



NIGER STATE OF NIGERIA



New
Vision
New
HAVEN





Governor's Office

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Chief Servant
DR. MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON
(Talban Minna)
Executive Governor, Niger State



Hon. Ahmed Musa Ibeto, *Santurakin Kontagora*
Deputy Chief Servant,

Deputy Governor and commissioner overseeing water resources, is a foremost politician whose humble political background originated from students' unionism at the Uthman Danfodio University in Sokoto.

A grassroots man and deft political organizer, Hon Ahmed Ibeto, the Santurakin Kontagora, crested into politics on the wings of the chairmanship of Magama Local Government.

From that humble launch pad, he has not looked back; he became the state chairman of the National Republican Party which transformed into the National Republican Convention with him as chief scribe. This was a badge he wore through the united Nigerian Congress Party and all Nigerian Peoples' Party.

He held the position of Special Assistant on Protocol Matters and the Director of Protocol at Government House between 1999 to 2003. He moved on to the House of Representatives in 2003, where he was Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Power and later Chairman, House Committee on States and Local Governments.

The Santurakin Kontagora holds the Honoris causa in administration from California University in conjunction with the Institute of Journalism Enugu.

A gentleman to the core, he is loyal and faithful to causes and personages he believes in. widely traveled, intelligent, yet thirsty for knowledge and a stickler for details.



Dr. Mohammed Kuta Yahaya, *Magatakardan Nupe*
Secretary to the State Government

Dr. Mohammed Kuta Yahaya came from a very brilliant academic career to become secretary to the Government of Niger State in 2007. With development communication as his research area of interest, he had pioneered several ingenious projects in the area of advocacy and community development activities in his 14 years post doctoral period at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria's premier and most prestigious institution from where he bagged has Masters and Doctorate Degrees.

What motivates Dr. Mohammed Kuta Yahaya is the "*perpetual quest for excellence in an atmosphere of hard work, selflessness and dogged determination to attain the best always with resounding success*". With this awesome motivation, he had gone ahead to make impact in strategic integration of University/community based collaboration approaches and social engineering. Winner of several honours and awards including the Leadership Development Grant *MacArthur*, USA, and one of the 2000 Most Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st century IBC London, in year 2000, Doctor Yahaya is a member of many professional bodies, with very substantial number of published books, articles, journal contributions to his credit.

Widely traveled, across Europe, Middle East, America, and Britain for academic and research endeavors, he was due for consideration for promotion to the rank of professor when he was appointed Secretary to the Government of Niger State in 2007.

He has lawn tennis, traveling, writing and watching soccer as interests and hobbies.

■ INTRODUCTION ■

The major policy thrust in the reform agenda of the Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu administration is to revitalize the economy, maximize the exploitation of the redundant potentials in the state to create wealth, empower the private sector and improve the welfare of the populace.

The administration is doing this by liberalizing the economy, opening up of both social and political space so that peace and democracy would blossom as a precondition for serious development.

This impetus, re-enforced by the overall strategy in the development process is aimed at using the agricultural endowments of the state through the public private-partnership model to cultivate, industrialize and modernize the economy.

Government is addressing the critical question of basic infrastructure, governance, growing the private sector and earnestly addressing the material welfare of Nigerlites.

The administration's subscription to the PDP initiative is to ensure sustained and sustainable development.

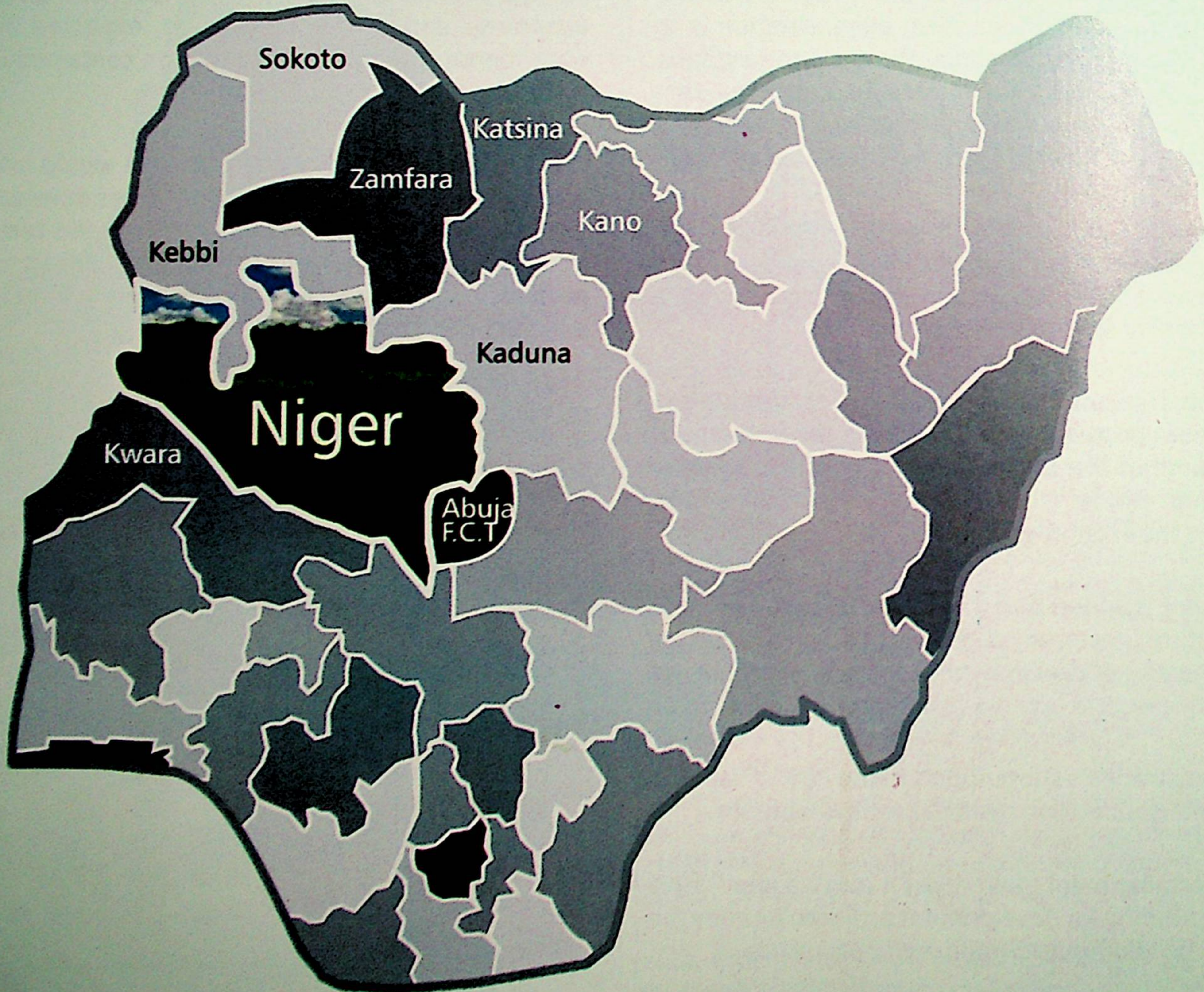
The PDP arrangement guarantees a reliable alternative source of funding for development projects. Already the approach is yielding visible and verifiable results.

Foreign investors are showing serious interest in the economy, and more interest is expected to be engendered through the information contained in this publication.

It is hoped that indigenes of the state would lead the way by investing or contributing either as development levies or taxes so that we can increase the tempo of activity particularly in the massive infrastructure project. In this march, there will be no half measures and no turning back. Join us.



