



NASARAWA STATE

HOME OF SOLID MINERALS



INVESTOR'S GUIDE



An Economic Template for Nasarawa

It is known as the "Home of Solid Minerals", but Nasarawa State has much more than minerals to attract discerning investors. To add to this, Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma is also ensuring an enabling business environment to attract local and foreign investment.

The economy of Nasarawa State, north central Nigeria, is one of the top state economies in Nigeria. This is because it is endowed with potentials other states or indeed other countries dream of: solid minerals, agriculture and tourism.

Nasarawa has been described as one big "gold mine" but

transforming the "gold" into a revenue-generating venture requires huge investments. For example, to realise Nasarawa's potentials in solid minerals requires major expertise and multi-million dollar investments just like what obtains in the hydrocarbon industry.

Officially Nasarawa is known as the "Home of Solid Minerals". This categorisation is very appropriate: all 13 administrative areas are uniquely blessed with one form of solid minerals or the other which can be sold at local and international markets. Minerals found in commercial quantities include beryl, sapphire, quartz, coal, amethyst, garnet, topaz, zircon, marble, granite and tantalite, among others. These are in demand globally because of their importance to various sectors of the world economy. They could provide Nasarawa State with much needed revenue for developmental purposes.

However, the state requires federal government subvention to meet its development commitments. The 2008 budget was funded largely from statutory allocation of N30 billion. Internally generated revenue accounted for N8.6 billion, about 16 percent of the N50.6 billion

budget. Other sources include N3 billion from Value Added Tax (VAT). Grants and loans and miscellaneous sources brought in the balance.

Many developmental economists say this should not be so considering Nasarawa's huge potential in solid minerals and agriculture. It has been said, for instance, that if its solid minerals sector was well developed, Nasarawa State could contribute a substantial percentage to Nigeria's foreign revenue generation and receive the same 13 percent derivation that oil-producing states receive from the federal government.

Improved geological data have revealed Nigeria is endowed with large deposits of industrial, metallic and non-metallic minerals. About 34 minerals are already identified and Nasarawa has more than 20 of them. Of the 34 minerals only 13 are actually being mined, processed and marketed. They are coal, kaolin, baryte, limestone, dolomite, feldspar, glass sand, gemstones, gold [in small quantities], iron ore, lead-zinc, tin and associated minerals and recently gypsum. The remaining 21 minerals, though in demand, are untapped and many of them are in Nasarawa State.



Although investors who could transform Nasarawa's huge mineral deposits into a huge revenue generating ventures for state and country were lacking, especially in the past years, the trend is changing. Investors are already showing more than a passing interest in the state's most viable sectors including tourism, agriculture and solid minerals. Foreign investors now regularly flock to Nasarawa State to scout for investment opportunities which are in abundance. Nasarawa governor, Aliyu Akwe Doma, OON and Madauchin Doma, understands the state needs investors to help develop its potentials. According to him, Nasarawa "is endowed with large deposits of solid minerals (and) as part of the economic empowerment of the state, we intend to attract investors from within and outside the country to invest in this sector. We have received proposals for the establishment of a cement company at two different locations in the state. Proposals have also been received for the generation of power using our coal deposit in Obi local government."

Helping in no small measure is the favourable investment climate brought about by Governor Doma's investor-friendly policies. Such policies include tax holidays, access to land, provision of infrastructure, adequate security and access to financial aid, amongst other favorable policies.

These are some of the things many international investors who want to commit resources to an emerging market like Nigeria look at. Nasarawa, clearly, is on the road to development under

Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma.

The gradual shift from oil to solid minerals by the Nigerian government is an indication the sector has potentials. The country's aim of meeting the vision 2020 goal is hinged partly on the development of this overlooked sector. However, a colossal amount of money - N1.28 trillion (\$1 billion) - in annual capital inflow is needed to develop this sector in time for 2020. Part of the capital inflow is expected to come into Nasarawa because of its unique position in the sector. All known minerals that occur in Nigeria's geological environment are in Nasarawa.

The rocks and hills located in and around Nasarawa State are hosts to gold in Wamba; baryte at Azara, Wuse and Alosi; coals (of the highest grade in Nigeria) at Obi, Janerigeri, Jangwa and Shankodi. There are marble deposits at Ugya and Gadabuke/Toto; tin, columbite and tantalite at Afu, Udege Beki, and Wamba; gemstones in Keffi, Garaku, Andaha, and Nasarawa Eggon; salt deposits in Ribi, Keana and Awe; limestone deposits at Adudu and Jangwa; clay deposits in Shabu; glass sands in Lafa and Doma; granite rocks at Karu, Keffi, Akwanga, Nasarawa Eggon, Tudu Uku.

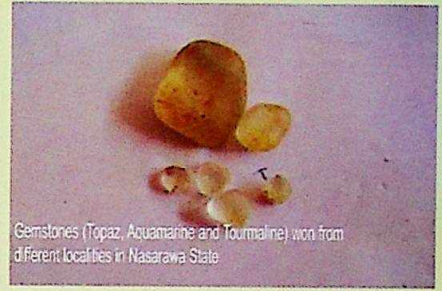
There is no doubt, revenue from Nasarawa State's vast solid minerals could rival revenue generated from oil. Experts, indeed, believe Nigeria has enough solid minerals to compete with oil and gas in terms of revenue generation. Because it has remained undeveloped, its contribution to Nigeria's GDP is abysmal. In 2007, it contributed 0.30 percent compared to oil and gas' 19.60 percent.

Solid minerals found in Nasarawa state and their industrial application.

