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**BRIEF BY MR. BERNARD OKUMAGBA, THE HONOURABLE
COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DELTA STATE ON
THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM TO DELTA STATE
ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY, 2009.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Esteemed delegates from the Nigeria Governors' Forum, I am greatly honoured to host you on this visit and to welcome you most warmly to Delta State. My Ministry is one of 24 Ministries/Directorates in the State. My brief today covers the activities of my Ministry as well as our overall development efforts in the State.

2.0 MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING

2.1 My Ministry is officially assigned the following responsibilities amongst others:

- Preparation of the Annual and Supplementary Budgets.
- Control of Expenditures / Due Process.
- Co-ordination of the State's Medium and Long-Term Development Plans.
- Research and compilation of relevant Statistics to guide development planning.
- Co-ordination of the State's Economic and Investment Forums / Summits
- Co-ordination of Overseas Development Assistance in the State.
- Liaising with the National Planning Commission (NPC) on development matters.

2.2. All the services mentioned above are rendered through the Eight (8) Departments of my Ministry namely:

- Department of Statistics
- Department of Planning (Environmental Sector)

- Department of Planning (Economic Sector)
- Department of Planning (Social Sector)
- Department of Planning (General Administration)
- Department of Administration and Finance
- Department of Budget
- Department of Overseas Development Assistance

Each department is headed by a Director, who reports to the Permanent Secretary, the Accounting Officer of the Ministry. The Permanent Secretary in turn reports to me as the Chief Executive of the Ministry. There are currently, a total of 303 staff in the Ministry.

2.3. I will now go on to highlight some specific Programmes/projects which have flowed from the functions of my Ministry mentioned above.

i. **Preparation of Annual and Supplementary Budgets**

The budget remains the instrument for the co-ordination of public expenditure of Government which is one of my Ministry's responsibilities. My Ministry under the current administration successfully articulated the budgets for 2008 and 2009. The 2009 budget stands at N237.6 billion made-up of N85.7 billion for recurrent expenditure, or (36%) and N151.9 billion or (64 %) for capital expenditure. As in the past financial years, the dominance of capital budget over recurrent budget this year, demonstrates this administration's commitment towards massive infrastructural development throughout the state. Anchored on our Administration's 3-Point Agenda, the 2009 budget has the following guiding principles:

- Poverty eradication and empowerment of the citizens;
- Increased access of citizens to improved quality healthcare, social service and infrastructure aimed at attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

- Enhancement and exploitation of public-private partnership in all aspects of economic and social development of the State so as to foster the generation of more employment opportunities for our teeming youths;
- Diversification of the economic base of the State with particular emphasis on the promotion of agricultural activities; and
- The redirection of the role of Government to that of facilitator and provider of enabling environment for the private sector to thrive and create wealth through encouragement of partnership with private sector operators.

ii. **Expenditure Control/Due Process**

Beyond Budget preparation, my Ministry has the duty of ensuring appropriate implementation of the approved budget for each financial year and for this purpose, we vet all expenditure requests from the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government to ensure -

- That they are supported by budgetary provisions;
- That they are in accordance with the policy direction of government;
- The appropriateness of vote of charge (that expenditures are correctly charged to the relevant Heads of Expenditure in the Budget);
- Adherence to extant rules and procedures.
- Value for money and to guard against wastages.

The exercise of this function is aided by a robust ICT platform in line with global best practices. The State's entire public finance management system is based on SAP ER3 which has improved accuracy and speed of transactions. The administration has high concern for probity and prudence in public expenditure. This concern inspired the Executive bill for Fiscal Responsibility which has now been passed into Fiscal Responsibility Law. The Law has numerous provisions for ensuring appropriateness of expenditure to ensure that

Deltans derive commensurate value for them and that the liabilities assumed by Government are acceptable. In the spirit of this law, the Ministry is routinely required to monitor budget performance by MDAs on a quarterly basis. Reports therefrom will specify details of every expenditure including paid approvals and outstanding commitments.

It needs be noted that there is a great inadequacy of financial resources to meet the overwhelming development challenges of the State. Indeed, one of the steps adopted by the ministry in this regard was to review existing Recurrent Expenditure Levels of MDAs at the beginning of the 2008 financial year in order to free-up some funds to augment capital development programmes. These levels have been maintained for the current year.

iii. Public Complaints Desk

One of the avenues for monitoring budget performance in the State is the Public Complaints Desk domiciled in the Ministry of Economic Planning. This is a special monitoring unit which receives representations from Deltans on the state of projects for which they think a remedial action or government special intervention is necessary to improve quality or pace of delivery. As at the close of last year, the unit had received a total of 264 petitions and reported on over 216 of them to government. This service has helped to mitigate poor performance by contractors.

iv. Statistics

The Central Office of Statistics for the State is domiciled in my Ministry and is statutorily responsible for the collection, processing, analysis and publication of state Statistics. It carries out these functions through the conduct of both ad-hoc and routine surveys covering all aspects of socio-economic activities across the State. Among the routine data gathering programmes concluded since the inception of this administration are Retail Market Prices of

Farm Produce and Manufactured goods; the 3rd edition of Facts and Figures About Delta State; and Delta State Weekly Market Prices.