MAP OF NIGERIA



THE POWER STATE AND ITS PEOPLE

It has as its pseudonym the Power State. The area known as Niger State today was originally part of a much larger geo-political area. It was created out of the former North- Western state by the late Head of State, General Murtala Ramat Mohammed in February, 1976. By the 1st of April, it came into being. For several years the State was administered under 9 local governments before the creation of one additional Local Government Area (Shiroro Local Government Area) from the former Chanchaga Local Government by Babangida's administration in 1987. The government of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida later created additional States and Local governments in 1991. In the process four (4) more Local governments were created in the state. They are Rijau Local Government with headquarters at Rijau while its former name, Magama was transferred to Nasko as its headquarters; parts of Mariga and newly merged Borgu Local Government to the state from Kwara State were carved out to form Agwara Local Government with headquarters at Agwara. Wushishi Local Government was also carved out from Mariga Local Government with headquarters at Wushishi. Another creation of additional Local Government on 19th September, 1992 gave birth to five (5) Local Government in the state. Gurara Local Governments was carved out of the present Suleja Local Government, Gawu-Babangida as its headquarters, Paikoro and Bosso Local Government areas were created from the former Chanchaga Local Government, with Paiko and Maikunkele as Local Government headquarters respectively. What remained of the former Chanchaga Local Government headquarters has retained its name, Chanchaga. Gbako Local Government headquarters was split into two (2) and the name Gbako transferred to a Local Government with headquarters at Lemu, while Bida became the local government headquarters of the newly created Bida Local Government Area. Lavun was splited into two (2). This action gave birth to the creation of Mokwa Local Government with headquarters at Mokwa while Kutigi remains at Lavun Local Government Area. The remaining four Local Government Areas Shiroro, Agaie, Lapai, Rafi remain untouched.

THE POWER STATE AND ITS PEOPLE

With the creation of additional states and local government areas in 1996 by the New Head of State General Sani Abacha, six (6) more local governments were created in the State. These are Tafa Local Government with headquarters at New-Wuse was carved out of Suleja Local Government; Edati Local Government with headquarters at Enagi was carved out of Lavun Local Government; Munya Local Government with headquarters at Sarkin Pawa was carved out of Shiroro Local Government; Mashegu Local Government with headquarters at Mashegu was carved out of Wushishi Local Government; Katcha Local Government with headquarters at Katcha and Mariga Local Government Area with headquarters at Bangi was carved out of Kontagora Local Government Area. Constitutionally. The State is now administered under twenty-five (25) Local Governments.

THE POWER STATE AND ITS PEOPLE



2. THE PEOPLE:

The people of Niger State are known for their warmth and distinct hospitality. The major ethnic compositions in the State are Hausa, Nupe, Gbagyi, Kambari, Yoruba, and Igbo. It also serves as a hub to diverse ethnic groups from around Nigeria.

3. POPULACE IN NUMBERS:

The 1991 population head count conducted by the Federal Government in 1992 sets the inhabitants of Niger State at 2,482,367 people. Human progression, migration and the attendant spill over of population from the Federal Capital, Abuja has also helped increase the population growth of the state. The latest National headcount and housing Census conducted in 2006 reveals that the population of Niger State population has increased to 3,950,249.

4. LAND AREA AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

A glimpse of the Nigerian map shows the spread of Niger state, which in terms of expanse represents 10 % of the total land area. In total the land area covers about 86,000 square kilometres or about 8.6 million hectares, with about 85% of the Land being arable. The major feature of Niger State is its flat land, though in some parts it is undulating. The State lies between the latitude of 3.20' East and longitude 8 11.3' North. It is border to the North by Sokoto State, West by Kebbi State, and South by Kogi and South-West by Kwara State. Kaduna and the Federal Capital Territory bordered the State to both North-East and South-East respectively. Niger State shares a common boundary with the Republic of Benin along New Bussa, Agwara and Mashegu Local Government Areas. The prevalence of this has given rise to common interborder trade activities between Benin Republic and Nigeria.



THE POWER STATE AND ITS PEOPLE



5. SOIL:

Niger State has the largest land mass in Nigeria, 80% of it arable. Hence, the agrarian nature of the State is aided by its soil composition, like most alluvial soils, the State's soil type is the flood plain type and is characterised by considerable variations. The two types of soils are:-a)The Ku-soil which has little erosion hazard and b)The Ya-soil which has a better water holding capacity.

6. PROFESSIONS AND VOCATIONS:

About 85% of the State's population are farmers. The remaining 15% is divided between various vocations ranging from white collar jobs, informal sector, manufacturing, small and medium business and the production of arts and light crafts.

7. CLIMATE:

Like the rest of North Central part of Nigeria, Niger State experiences two distinct weathers. The dry and wet seasons; this comes with annual rainfall varying from 1,100mm in the Northern part of the State to 1,600mm in the southern parts.

The maximum temperature (usually not more than 49°) is recorded between March and June, while the minimum is usually between December and January. The rainy season lasts for about 120 days in the Northern parts and about 150 days in the Southern parts of the State. Generally, the late soil hydrology of the State permits the cultivation of most of Nigeria's staple crops and still allows sufficient opportunities for grazing, fresh water fishing and forestry development. Undoubtedly, Niger State has incredible potentials for investment in large scale and commercial farming.

8 .ECONOMY:

For the discerning investor Niger State provides the fertile grounds for investing with quick turnovers on investment. The fertility of the land is a cherished asset and the potentials are yet to be fully explored. The even climate, rich annual rainfall and availability of wide variety of Mineral and Agricultural resources all attest to the economic potentials of the state. All successive governments that come to power endeavoured to provide good infrastructure such as road, electricity, water and communication facilities to pave way for interested foreign and local investors.

THE POWER STATE AND ITS PEOPLE



9. STATE OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

The Government of Niger State believes that the creation of wealth for her citizens can only be achieved through the chain of production that can be achieved through rapid and sustainable industrialisation. It is also aware that the true development of any nation depends on her level of industrialisation. For this reason, concerted efforts are being made to ensure speedy industrialisation. Being largely an agrarian State, Niger State has capacity to support large setups of agro-allied Industries. Also, the State has a lot of Mineral Resources that can serve as a basis for raw materials and content for other industries. Such resources include gold, clay, silica, sand, kyanite, copper, iron, feldsper, lead, columbite, kaolin and tantalite.

In order to induce industrialists and venture capitalists in investing heavily by tapping these resources, Government has put in place many incentives such as provision of well serviced Industrial Layouts in all major towns in the State, Seven years tax holidays for Industries, guaranteed accelerated processing of application for Industrial financial assistance in the form of loans and equity participation by Government in certain cases. Other facilities are tele-communications, and postal services. All these are adequately provided in the State for effective business contacts. The State has an International Airport and is well linked to all parts of Nigeria by road and rail.

BEFORE AND AFTER PITTSBURGH, THE MAN MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU



Chief Servant, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON (Talban Minna)
Executive Governor of Niger State.

The Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON, (Talban Minna), was born November 12, 1955 in Chanchaga Local Government Area of Niger State to late Alhaji Aliyu Mu'azu, the first Magajin Gari and later Sarkin Yakin Minna and Hajiya Jamila, a princess in the Mallawa ruling house of Zazzau Emirate. He received his primary education at the Central primary school (now IBB primary school), Minna and Kuta between 1963 and 1969. Later, he proceeded to Sokoto College of Arts, Arabic and Legal Studies (now Sheikh Mahmoud Gumi College) from 1970 to 1974 where he obtained the Grade II Teachers Certificate. He then proceeded to the College of Education, Sokoto between 1974 and 1977 and obtained the Nigeria Certificate of Education (NCE).

