

**PRESENTATION BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TO OFFICIALS
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS FORUM ON THE
OCCASION OF THEIR TOUR OF KEBBI STATE BY THE SECRETARIAT**

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Environment was created in September 2001 with the aim to provide a holistic approach to the planning and management of the State's environment. It was envisaged that this will go a long way to reduce incessant conflicts in the diverse organizations that are either directly or indirectly performing environmental planning and management functions in the state.

2. The Ministry consists of two professional departments viz: Department of Forestry and Wildlife and the Department of Environment. There are also the Departments of Personnel Management and that of Finance and Supplies. In addition there are two parastatals; Kebbi State Environmental Protection Agency (KESEPA) and Forestry II Project.

3. The functions of the Forestry and Wildlife Department among others include, formulation and enforcement of forest policy, forest management, plantation establishment, manpower development, administration of tuangya etc. while functions of the Department of Environment include formulation of policies on good management of natural resources and the environment, provision of Environmental Health Services (Sanitary Inspectors), Monitoring activities of Local Government Environmental Protection Committees and Preparation of Environmental Action and Management Plans among others.

Kebbi State Environmental Protection Agency (KESEPA) is concerned with Enforcement of compliance with regulations on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Audit Report (EAR), Monitoring Environmental Pollution, provision of Environmental Laboratory Services, Serves as implementation or Focal Agency for all donor programmes etc.

5. Forestry II Project is responsible for Afforestation Programme, Forestry Extension Services, Sand Dune Fixation soil conservation and Rehabilitation of degraded lands as well as implementing or focal agency for forestry aided programmes for all donor agencies.

6. Kebbi State Committee on ecological programmes is yet another agency of the Ministry. The functions of the Committee among others include, collation of requests from Local Governments, Ministries and Agencies in the State, carrying out preliminary assessment and review of reported or identified ecological problems, making recommendations to the National Committee on Ecological Problems through appropriate quarters and monitoring the implementation of approved projects.

7. In spite of the landmass of the State and the enormity of environmental problems ranging from land degradation, poor environmental health and safety, urban waste, pollution and climate change, flood, drought desertification, sheet and gully erosion. The state has made some modest achievements at management and control of environmental problems.

8. Some of the achievements recorded by the Ministry since its inception include, production of planting stock (seedlings) at an average of One Million (1m) annually establishments of 50 kilometers of shelterbelts across the state, establishment of 210 hectares of forest plantations in forest reserves etc.

The department of Environment have been able to re-introduce the "Duba Gari" System of sanitary inspection, established the State Taskforce Committee on environmental sanitation, annually carried out public enlightenment campaign on environmental safeguards, and has annually observed National Environment day and conducted the selection of the cleanest Local Government Headquarters in the State.

Kebbi State Environment Projection Agency, on the other hand has successfully undertaken the soil survey of Kebbi State, built and equipped environmental office and laboratories for environmental assessment, mineralogical testing of solid minerals available in the State and ensured compliance of EIA on a number of projects in the State e.g the proposed Katanga Cement Factory and the Zauro Polder Project.

Forestry II Project has stabilized Dukku Sand dune and it is currently working assiduously on Wabbaku. The project has also planted degraded areas at Dagwarema in Kalgo LGA, Yola in Augie LGA etc. One of the sites to be visited is Wabbaku Sand Dune stabilization area handled by this Parastatal.

The Taskforce Committee on Environmental Protection, on the other hand has ensured compliance with sanitation standards in abattoirs, food selling centers, general cleanliness of the environment in the state capital and other urban centres inspite ^{of} meager resources.

The State Committee on Ecological Problems has updated inherited studies and design of gully erosion sites in the state and has presented some for possible financing by the Ecological Fund Office in the Presidency.

9. The Ministry is not without its share of problems. Inspite of adequate budgetary provision, there had not been releases commensurate to the provision and the magnitude of environmental problems in the State. Similarly, the Ministry lacks adequate logistics for efficient functioning in all respect. There is also marked shortage of manpower at professional and technical cadres which needs to be addressed immediately.

**Ministry of Environment
Kebbi State**