S/N	MINERAL	INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION
1	Beryl (Emerald, Aquamarine And Heliodor)	Major source of the metal Beryllium alloys with copper to produce hard, fatigue resistant metal of high tensile strength. Extracted Beryllium is used as a moderator in nuclear reactions.
2	Sapphire -	Oxide (Beo) derived from Beryl is an excellent refractory withstanding temperatures of up to 2,750oC
3	Tourmaline	Used as watch jewels, bearings in scientific instruments. Also for ornamental purposes.
4	Quartz	Used in the manufacture of pressure gauges to measure transient blast pressure. Also for ornamental purposes. Used in glass and silica bricks; paint scouring, soaps and sand paper. In its powdered form, it is used in porcelain, paint, sand paper, scouring soaps and as a wood filter. It is used in construction mortar and cement and flux metallurgy.
5	Amethyst Garnet Topaz	Mostly used for ornamental purposes. Sometimes used for the manufacture of abrasives, coated paper, grindstones, sharpening stones and scouring powders.
6	Zircon	It is a major source of Zirconia (Oxide of Zirconium metal) used for refractories, muffle furnaces, fire bricks for electrical porcelain, best sparking plugs, for refining precious metals, roof of electrical furnaces, white pigment in enamel industry, paints and lacquers in abrasives and polishing powder. Used as insulator of heat and electricity.
7	Tantalite	Source of Tantalum used in the production of special steels especially those for dental and surgical instruments. Manufacture of space crafts
8	Cassiterite	Tin plating for making Tin cans.
9	Columbite	Making alloy solders (Tin 50%, Lead 50%). Used for sealing of Tin cans, automobile radiators and electrical equipment Source of Niobium used as an alloy of steel to form weldable high speed steel for radio transmitting valves, heat sensitive detective devices called barometer, for jet engines and other aircraft components, etc
10	Ilmenite	Source of Titanium dioxide which is used for white paint pigments. Source of Titanium metal used for ferro titanium alloys. Used as de-oxidizer and for stabilizing ore.
11	Galena	Lead (metal) used in storage batteries Paints (white lead) PbCO3 alloys for various uses.
12	Iron Ore	For making cast iron, wrought iron, steel for various uses. Also used for making alloys for various uses.
13	Barytes	Source of barium metal used in alloy. Barium with Lead and calcium for bearings – alloy with Aluminum magnesium and Nickel for Radio valves, with Iron as Barium ferrite for permanent magnets. Used as drilling mud in the petroleum industry
14	Feldspars	Used in glass manufacturing, ceramic industry as part of the body of the ware and as a constituent of the glazes on pottery, tiles, porcelain, insulators.
15	Limestone	Source of calcium metal used as a de-oxidizer and scavenger in refining copper, aluminum, chromium and nickel and reducing Uranium oxide to uranium. In cement manufacture In metallurgy as flux As filter in paints Construction work For hydrated lime production
16	Mica	Muscovite used chiefly as electrical insulator, production of generators, telephone, condensers. Used as fillers in production of tyres and tubes and as dry lubricants.
17	Cooking coal	For producing pig iron Steel production As fuel to provide heat To raise steam for power stations, railways and domestic purposes For producing coal gas.
18	Talc	In paints as extender In ceramics for tiles, electrical porcelain and table ware, tips of barriers and for refractory purposes Cosmetic industry, etc.
19	Clays	For building bricks, flower pots, floor tiles, fencing bricks, etc.
20	Glass sand	Glass industry, for coloured and white glass containers, bottles. Also as synthetic marble and for table wares, sanitary wares.
21	Dolomite/Marble	Dolomite/Marble –For Refractory furnace, building materials, source of carbon dioxides, terazzo tiles, floor and wall tiles.
22	Salt	For food seasoning and preservation In chemical industry to prepare soda ash, caustic soda and sodium sulphate, etc For chlorine production.
23	Chalcopyrite	Sulphur to manufacture sulphur ointment for skin medication Sulphur to sulphuric acid, etc.



Gemstones (Topaz, Aquamarine and Tourmaline) won from different localities in Nasarawa State



Gemstones (Topaz, Aquamarine and Tourmaline) won from different localities in Nasarawa State



Aquamarine gemstones



But this has not always been so. Prior to the discovery of oil, Nigeria was sustained by agriculture and few solid minerals like coal, tin, columbite and gold. Coal, for instance, serviced the rail system which ran from the agricultural towns of northern Nigeria to the coastal cities of the south. It also provided electricity, while tin yielded substantial foreign revenue. In addition, exploiting these minerals offered large scale employment opportunities.

Under governor Doma, the good old days of coal mining may be here again. In what can be interpreted as a hot investment tip, Aliyu Doma signified that of all the solid minerals

available in the state, coal is what he wants developed quickly because of its use as an input for electricity generation. He said investors from Europe have shown interest in establishing a power plant that will use the abundant coal resources found in Obi local government to generate 120 megawatts to complement existing supplies which, frankly, is not encouraging.

Despite the sector's encouraging outlook, there is a need to organise and structure the industry to appeal to investors. Taking a cue from the federal government, Nasarawa has taken proactive steps including the setting up of the Nasarawa Mineral Development Company (MNDC).

At the federal level, the establishment of a ministry of solid mineral development has brought global attention. Favourable laws and policy framework are also responsible for sustained interests. The new national solid mineral policy which replaced the old mining laws and regulations, offer a competitive environment for solid minerals development. The deregulation of the sector under the Nigerian Investment Promotion Council Decree 1995 allows 100 percent foreign ownership of mining operations and other related enterprises. Free repatriation of capital, profits and dividends are also guaranteed. The state policy is also in line with the federal policy.

Attracting investors into the state with the largest deposit of solid minerals requires more than just having the potentials; investors also want to see government's readiness. A mark of government's willingness was the

establishment of the MNDC and various policies to convince investors that Nasarawa is a good investment destination. Such policies include tax rebate, easy access to land, provision of infrastructure and easy access to financial aid guaranteed by government. Nasarawa State has also concluded plans to develop an international trade fair complex. Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma is creating an economic template in Nasarawa most governors from the northern states need to adopt if they want investors and rapid development of their states.