Between 1977 and 1978, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu served the mandatory NYSC programme where he taught at Jibril Memorial Grammar School, Iponri, Lagos. On completion of the NYSC programme, he returned home and joined the Niger State Ministry of Education as Master III and later Master II between 1977 and 1983. Between that period, Dr Mu'zau Babangida Aliyu resumed his educational pursuit by enrolling into Bayero University Kano between 1980 and 1983 where he graduated with BA (Bachelor of Arts) Education in 1983. In the same year, he withdrew his service with the Niger State Government and contested and won the election into the Federal House of Representatives, representing Minna South Federal Constituency.



BEFORE AND AFTER PITTSBURGH, THE MAN MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU

After the sack of the National Assembly by the Military in December 1983, Dr. Babangida Aliyu then joined the College of Education, Sokoto as a Lecturer in 1984. In 1985, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu preceded to the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America to pursue a Masters Degree in Public and International Affairs which he successfully completed in August 1986. He immediately enrolled for a Ph.D in Strategic Studies and Political Economy in September, 1986 which he completed in 1989

On his return to Nigeria, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu took up appointment as the Chief Political Assistant Director and Head of Unit of the International Affairs and Political Analysis in the Federation. By 1992, he was promoted and deployed as Director of Administration and Finance, National Council of Inter-Governmental Relations, where he served as pioneering director in charge of setting administrative and financial structures for the new organization. In August 1993, he was posted as Director in the Cabinet Secretariat of the Presidency where he was concurrently assigned to serve the Constitutional Conference Commission in 1994 and 1995. He also served as Acting Director General in the Cabinet Secretariat of the Presidency between 1994 and May 1995. Between October 1995 and April 1996, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu was deployed as Director/Special Assistant to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. He was later posted to the Ministry of Transport as Director Maritime Service between August 1996 and April 1999. From March 18 to June 16, 1999, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu was appointed and deployed to the Ministry of Youth and Sports as Permanent Secretary, after which he was once again redeployed to the Cabinet Secretariat of the Presidency. In February 2001, he was posted on a rescue mission to the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory. As the scholarly and articulate permanent secretary, he was there till December 2003. Between 2004 and 2005 he was at the National Planning Commission and later got deployed to the Federal Ministry of Transport in May 2005 to Dec 2006 and made his mark until he was redeployed in January 2007 to Establishment and Pensions Office in the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation as the Permanent Secretary/Chief Operations and Accounting Officer.



Meeting with Development Partners

BEFORE AND AFTER PITTSBURGH, THE MAN MUAZU BABANGIDA ALIYU

It was at this point that he obeyed the clarion and divine call to come home and salvage Niger State when he was nominated as the PDP Gubernatorial Candidate for the April 14 Elections which he won convincingly.

During his illustrious career, he has served as a Director on the boards of Nigeria Unity Line and Sea View Properties Limited. He was a member of the Senior Management Committee of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation between 1995 and 1999; Member Board of Governors, Centre for Democratic Studies between 1992 and 1995; Member Tenders' Board, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Member Board of Governors, Kaduna Polytechnic between 1980 and 1983. Since he assumed office as the Chief Servant and Governor of Niger, he has received dozens of awards in recognition of his excellent leadership and service to the people of Niger state. In 2009, he was honored by the Society for peace practice in Nigeria as a fellow and also honored by the Federal University of Technology Minna, mix with honorary Doc. Degree of technology (honoris Causa) among others.

In the area of community service, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu had always taken special interest in the welfare of the communities he had lived in both at home and abroad. He became a member and later Chairman, Projects became Physical Planning and Work Implementation of the Minna Emirate Education Foundation (MEEFO) in 2002. And Since 2004 he has been the president of Minna Polo Club. Some of the other services he had rendered in the recent past include: Member of the Executive Committee of the Parents/Teachers Association, New Capital School, Asokoro; Chairman, Parents/Teachers Association, Funtaj Primary School, Abuja; President, Pan African Association, Pittsburgh, PA. USA Chairman and Secretary, Nigeria Labour Congress, Niger State Council; National Auditor, Nigeria Union of Teachers, National H/quarters; Vice president, National Association of Public Administration and Management and President, Students' Union, Council of Education, Sokoto and several others.



Chief Servant with Minister of Educ. and Fmr Pres.



BEFORE AND AFTER PITTSBURGH, THE MAN MUAZU BABANGIDA ALIYU



Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu is a widely traveled person, who has visited over 90 countries of the world mostly on intellectual mission and inter-government relations among others. He has the tentacles of his philanthropic contribution extending to various quarters of many communities and individuals in a bid to advance social and economic progress levelling of the society. Of course, Dr. Babangida Aliyu is on another rescue mission back home since he won the April 14 election as the Executive Governor of Niger State. In August 2007, he was elected the Chairman of the Northern Governors forum (NGF) by his colleagues where he has brought to bear his enormous leadership skills to mobilize his colleagues from the north to chart a new course for the transformation of the north.

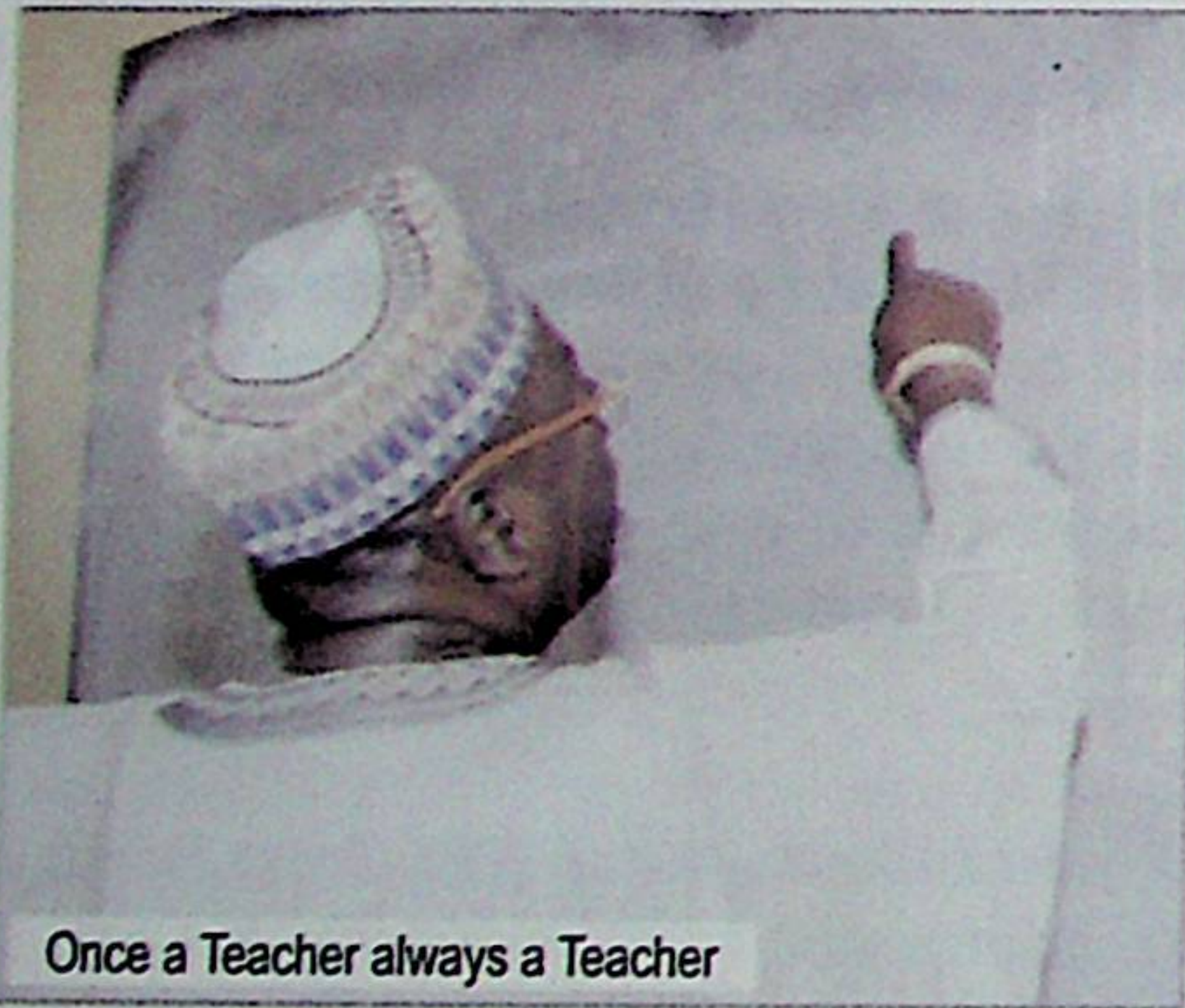
On January 20, 2001, he was conferred with the title, TALBAN MINNA by HRH the Emir of Minna, Alhaji (Dr.) Umar Faruq Bahago, the name that he is fondly called by his friends, associates and admirers, young, old and the elderly. He was honoured by the nation with the National Honour of the Officer of the Order of Niger (OON) in December 2004. Dr. Mu'zau Babangida Aliyu is a dedicated family man. He is married to Hajiya Jummai Aliyu (nee Umaru Erena) and the marriage is blessed with six(6) children; two girls and four boys. His hobbies include horse-riding, reading and farming.



