Textiles and Garment development in a peaceful, equitable, safe and prosperous environment. I shall support and encourage policies that will make Africa recognized and respected in the whole World, in areas Cotton growing Textile and Garment Productions.

My experience and exposure in the organized private sector (being strong member of MAN, NECA, NACCIMA) puts me in greater advantage to contribute to Africa internally with a full focus and direction towards achieving well balanced economic development in a peaceful environment.

I am always ready to serve Africa, Cotton, Textile and Garment Sector by using my vast experience in the organized private sector to encourage and promote production of Cotton in Africa. My background in the Textile Industry the second largest Employer after Government in Nigeria where different foreign nationals invest heavily in this Country e.g. Chinese, Indians, Lebanese, Egyptians will give me an

upper hand in realizing the set objectives. The Textile Industry being the second largest employer of labour after Government has offered me the opportunity to appreciate and handle major economic problems especially Cotton, Textiles and Garment, currently I am the Chairman.

My most valued possession is my honour and integrity, I always respect the dignity of an individual and dynamism of a group of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Textile, Garment Sectorial group, a member of Board of Trustees of Nigeria Textile Manufacturers Associate (NTMA), a National Council Member of MAN, a Council Member of Kaduna Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce and Chairman of Industrial group, a Member of Federal Polytechnic Kaduna, a Physical Cotton Farmer and Cattle Rearer, a very respected Sarkin Fulani (Leader of Fulani's in Nigeria), a Director in Unitex and Chairman of Zamfara Textiles in Nigeria.

Thank you and may God bless.

Yours,

**SENATOR DR. WALID JIBRIN, OON, NPOM,**  
(Sarkin Fulani)  
Chairman Zamfara Textiles Nigeria.