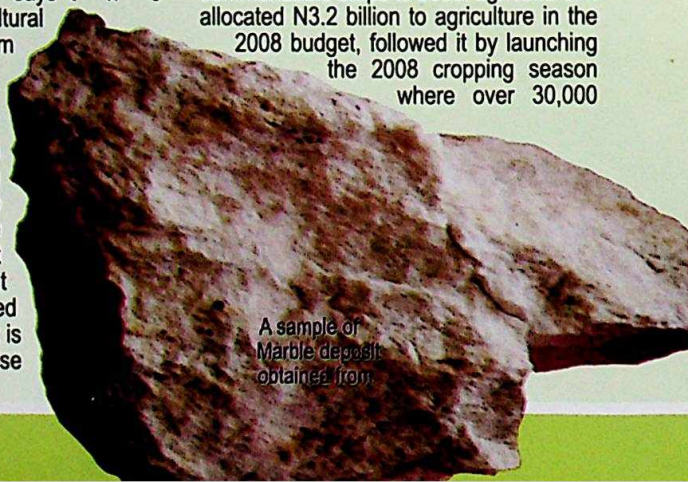
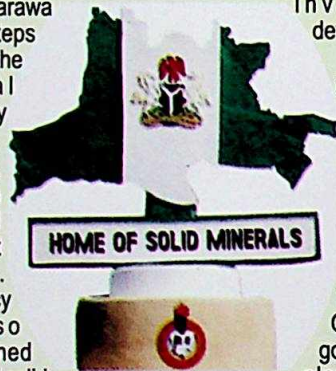
Nasarawa's investment potential goes beyond sold minerals. Investment prospects also exist in agriculture and tourism. Tourism drive is hinged on the Farin Ruwa (white water) fall, a magnificent natural fall of 150 meters.

Governor Doma calls it "a gold mine." "Nasarawa is planning big for tourism development. We are planning to develop Farin Ruwa fully to make it one of the best tourist resorts in Africa," says the governor who is a cultural ambassador and tourism expert, and understands the importance of tourism as a viable revenue generating industry. Plans regarding the natural water falls are being kept close to the governor's heart, but suffice it to say that investors have indicated interest and government is working hard to finalise

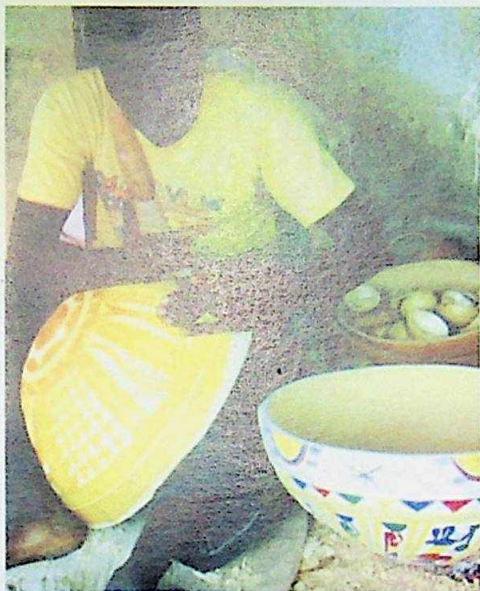
arrangements for its eventful rollout. The Farin Ruwa also has the added advantage of being a source for electricity. The soon-to-be completed Farin Ruwa hydro-electric power project will add an additional 20 megawatts to the state.

Agriculture plays a prominent part in the state's economic revival. "We intend to use the agricultural sector as a spring board for the setting up of small and medium scale enterprises for export promotion. One of such measures is the on-going construction of a yam conditioning centre at Keffi aimed at processing yam and sweet potatoes for export to the United Kingdom and other European markets," says information commissioner, Mustapha Aliyu. The state has rich arable land good for farming. Bumper harvests are recorded for melon seeds, rice, yam, beniseed and sugarcane. Grains, especially maize, millets, beans, also record huge harvests. Also available are plantain and palm kernel, cassava, groundnuts, cashew, sesame seeds and soya beans.

Nasarawa lies within Nigeria's guinea savannah region which has the most fertile soil in the country. It is, therefore, no surprise that agriculture is the mainstay of the people. The government has taken commendable steps to boost agriculture. It allocated N3.2 billion to agriculture in the 2008 budget, followed it by launching the 2008 cropping season where over 30,000



A sample of
Marble deposit
obtained from



metric tonnes of fertilizer were distributed, at subsidized rates, to farmers. This represented an increase of more than 400 percent over the preceding year. In addition, government also distributed agro-chemicals and other farming inputs such as herbicides, pesticides and improved seeds and plant varieties worth several millions of naira.

Already a group of white farmers from Zimbabwe have made the state their home cultivating over 400 hectares of cassava. The ubiquitous Chinese have also sent an agriculture trade delegation to scout for agric potentials. Outside of crops, livestock and fish farming are other viable potentials. The state has a good climate and disease-free environment for livestock and poultry farming. Cattle, goats, ram and birds are reared in large amount all over the state. Pockets of rivers, streams and lakes also make for fish farming. The presence of

nearby River Benue, which flows through some parts of the state and the Farin-Ruwa waterfall, provides excellent conditions for fish production.

Investing in any sector in Nasarawa State guarantees quick return on investments. In addition, safety of investments is guaranteed. Nigeria's membership of the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, as well as the operation of the bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between Nigeria and any country makes for adequate protection of foreign investment in any Nigerian state including Nasarawa. Investors will also find the commitment of the governor an added guarantee of safety.

Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, OON and Madauchin Doma, a development-oriented administrator, sees the task to industrialise Nasarawa state as one which must be accomplished. Under his focused leadership, Nasarawa State is on the right track.