TALBA - WHAT IT MEANS

Talba is derived from an Arabic word **Talib**, meaning scholar in charge of education. Talba also derives its name from the Hausa word **Talabawa** which means to assist people in a way. A **Talba** is therefore a scholar, and a helper of people in the area of education.

Traditionally, the holder of the title is supposed to be a scholar who advises the Emir and helps in carrying out educational matters. He serves as the mirror of the Emir to the people on education-related issues and other responsibilities the Emir might give him.



Once a Teacher always a Teacher



Chief Servant with the Emir of Kano



Chief Servant with Governor of Kano State



Chief Servant with Fm Head of State Gen. Gowon

BEFORE AND AFTER PITTSBURGH, THE MAN MUAZU BABANGIDA ALIYU



Chief Servant and Governor of Lagos State



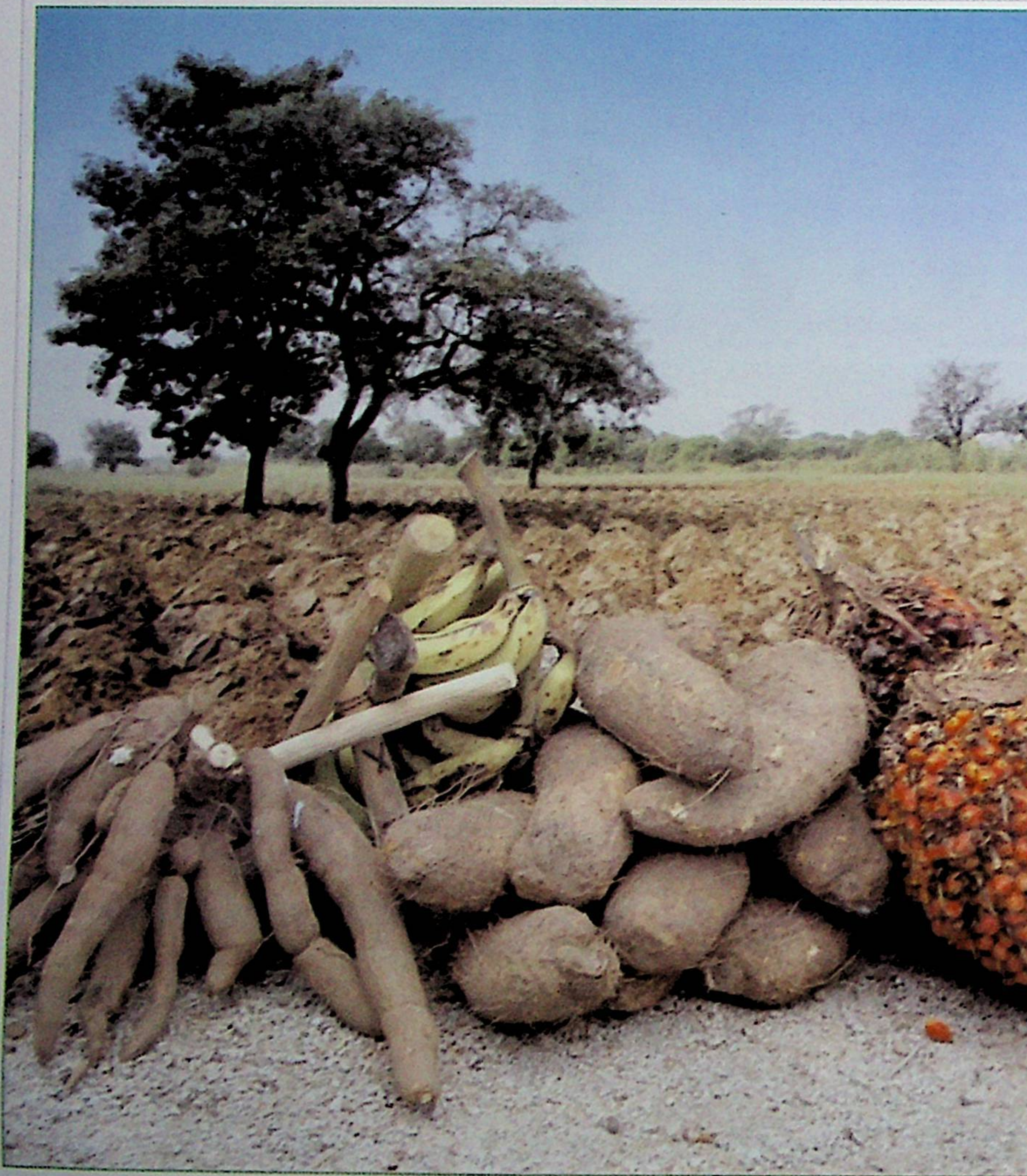
In Company of Fmr. Head of State Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar



Chief Servant with Gen. Mohammadu Buhari



AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING



The public service and agriculture are the two prominent and dominating activities in Niger State. While the civil service accounts for 70% of paid employment and consumes about 75% of total government revenue on recurrent expenditure, agriculture accounts for 70% of total employment

Primarily the absence of a strong private sector, low level of investment, infrastructural deficit, and the long years of military rule have ensured that the state remained significantly under-developed. The reinstatement of civil rule in 1999 brought with it not only teething problems but expected challenges-the pressure of patronage, unemployment, impatience, conflicts and controvercies, including corruption, appreciation of economic fundamentals and political trade-offs in a market driven economy.

Besides subsistence agriculture and the public sector other economic activities which constitute the means of livelihood of over 25% of the population include banking, trading, transportation and local arts and crafts. These are also self-employed professionals, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled people engaged in some economic activities.

AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING

The state is accessible by road, air, rail and marine transportation. It has about 1,384 Km of asphalt, 207Km of surface dressing, 140 Km of earth and 1,503 of trunk 'A' roads, including an international cargo airport in the works.

THE REBIRTH OF A STATE. The State is undergoing a renaissance; in just two short eventful years, the Chief Servant Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu OON and Talban Minna has transformed the State particularly Minna, the Niger State Capital.

Today, Minna and indeed the entire State is a picturesque work in progress, roads are being constructed and expanded, illegal structures that defaced the town are giving way and bringing out the beauty of the townships.