Distribution of solid minerals In Nasarawa State

S/N	LOCAL AREA	SOLID MINERAL
1	Akwanga	Cassiterite, Clay, Columbite, Ilmenite, Mica
2	Awe	Barytes, Pyrite, Clay, Galena, Limestone, Sodium Chloride, Ephalerite.
3	Doma	Clay, Silica sand
4	Keana	Baryte, Galena, Salt, Limestone
5	Karu	Clay, Silica sand, Granites, Tantalite, Mica, Sphalerite
6	Keffi	Clay, Talc, Gemstone (Tourmaline, Aquamarine and Sapphire)
7	Kokona	Tourmaline, Aquamarine, Mica, Chalcopyrite
8	Lafia	Clay, Silica sand, Topaz
9	Nasarawa	Cassiterite, Clay, Columbite, Tantalite
10	Nasarawa Eggon	Emerald, Aquamarine, Heliodor, Topaz, Amethyst, Quartz, Mica, Granite
11	Obi	Baryte, Clay, Cooking coal
12	Tolo	Marble, Iron ore, Mica
13	Wamba	Tantalite, Cassiterite, Columbite, Granite, Ilmenite, Aquamarine

NASARAWA STATE

NIGERIA'S HOME OF SOLID MINERALS

Administration

Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma is the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State. He assumed the high responsibility of the Office of Governor with a focussed vision and a strong mission to transform the socio-economic status of the State. He has taken steps, through a 13-point agenda, to initiate development oriented policies and programmes in the State's areas of comparative advantage, such as Agriculture, Solid Mineral Exploitation, Tourism, Housing and Industrialisation. His Administration is investor friendly with policies that promote tax holidays, easy access to land titles and provision of supporting infrastructure.



The State

Nasarawa State shares a substantial percentage of its border with the Federal Capital, Abuja. It is host to a majority of the working and business population of Abuja and is easily accessible, within 20 minutes, from the Abuja City Centre. There is good network of roads and other infrastructure that support the movement of industrial goods and services. It is home to various tourist attractions including a warm and hospitable population.

THE ECONOMY & Business Prospects



Agriculture: Nasarawa State lies in the central section of Nigeria and is thus able to support the cultivation of almost all types of crops that grow in Nigeria. Mostly occupied by an agrarian population, there is suitable and fertile land for the commercial cultivation of Yams, Cassava, Citrus, Sesame Seed, Rice, Sorghum, Maize, etc. Most of the crops have industrial application in the production of livestock feeds, confectionery, pharmaceutical products, etc.

Solid Mineral: The State is appropriately tagged "Nigeria's Home of Solid Minerals". It is endowed with various forms of Solid Minerals which are available in economic and commercial quantities. Some of the Minerals found in the State include Tantalite, Marble, Granite, Limestone, Gemstones, Feldspar and Barite.

Tourism: From the lush green fields of this Savannah Region and its undisturbed forests, to the cascading waters of the Farin Ruwa waterfall and the picturesque Eggon rolling hills and caves, Nasarawa State is the ideal destination for nature lovers and adventurous tourists. Tourists can also enjoy the beauty of the Peperuwa Lake, the Akiri Warm Springs and the Keana Salt Village.

Real Estate: Being close to Abuja, the nation's capital, there is unlimited opportunity for the development of housing schemes. The State has also designated various areas as industrial estates for the citing of industries, megastores and hotels.

The Incentives

The Government of Nasarawa State subscribes to the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Initiative. It is therefore willing at all times to partner with local and foreign investors in developing its huge potential in various economic sectors. Government has put in place appropriate measures to encourage investors, such as quick access to land titles and tax holidays. The security of such investment is assured.

Investor's Haven

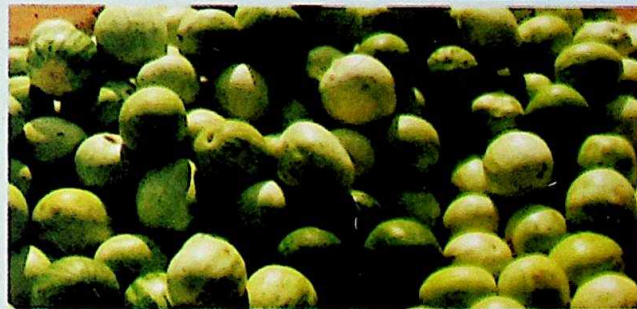
Looking for a place to invest your money?
Nasarawa State is the place for you.

NASARAWA has plenty of economic potentials in its favour. But more importantly, it is the proximity to markets in five states and Abuja, Nigeria's capital, which makes it a good place to do business. A peaceful state, Nasarawa has a good communication network including excellent Trunk A roads, telecommunication facilities and good IT infrastructure. There is a train station although trains hardly stop now because Nigeria's rail system is comatose. However, plans for the resuscitation of the service are ongoing, which means trains will, once again, stop in the state. Construction of intra-state roads is top priority of the administration. The aim is to further open up the state so investors can see the state's potentials. Security is good with the Nigerian Police, assisted by other security agencies, providing regular patrols. Nasarawa people, though cautious, are very hospitable. These are some of the things that make Nasarawa state an investment haven.

Getting to Nasarawa state is easy. The fastest way is by air although the nearest airports are the Nnamdi Azikiwe International airport, Abuja and the domestic airport in Jos, Plateau state. Both towns are about 200 kilometers to Lafia. It is a two and half hour drive. But have no fear. The roads are good all the way to Lafia, the capital, and beyond. The drive is perhaps a good way to see the scenic beauty and economic potentials, including solid mineral sites and vast fertile land good for agriculture in Nasarawa.

But Nasarawa is not immune to the inadequacies of the Nigerian state. Electricity is a big issue. Water is also an issue in the metropolis. However, the Doma administration is working towards improving energy supply to the state. Work is at an advanced stage on the Farin Ruwa Independent Hydro Electric Power project. The project, under construction and will be completed next year, is expected to contribute about 20 megawatts to existing supplies to enhance electricity supply. A French institutional investor is to build a power plant in Obi to take advantage of abundant coal resources to generate power. That will generate 120 MW. Water resources are also a major priority. Already contracts for rehabilitation and upgrade of water supply schemes in Lafia and five other local government areas have been awarded.

Petroleum products supply is no problem in the state. Lafia is serviced by an NNPC mega station situated right outside the town limits. Other reputable service stations dot the state providing petroleum products. Therefore, petroleum products scarcity is a non-issue in the state. In the same vein over 15 kilometers of road



has been fitted with solar-powered street lights to light up Lafia metropolis.

An added advantage of investing in the state is the availability of competent labour – both skilled and unskilled. There are various tertiary institutions including the Nasarawa State University, two polytechnics and a campus of the National Open University of Nigeria. There are also various technical and specialised colleges. Government has boosted youth empowerment by launching an economic empowerment scheme to give necessary support to youths and women to be self-sufficient and selfemployed.

Linked to labour is health which is part of the focal agenda of the Doma administration. There is a specialist hospital in Lafia and also a general hospital. Local government areas have hospitals and community clinics to assist with primary health care. There is an expanded and reorganised free medical programme for pregnant women and children under five. The goal is to improve healthcare delivery services, with emphasis on preventive healthcare in line with the requirement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations. The state is on course to meet these goals.

Government is providing enabling incentives because it wants quick industrialisation of the state. It is willing to provide the correct environment that will bring in investors. Part of the incentive is a huge tax rebate. The state is also willing to stand as guarantors for investors seeking financial assistance from Nigerian banks. The banking services in Lafia are excellent as almost all Nigeria's major banks have branches in Lafia, Keffi and other towns in the state. Infrastructure development is also improving with roads commissioned regularly under a new impetus on urban development.

One thing, for sure, is that there is safety of investment in Nasarawa State, and it is guaranteed by the state government.

LAFIA a town on the move

The state capital is both old and modern, but the Doma government is ensuring the town is business friendly

Lafia, capital of Nasarawa State, is a town with spirit. It is also prepared for expected influx of people. Its high street houses branches of some of the biggest banks in Nigeria. It is also tech-savvy with its own GSM/computer village nestled off the Jos-Makurdi road. Cyber cafés are in abundance offering IT services to complement the services of various telecom operators. Good Trunk A roads connect the capital to Abuja, Jos, Makurdi and other major towns. Its proximity to Abuja and other state capitals is a major factor in what Lafia is today, a cosmopolitan town.

Nasarawa State, created October 1 1996 has done well for itself within its relatively short time as a federating unit of Nigeria. Located in the middle belt region, between latitude 7 and 9 north and longitude 7 and 1 east, it was carved from the old Plateau state. Bounded on the north by Kaduna State, on the south by Benue State, on the east by Plateau and Taraba states and on the west by Abuja and Kogi State, Nasarawa state is a melting pot of various cultures. Multi-ethnic in nature, it has 13 local councils namely Kwanga, Awe, Doma, Karu, Keana, Keffi, Kokona, Lafia, Nasarawa, Nasarawa/Eggon, Obi, Toto and Wamba and 16 development areas. It has succeeded in weaving these various cultures together as one cohesive unit.

Like most northern towns and cities, Lafia is divided into two, the old and traditional part, close to the Emir's palace and main market and the newer and modern part, close to the seat of government. A bike ride into the old part is a travel back into the past. Mud huts, itinerant traders, the main market and the Emir's palace which, in the old days, used to be a place for the community to gather. It still is. An ultra-modern mosque, near the palace, is the only piece of modernity in the old town.

A ride into the newer part is a step into the future. Concrete buildings, done in the very latest styles, line the tarred streets on both sides. Shopping malls and comfortable hotels for the tourist and weary traveller abound in the metropolis. There are modern eateries, ATMs and call cafes and centers.

The state values education. There is the Nasarawa State University in Keffi, two polytechnics including the Federal Polytechnic and Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia, a study center of the National Open University of Nigeria and a school of Nursing and Midwifery. There are also various technical colleges, including an agricultural college and a college of education. The premium placed on education in the state has seen enrolment increased considerably. Statistics from the state ministry of education indicate primary school enrolment has gone up by over 100,000 pupils over the preceding academic session. This is, in part, a direct result of government's drive to boost education.

The state is popular for many reasons. Aside being the only state ever to host a serving American president (President Bill Clinton visited in 2000) it also hosted Queen Elizabeth II in 2003. Its proximity to other states and Abuja, the seat of government, makes the state important within the northern region and Lafia, once a sleepy town within the old Plateau state, is now a cosmopolitan place. These are not the state's only claim to fame. It has a very rich and vibrant culture and the people are very hospitable. In addition, it is the home of over 20 solid minerals from whence it earned its sobriquet, "Home of Solid Minerals". Minerals found within its boundary include beryl, feldspar, limestone, mica, coal, clays, dolomite and marble among others.

However, proximity to Abuja has its draw backs. There is a great influx of people into Nasarawa close to the federal capital, a result of increasing cost of living in the capital and deliberate action of the federal capital territory of displacing people. Now over 30 percent of low level workers working in Abuja live in the border areas of Karu, Nyanya, and Maraba, all in Nasarawa State. This has greatly stretched the meager facilities of the 12-year old state. The situation has been described as a "very peculiar circumstance". Containing the exodus is difficult and intricate.

Successive administrations have left their imprints on the young state. However, current occupier of the state's highest political office Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, (OON) and Madauchin Doma, has, within 18 months in power, stamped his own distinctive imprint on the state. Doma is the second democratically elected governor but the fourth in the 12-year old history of the state. A tested technocrat, the governor has succeeded in forming a team of experienced professionals to assist him as he leads the drive for the state's development. Doma and his team are guided by an all-encompassing 13-point agenda, which include agriculture, education, health, security, rural development, tourism, urban development, economic empowerment, industrialisation, solid mineral exploration, housing, civil service reorganization and cultural reorientation.

Governor Doma understands the heavy task confronting him as he tries to reposition the state. In pursuing the 13-point agenda, Doma has in mind the development of the people and economy of the state. Central to this is an effective civil service. Of the civil service, he says "our administration will endeavour to re-invigorate, re-energise and re-position the service for the difficult task of developing the state." He has reorganised and streamlined government ministries, departments and agencies with the aim of injecting new thinking into governance so as to make an impact on Nasarawa citizens. To increase enthusiasm among civil servants, training (in-service and overseas) programmes has

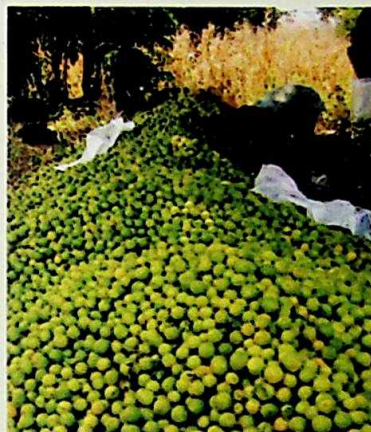
been introduced with various schemes including motorcycle and furniture loans approved.