Clean water is now relatively available to most residents in Minna. A hundred boreholes have been sunk and 10 water tankers supply constant clean water in the metropolis as a temporary measure until a permanent solution is found to the decades long acute water shortage in parts of the State Capital.

Overall, the major policy thrust is to revitalize the economy of the State and maximise the exploitation of the various potentials of the State to create employment opportunities, create wealth, cultivate the private sector and improve the welfare of the people. The policies and strategies involve improvement in three strategic areas, governance, growing the private sector, and empowering the people.



VISION 3: 2020

It is written in one of the Holy Books that a nation without a vision is lost. We are living witnesses of the fact that the absence of vision and planning in the nation and our dear state resulted in the ruin we found ourselves.

Realizing this fact the administration of the Chief Servant Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu defined a realistic and realizable vision for the state.

The vision is to transform Niger State into one of the top three State economies by the year 2020 by being a model and leader in agro-based business/and industrialization where there is employment and wealth creation opportunities for all in an atmosphere of peace.



Chief Servant making a presentation to President Umaru Musa Yar'adua



Front view of the State Secretariat

VISION 3: 2020

Its Mission is to empower Nigerlites by providing a conducive environment for living through wealth and employment creation opportunities in collaboration with development and public and private partners.

To achieve these objectives the state developed overall strategies to use its vast agricultural endowments through private-public partnership (PPP) to develop, industrialise and modernize the State's economy for the improvement of the welfare of the people. Agro-based industrialization implies that agricultural and related industries and services will form the fulcrum of development in the State. As with other sectors, policies and strategies will revolve around the promotion of agriculture but without compromising the development of other sectors.

CHANGE DRIVEN BY VISION:

The inception of Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu's administration spelt doom for the apostles of "doing business as usual". The main emphasis is "value for money" which is one of the cardinal objectives for the development of the action plan policy of government. Under the development action plan policy is the eradication of certain identified anomalous conditions which have been raised some notches higher. These unacceptable conditions whose elimination are necessary for the subsistence of the new approach and the realization of the objectives include corruption, inflated contracts, high cost of government procurements, bribery, embezzlement, wasteful and dubious expenditure, diversion of public funds, bogus payments and related practices.

The situation has since changed for the better with planning and budgeting process which significantly improved so that planned projects are now executed within budgeting framework resulting in budget discipline. Fiscal guidelines and financial regulations are being put in place to ensure prudence in government and governance enterprise.



AGRICULTURE



An agrarian State blessed with abundant natural resources including a vast expanse of arable and fertile land, eight major rivers and their tributaries including 18 dams, and seven flood plains. Niger State also has the unique advantage for providing all-year round farming involving crops, grains and fruits.

The state government is aggressively promoting commercial farming. The 25 local governments are ready and willing to provide land for local and international investors who might be interested in large scale farming or setting up allied industries.



Government is also pushing for better agricultural production on the home front. Right now tractors have been delivered to co-operative societies to be used by individual members at highly subsidised rates. Similarly, fertilizers (both organic and inorganic) are being sold to farmers at equally highly subsidised rates to ensure a boost to food production state-wide

In addition, the State has successfully encouraged local government councils to set up micro-finance institutions so that local farmers can have access to loans which in the past had frustrated local farmers from heading off the circle of subsistence agricultural production.



INFRASTRUCTURE

The provision of infrastructure is essentially the key in achieving sustainable and qualitative development. The most critical of these are water, roads, electricity, housing and education.

The government of Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu has embarked on a gargantuan infrastructural development across the State and in all aspects. Investors willing to develop any aspect of infrastructure have been guaranteed land to build operate and transfer in a public-private partnership arrangement.

Some of the major projects are the Minna City Centre, which promises to transform the metropolitan skyline of Minna. There is also the Minna Airport and another optimistic development project that will help to transform the State Airport into a structure in semblance to the Dubai International Airport or the Airport in Singapore.



Behold the New Haven

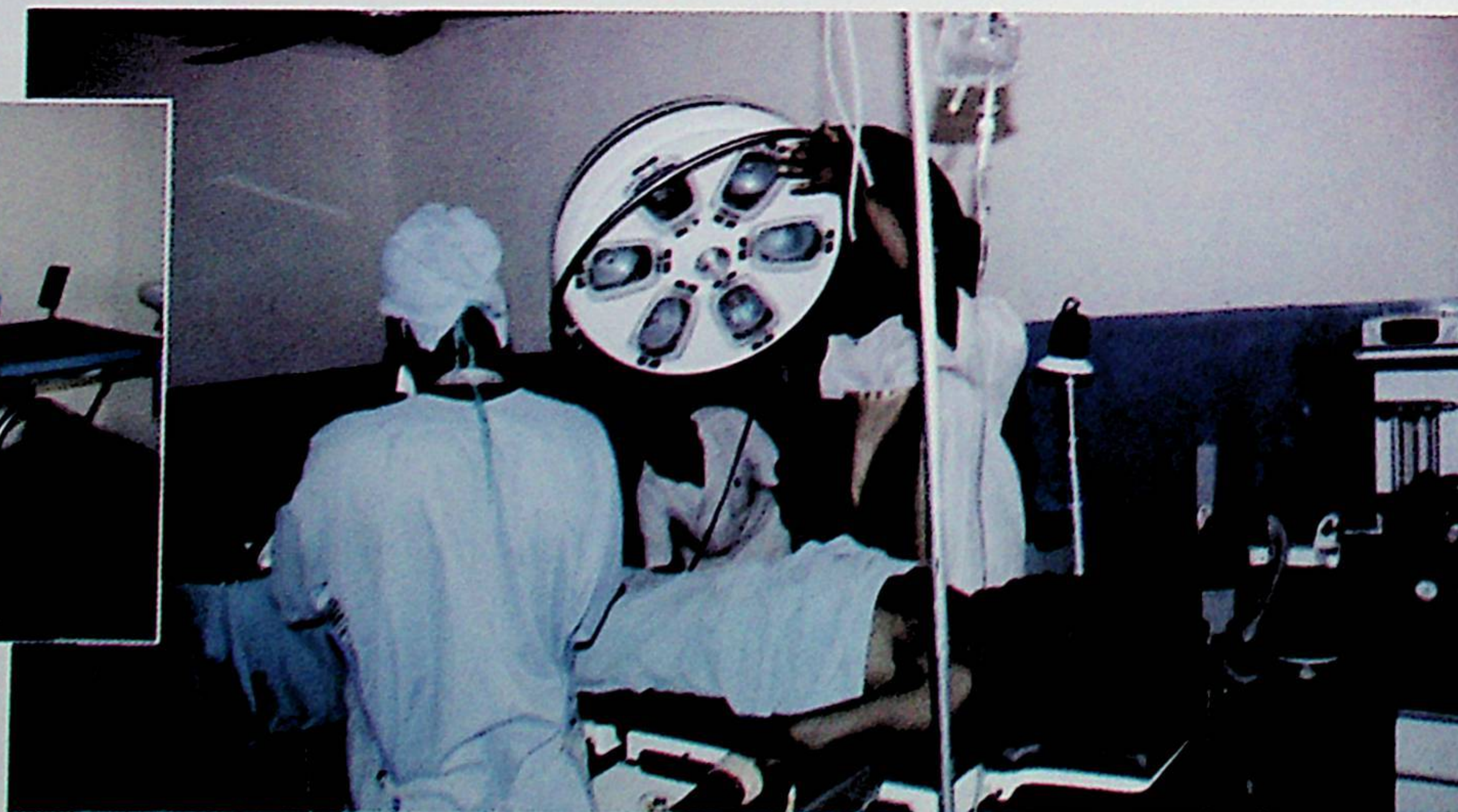
HEALTH

In the health sector government is ensuring that quality and affordable services are provided throughout the State. In this regard government is ensuring that vital equipment and drugs are sufficiently available in our hospitals and health clinics. Renovation, rehabilitation and upgrading of clinics and hospitals have been accorded desired priorities all over the State. Prominent amongst the hospitals receiving such priority attention are Bangi Rural Hospital, Sarkin Pawa Health Centre, Suleja, Agaie, Mokwa, Kontagora, Mariga, Kagara general Hospitals.