Understandably the state needs both local and foreign investors and international assistance to develop its various economic sectors. Nigeria's northern region generally has been devoid of investment opportunities. This is not for want of investment potentials. Indeed various northern state governments have taken up the cause of industrialising their states by bringing in foreign investors. For Nasarawa, the potentials for investors are plenty: solid minerals, agriculture, culture and tourism, manufacturing especially in area of agro-allied industries: fruit canning, pottery works, etc. No doubt, the state needs investors if Aliyu Doma's dream of industrializing the state is to be achieved quickly.

Investors want a place where their investments are safe, where there are incentives to cushion costs incurred from bringing their money and expertise into uncharted territories. In other words, investors want a safe and conducive atmosphere to invest. To woo investors, Nasarawa has put in place various policies including zero tax relief measures to attract investors. There is also a surge in infrastructure development: road construction/rehabilitation projects have commenced in various parts of the state. Electrification projects are on-going including the Farin Ruwa Independent Hydro Electric Power project which will add an additional 22 megawatts to existing power supply. In the same vein there is a renewed effort at urban development with the administration's urban renewal strategy taking into cognizance Nasarawa indigenes' pride in their towns and homes.

Governor Doma takes pride in his achievement in urban development within his short time at the helm of affairs of the state. "One year is a very short time for everybody to aggregate tangible impact" but I must say I am satisfied with the achievements we have recorded so far particularly in the area of road construction. I think we have no equal in Nigeria. We are putting so much in it and the intention is to open up the state. We are leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that we open up rural areas to commerce and industry and development generally." So far over 400 kilometers of road construction and rehabilitation projects have been awarded including the 64 kilometer Gitata-Panda-Karu road, the Doma-Akwatta road and Toto-Umaisha road, both 50 kilometers long and the Obi-Assakio road, 88 kilometers.

It is no surprise that an urban renewal programme, launched August 2007 by the Doma administration, is one of the cardinal pillars of transforming Nasarawa. Under the programme, major towns are being re-planned. Lafia metropolis, for instance, has been provided with solar-powered street lights. Roads in the metropolis are being re-designed and re-constructed with the aim of expanding them. Drainages are also being constructed. Construction of 500 units of modern housing scheme is also part of the strategy. It is, however, not



limited to Lafia alone as Keffi and Doma, two other major towns in the state, are also undergoing urgent urban renewal.

The state's economic renaissance is of paramount importance to the Doma administration. Anything that will enhance the state's economic position, the governor takes seriously. One of them is culture and tourism, potentially money spinners for the state. Historically, the state has a deep cultural heritage. A cultural ambassador, Doma's passion for all things arts and culture can be seen in the sum (N1 billion) allocated to tourism development in the 2008 budget. It is also in evidence in the passion in which he talks about Farin Ruwa and the state's plan for it. He acknowledges that the state has "a resource that is unbeatable, it has no equal in Nigeria or indeed in Africa and we are planning to develop it fully to make it one of the best tourist resorts in Africa."

What Nasarawa Offers Investors

Every state wants to bring in massive investments into its boundary but very few are willing to create a welcoming environment for both local and foreign investors. Nasarawa state, north central Nigeria, is one of the states that wants massive investments and is willing to provide an environment that is conducive for economic growth. For Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, this is the key that will unlock the potentials of the state.

Upon being sworn-in as governor in 2007, Doma pledged to provide the state with committed and visionary leadership. To achieve this he fashioned out a 13-point agenda meant to serve as a spring board for a viable political system, economic development and social transformation of the state. Understanding what industrialisation will do for the state's people and economy, the Doma administration is keen to transform Nasarawa.

Firm policies to make the state an investors paradise are being implemented. Key among them is security. No investor or his investment is safe without adequate security. In various speeches to citizens of the state, Doma has repeatedly emphasized security as a core issue. And he has backed up his statements with action by supporting the various security agencies in the state with equipment and materials. Easy access to land and financing and tax rebates are also some investment-friendly policies introduced by the state.

Because of its location, the state enjoys easy access to large markets in five states and the federal capital. Helping to reach these markets is an efficient communication network including good roads, availability of modern communication services including the Internet and mobile telecommunication services. There is also good infrastructure. Where it is not available or does not meet required standards, contracts for the construction or upgrade has been awarded.

Labour is no problem as the state university and polytechnic and other colleges of higher learning graduate competent people who will fit in well into the labour market. Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma recently launched the Nasarawa State Programme for Economic Empowerment with a promise to train 1500 unskilled and semi-skilled youths in the first quarter of 2009 to add to the labour force.

Nasarawa State is also a tourist's delight. There are many tourist attractions visitors will find interesting. The spectacular Farin Ruwa (white water) fall is a tourist delight. So also are various hills scattered round the state. Most importantly, citizens of Nasarawa are very receptive, peace loving and warm. Above all there is a listening and responsive government. What more can an investor want?

At a Glance:

Why Nasarawa is good for business

- Proximity to five states and the federal capital territory Abuja and their markets
- Good communications network including truck roads, telephone and IT services
- Adequate security provided by the Nigeria police
- Available infrastructure
- Tax relief measures
- Easy access to land
- Easy access to financing
- Available competent labour
- A responsive government
- Conducive environment
- Hospitable people

Nasarawa state statistics

Governor: Aliyu Akwe Doma, OON and Madauchin Doma

Capital: Lafia

Area: 27,117 km

Population: 2,040,097 (2005 est.)

Official Language: English

Contact: Secretary to the State Government (SSG)

Email: info@nasarawastate.org

Website: www.nasarawastate.org

Farin Ruwa Eco-Tourism Resort Project

Nasarawa state initiative to diversify its economic base has led to the development of *Farin Ruwa* a natural waterfall located in Farin Ruwa Development Area, in the Wamba local government council. First discovered by the colonial masters in the 1950's who built a catering rest houses close to the fall to commercially exploit it, it was forgotten until the creation of the state in 1986. To protect the fall, the colonial administration had gazetted it and named it Marhal Forest Reserve.

With a height of 150 meters and a width of 50 meters, it is one of the best waterfalls in Nigeria. Government's decision to transform it into an eco-tourism plan is one way the state wants to exploit the waterfall. The *Farin Ruwa* Eco-Tourism Resort project is, without doubt, one that will help transform the economy of the north central state. Nasarawa is abundantly blessed by nature and the Altyu Akwe Doma administration is poised to use God's blessings to the benefit of citizens and visitors alike. The state plans to spend N3.5 billion to make the waterfall a source of revenue, jobs and recreation. The project has been described as "a master plan whose time has come."

Nasarawa is leaving no stone unturned in achieving great benefits from the water fall. Governor Doma calls *Farin Ruwa* the anchor on which the state tourism plan is hinged and is keeping plans for its development close



to his heart. But now, visitors can visit the fall, a testament to its natural aura. To make sure they come in greater numbers, the state government has instituted plans for the reconstruction of roads leading to the fall. Other necessary facilities are also being put into place.

Much of the surrounding environment within the fall is light forest, which makes it ideal for eco-tourism. The falls itself are beautiful and breathtaking. Tumbling down 150 metres, it is a cascade of three falls 50 metres wide. A World Bank official calls the magnificent falls "A hidden treasure." Its potentials are so well known that the World Tourism Organization, an agency of the United Nations, has listed it as a world tourist site.

For too long Nigeria's tourist potentials have been undeveloped and under-utilised but the Farin

Ruwa eco-tourism project is set to change that. The governor told Africa Today that "two or three investors have indicated interest and we are working very hard to finalise arrangements so that the project can takeoff as quickly as possible." When completed, it could be the biggest tourist destination in Nigeria and will not only put Nasarawa State on the world tourism map, but also transform Nigeria into a major tourist destination. Obviously the *Farin Ruwa* eco-tourism project is what is needed to jumpstart Nigeria's tourism industry. More of Nasarawa's tourism potentials are listed on its website www.nasarawastatourism.com.



'Come to Nasarawa State'

Nasarawa State is investors' haven. We have a unique advantage of being the nearest neighbour to the federal capital, the seat of the government of Nigeria. We have abundant resources, we have abundant land, our climate is good and our people are hospitable people and above all we are development-oriented, says Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma,.

How successful has been your drive to industrialise Nasarawa State considering it is a state with abundant investment potentials.

Doma: Investors are already coming to access the state's potentials. For example proposals have been received for the establishment of a plant to generate power supply using our coal in Obi. We have also received proposals for the establishment of a cement company at two different locations in the state. We have established the Solid Minerals Development Company Ltd in Nasarawa which will coordinate solid minerals activities. The local community is also being gradually enlightened about this God given resources that they have in their environment, being educated to cooperate with government and investors so that these resources can be maximally exploited for the benefit of everyone including themselves. I can tell you investors have started coming.

Specifically which solid mineral would you want developed quickly?

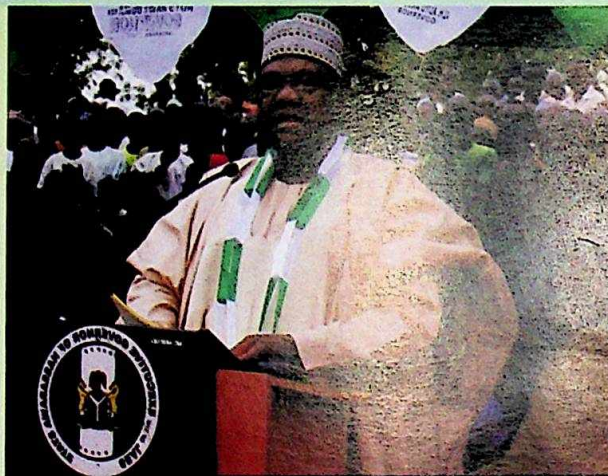
Doma: Coal

Any reason for that?

Doma: The reason is that we can use coal for generating power. I know that the topical issue in Nigeria today is lack of power supply. If we can use our own natural resource, the coal of Obi, which is one of the best in the world, to generate power then we have achieved something. And that is on course. I have had a full scale discussion with investors from France who have indicated their interest to come and set up a plant at Obi that will generate power using our coal – up to 120 megawatts is to be generated from coal.

Are you getting any encouragement from the federal government regarding solid minerals. I know there is a new mining policy. Are you happy with the new policy?

Doma: The new policy has just been launched and I think it's a comfortable one. The important thing is to ensure participation of the local population which has not been the case in the past. But the new



policy has taken care of that. You cannot sit down, for example in Lagos, have a mining lease in Nasarawa and exploit the people's copper or tantalite without getting the community involved. We want to avoid the situation where we will have a revolt in our communities and that is why I am happy the policy has adequately taken care of community participation in exploitation of minerals.

Apart from solid minerals, Nasarawa is also an agricultural state with a wide array of cash crops. What are your plans for this sector of the Nasarawa economy?

Doma: Our people are predominately agriculture people – they live on farming; farming is the real thing for them. There is virtually no person in Nasarawa state who does not have a farm, the difference maybe in the scale. We are very proud of this and we are encouraging the traditional occupation. Government on its part is trying to expose our farmers to the new trend in farming, new techniques. We are giving them better seedlings; we are providing tractors on hire service; we are using our agriculture extension services to enlightening and educate our farmers on new development in the agricultural sector.

Principally, we are emphasizing on the production of yam, rice and beniseed. Nasarawa State is the center of Beniseed production in Nigeria, if not in Africa. Beniseed is a very important export for us and we are encouraging our people to grow more of it. That is not to say we are not giving attention to rice, corn, sorghum and cassava. But our areas of comparative advantage are yam, beniseed, rice and cassava. We virtually have no competitors in these areas and we are

determined to step up production in the interest of state economy and of the Nigeria

Nasarawa has lots of yet undeveloped tourism sites, potentially rich sources of revenue. How are you doing to develop these sites and tourism generate income for the state?