Construction work has been completed on the Sabon Wuse, Gulu and Nasko new general hospitals. Each has 110 beds including staff quarters. Six new primary health centres, care centres have either been completed or nearing completion in parts of the state.

Today in Niger State, pregnant women, children aged 0-5 years and elderly persons above 70 enjoy free medical treatment, just as free state-wide immunization services against childhood killer diseases are continuous.

A comprehensive primary health care centre is being established in each of the 25 local government council areas.



EDUCATION



That the educational system in the whole of Nigeria is in a shambles prior to May 2007 is not news. What is news is that within two years of the new administration in Niger State, the massive restoration strategy begun by the government in the sector has dramatically altered the face of education in the State. Today pupils most especially females, enjoy free tuition and non-payment of other fees in schools all over the State irrespective of States of origin. As a result, school enrolment has jumped to an all time high of about 40%.

For the first time in Nigeria and particularly the North the Almajirai syndrome has fallen following the novel introduction of the integration of Western and Islamic education system to cater solely for this category of its pupils.

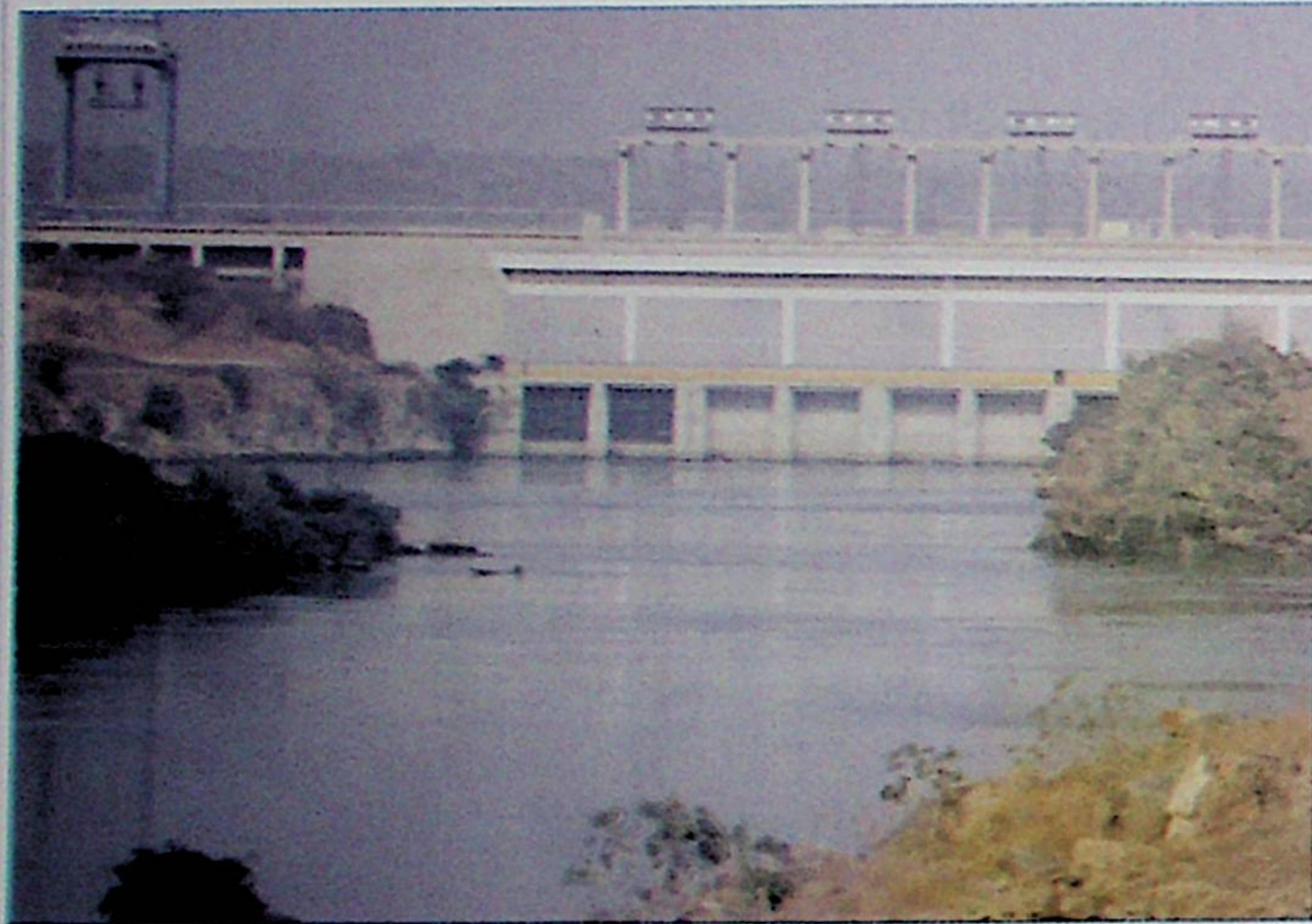
The payment of the National Examination Council and the West African Examination Council fees by the state government has become a regular feature and a most welcome relief to pauperised parents. Similarly, a backlog of scholarship allowances for State students in higher institutions have been cleared just as students study loan scheme was established to help indigent students to access loans to enable them pursue their education to the tertiary level.

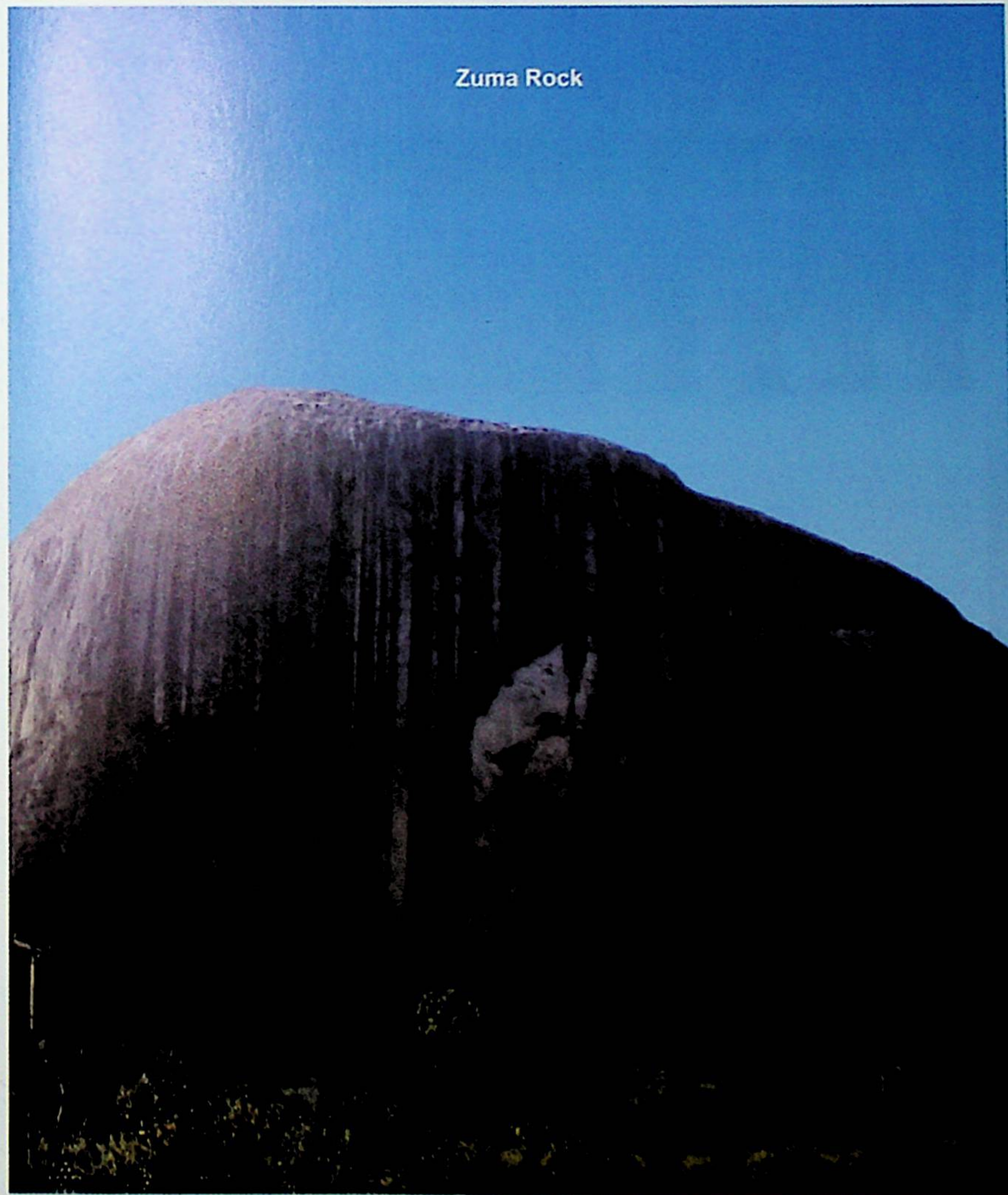
NIGER STATE. NIGERIA'S INVESTMENT HAVEN**POWER AND ENERGY**

The State is home to Nigeria's major source for electricity, the Kainji, Jebba, and Shiroro hydropower stations. The State also has 18 dams, but in spite of this, limited and dwindling power supply has been the endemic experience of Nigerlites. The implication of the supply inadequacy on business and development is obvious.

In response to this unacceptable situation, the government decided as an interim measure to purchase and distribute 84 transformers and related installation materials to facilitate availability of electricity to the people. Rural electrification projects in the three senatorial zones are on-going.

The government is negotiating with investors on the development of the Gurara and Zungeru hydro-projects. The State is aiming to develop both hydro and solar alternative power sources. Work is at an advanced stage in the Gurara project. Although it has slightly slowed down because of the global economic downturn, it is a project that would indeed come to fruition. At the end of the first phase the new power station would generate 250 megawatts of electricity.



NIGER STATE, THE NEW TOURISM DESTINATION.

Zuma Rock

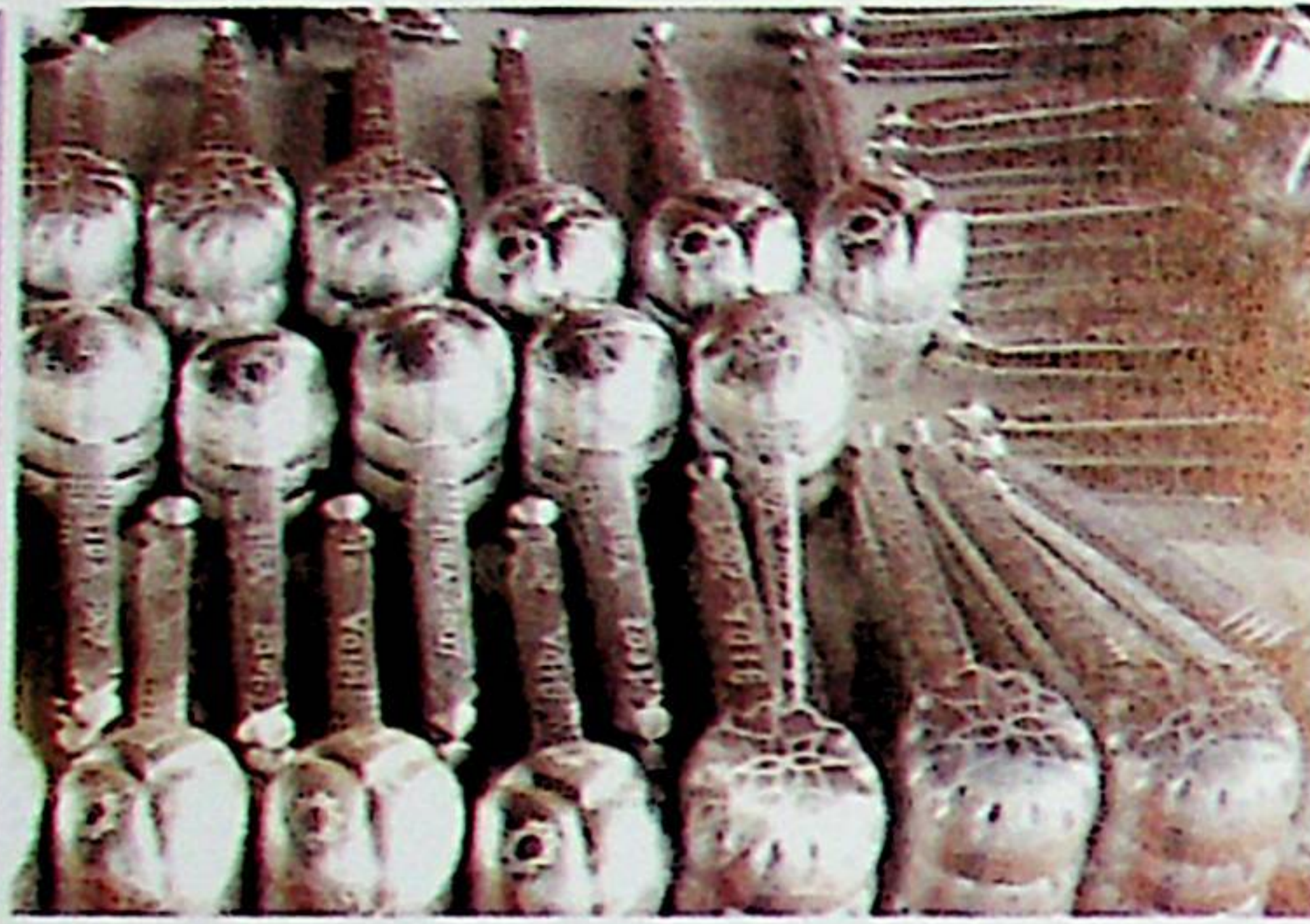
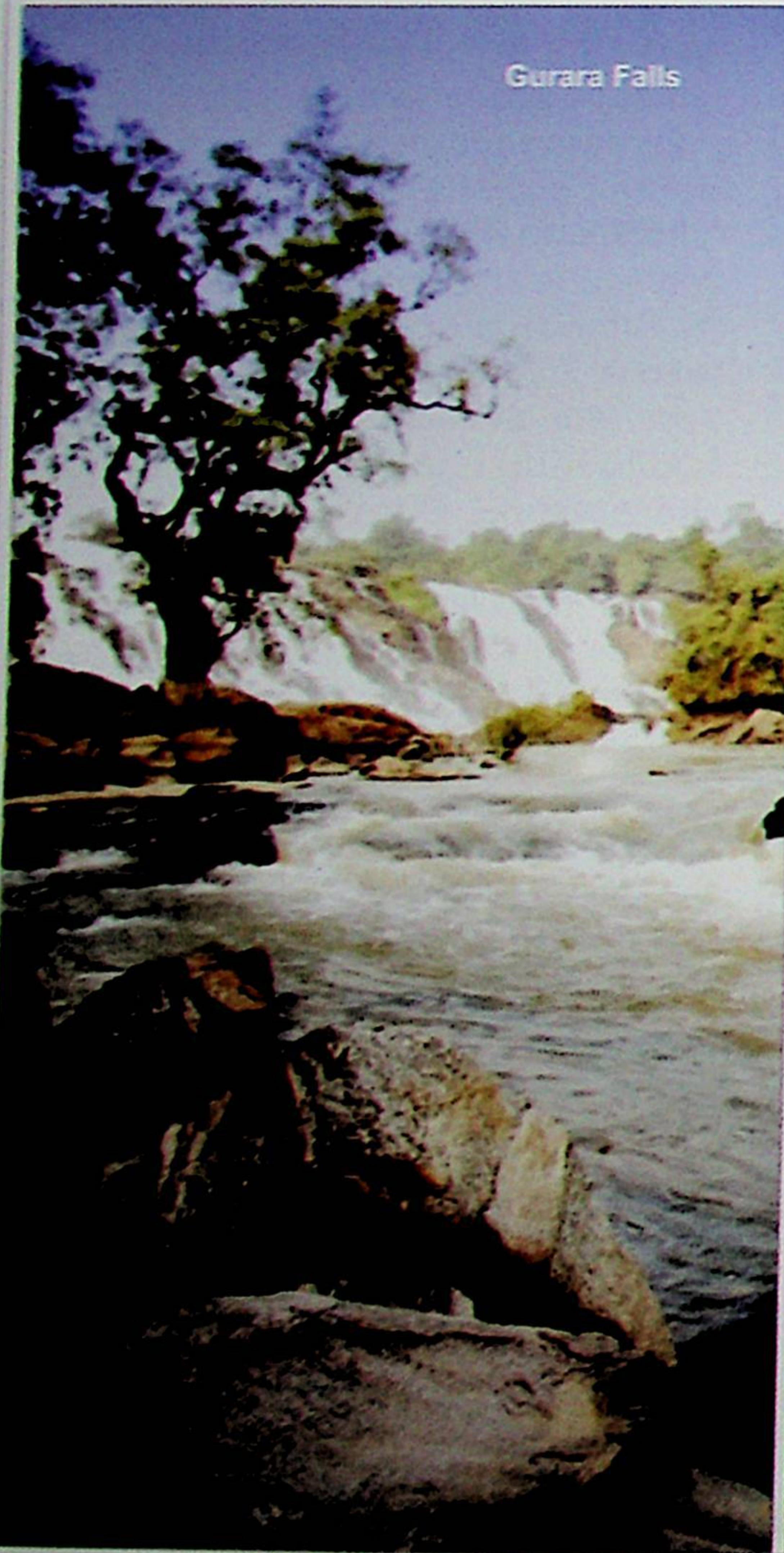
Niger State is using a variety of approaches to actualise its vision. On top of the pack is the development of her vast tourism potentials, it's historical and cultural sites which are a gift of nature the state has in abundance. One of the 50 of the famous tourist attractions is the world famous Zuma Rock, an imposing rock along Abuja-Kaduna express way. This flagship of the cultural and historical site is about being transformed into an international tourist sanctuary complete with a resource centre, a Disney-like amusement park, world class restaurants, a water park, and amphitheatre, an African village and a five star hotel.