Doma: We are planning big for tourism development. You know that tourism involves everything. It involves infrastructure, hygiene and medical services, immigration. Many things are involved in tourism. But we have a resource that is unbeatable and that is the Farin Ruwa tourist resort. It has no equal in Nigeria, indeed in Africa and we are planning to develop it fully to make it one of the best tourist resorts in Africa. I am happy to say the federal government is giving us all the necessary support. We have gotten two or three investors who have indicated interest and we are working very hard to finalise arrangements so that the project can takeoff as quickly as possible. But we are keeping the details to ourselves because it is a goldmine and we are wary of any person who would come to steal the show from us or to dwarf us in this particular area of our resource development.

What are Nasarawa's most pressing challenges and how have you been able to address them since becoming governor?

Doma: One year is a very short time for everybody to aggregate tangible impact. But I must say I am satisfied with the achievements we have recorded so far, particularly in the area of road construction. I think we have no equal in Nigeria. We are putting so much in it and the intention is to open up the state. Once you have roads, good roads, socio-economic activities will come naturally. The Romans say civilization follows the road. Wherever you have roads, you have civilization and we are fully aware of this and we are leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that we open up rural areas to commerce and industry and development generally. Another area is education. We are emphasizing very seriously on the need for our people to send their children to school, take care of them when in school and to ensure that our children get good education because with education, their future is guaranteed. We don't want to be parents who have no concern for the future of their children.

You recently launched an economic empowerment scheme for women and youths...

Doma: Youths are the future of tomorrow and we need to give them a pride of place in the scheme of things in the development of our state. It was only about two weeks ago that I launched the economic empowerment scheme for the purpose of giving our youths and women all the necessary support that they require to be on their own; to be self-sufficient, self-employed and to be satisfied and happy people instead of continuing to be dependent and be a parasite on the society.

You raised an alarm recently over the high rate of urban-rural migration. What have you done to stem the trend?

Doma: Our intention is not to stop people coming into Nasarawa State. But this is a very peculiar circumstance where the federal government, to be specific the federal capital territory, decided to push people outside Abuja and the people chose to come to Nasarawa State. They came to us when we were not prepared to receive them. Our facilities are now over-stretched, our schools are over-stretched, our hospitals are overstretched everything is over-stretched. And we do not have sufficient financial capacity to contain the situation. That is why we are appealing to the federal government, to donor agencies to come and assist us, to come to our support.

Specifically, in what areas do you want international assistance and support?

Doma: In the areas of development of infrastructure, environmental sanitation, medical facilities. It is not enough for us to contain the exodus, the huge population that moved from the federal capital to Karu, Nyanya, Maraba (suburbs of Nasarawa state close to Abuja) areas. Mark you over 30 percent of low level workers working in Abuja live in Nasarawa. They do! And they are overstressing our facilities. But we are planning to tackle the issue of infrastructure, sanitation and medical services. We are doing that but what I am saying is that our efforts would not be enough because people are moving into Nasarawa State on a daily basis.

What do you have to tell investors and tourists who want to visit Nasarawa State

Doma: Nasarawa State is investors' haven. We have a unique advantage of being the nearest neighbour to the federal capital, the seat of the government of Nigeria. We have abundant resources, we have abundant land, our climate is good and our people are hospitable people and above all we are development-oriented. So the more investors we have in our state the better for us. We welcome them and we invite them to come.



Major tourism sites in Nasarawa state

No	LOCAL GOVT AREA/COUNCILS	TYPE OF ATTRACTION
1	Agidi	Eggon Angbne, Neko Hills, Missionary Settlement, First Eggon Chiefs Settlement
2	Agwada	Fishing ponds, Local pottery centre, Cloth weaving centre, Blacksmith works, Agwada Hills/rock formation
3	Akun	Campbell's tomb, Ende Cave, Anwenshe Akuadhe (breasted girl stone figure)
4	Akwanga	Numan hills
5	Awe	Awe salt springs/mines
6	Azara	Akiri salt mines, Akiri warm springs
7	Doma	Doma dam, Efo-go Ogiri, Cloth weaving center
8	Ekye	Adiwo fishing pond, Rukubi-fishing ponds
9	Farin Ruwa	Farin Ruwa falls, Bibal water falls, Gwor Hill
10	Gadabuke	Crocodile river
11	Giza	Giza crocodile pond, Ancient well, Odu shrine, Ashama shrine
12	Karshi	Karshi Hills, Bagaji Hills, Kurape Hills, Dauri forest/cave
13	Karu	Masaka spring water, Austin Bike Fish ponds, Gurku Hills
14	Keana	Keana salt village, Ossana tombs, Ossana palace, Missionary tomb
15	Keffi	Captain Moloney Tomb/Hills, Rafin Kurmi spring water, Gwara spring water, Leather processing centre, Mkeffi dyeing pits
16	Kokona	Gurku Toni Hills, Angwa Takwa Hill, Mata Lalle Hill, Shashamiya Forest/Shrine
17	Lafia Central	Dyeing pits, Traditional cloth weaving center, Calabash carving center, Spring water
18	Lafia East	Peperuwa lake, Obele lake, Onda Kya Kwa lake, Shishem/Kokus Hill, Dutse Lake, Agbo
19	Lafia North	Shabu pottery works, Akpa-Akpa Forest reserve/spring water, Amuwa fishing ponds
20	Loko	Bakono game reserves, Ayele springs, Missionary tomb
21	Nasarawa	Emir's palace, Ara rock, River Kurafe and Hadari Confluence
22	Nasarawa Eggon	Local pottery center, Ava'uanja pond, Eggon hills
23	Obi	Mugayaki shrine
24	Panda	Kukan cave, Darigo foot print/cave, Woman figure rock
25	Tobo	Bassa Uguwnu dance festival
26	Udege	Omadegye dams, Oku-akpa rock formation/cave, Inaba cool spring water, Kusulu Ngoji Hills and ranges
27	Wamba	Undo rocks (Black Marble), Karanga (Ganze)