For the first time in the Northern parts of the country, cable cars will glide across in space ferrying pleasure seekers to and fro the zenith of Zuma Rock.

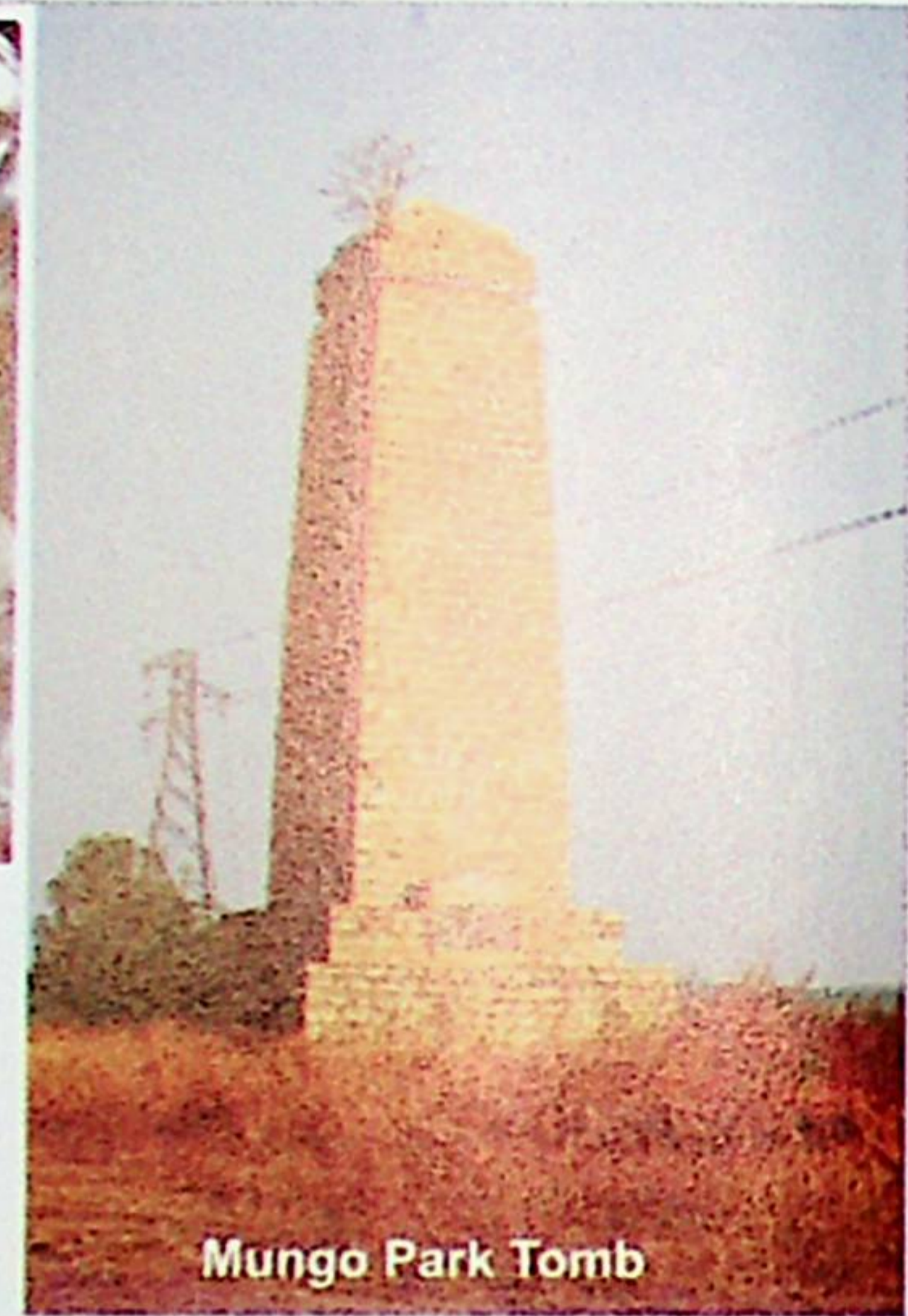


NIGER STATE, THE NEW TOURISM DESTINATION.

Gurara Falls




Mungo Park Tomb



Juju Rock





**For Further Tourism and
Investment Information Check
www.nigerstateonline**