Similarly, in order to improve the economic database of the State, my Ministry has almost concluded the production of a General Economic Atlas of Delta State. The objectives of the project include:

- providing a data base for development planning; and
- to assist policy makers with update information on project locations and spread;

The production of an Economic Atlas is very painstaking and we are determined to deliver a document that meets the aspirations of Deltans.

v. **Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)**

My Ministry is also responsible for the general co-ordination of all Donor-Assisted Sustainable Human Development Programmes in the State. In some cases, we are involved in direct implementation of projects. Objectives of Interventions by Donors are:

- To provide access to affordable credit facilities for communities to enhance their participation in development, management and ownership of community-based activities.
- To promote community participation in Income-generating activities of targeted communities through access to affordable credit facilities.
- To promote good health practice and environmental awareness in benefiting communities.
- To empower Community-based Organizations (CBOs) for development initiatives and replication of donor-assisted poverty reduction development project models.
- To develop self-esteem and positive mental picture in beneficiaries.

Specific activities under existing collaboration Schemes

a. *Skills Acquisition Centres*

A number of Skills acquisition centres have been established in the State with the active participation of my Ministry e.g. the Sapele Youth Resource Learning Centre in collaboration with UNICEF, the UNDP-Initiated Centres at Ozoro, Agbarho, Issele-Uku etc established under the UNDP 15th Country Programme Initiative.

b. *UNICEF*

The UNICEF Programme of collaboration with Delta State covers six programme areas which are implemented by various line ministries. These are:

- Survival and Early Child Care
- Basic Education
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Community Development

Apart from Health e.g. immunization which covers the entire State, other activities are operational in six communities in three focal LGAs in the State. These are - Aniocha South (Ashama and Olodu)

Ughelli North (Omovwodorirhibo and Uvwiamma-Agbarho)

Sapele (Ugborhen and Okuoke)

UNICEF has also been active in some selected schools tagged UNICEF Child Friendly Schools e.g. Abuanor primary School, Ogwashi-Uku which was recently fully renovated and supplied with Desk, tables, books etc.

c. *UNITAR:*

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is collaborating with the State in a number of programme areas as follows:

- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
- Governance and Local Administration Management

- Environment Profiles and Compliance
- Health, Safety and Environment, Quality and Maintenance
- Management
- Participatory Consultation approaches.

The State has participated in a number of trainings organized by the programme within and outside Nigeria.

d. UNDP

The UNDP-Initiated Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) is a Community-Based Poverty Reduction strategy. The underlying objective of the scheme is to provide capacity building support to foster the effective contribution of the rural and urban poor dwellers towards an active and effective State economy. My Ministry has continued to use Government resources to replicate UNDP initiatives in communities annually such as:

- Establishment of Community Micro projects such as food processing mills (palm oil, cassava and bakery) in selected communities across the State.
- Support of agricultural activities, such as cassava demonstration farms, poultry, piggery, snailry and fisheries also in selected communities.

Also, Delta State is participating in the 7th Country programme of the UNDP. A team from the UNDP just left the State after a three days interactive sessions with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government aimed at developing the annual work plan, Medium Term Cooperation Framework and the Memorandum of Understanding for Country Programme from 2009 – 2012.

e. UNFPA

My Ministry coordinates and implements the activities of the Population and Development (P & D) project of the United Nations Fund (UNFPA). The P & D project is one of the four (4) projects of the UNFPA programme of assistance to Delta State and coordinates the other three (3) projects of Reproductive Health (RH) domiciled in the Ministry of Health, Family Life and HIV / AIDS Education (FLHE) domiciled in the Ministry of Education and the Gender / Advocacy project in the Ministry of Information. The major functions of the P & D project apart from its coordinating role is the collection of reproductive health statistics to measure the impact of the UNFPA intervention and also to use such statistics to assist government in planning.

vi. Automated Payroll and Personnel System using Biometrics

In support of Programmes directed towards ensuring efficiency in public expenditure, the Delta State Government has entered into partnership with Access Bank Plc. to develop, deploy and manage an integrated payroll and personnel information system using biometrics. Essentially, the solution takes advantage of global trends in information technology to capture biometric features of individuals. With each individual having distinct biometric features, all staff changes in the Public Service of the State will be tracked with promptness and accuracy. In addition, the solution will assist the State in:

- creating easily accessible data base that will aid planning and development, particularly manpower planning;
- reducing the time required to compute salaries as well as ensure prompt payment of same;
- To eliminate any incidence of Ghost Workers in the State.

As a first step towards realizing these objectives, a comprehensive data capture exercise has been concluded. The Report of the exercise is still under consideration and a further validation exercise is in progress. The next phase of

the implementation process will be the deployment of the software for the payroll and personnel management. It is hoped that this phase, which includes training of Civil Servants that will manage the system, will be concluded shortly.

vii. Delta State Vision 2020

Traditionally, budgets derive from the long-term visions and plans of government. Mindful of recent development challenges across the economies of the world, Delta State Government decided to develop a Long-term plan to be known as Delta State Vision 2020 document. The ultimate goal is the production and adoption of a Delta State Vision 2020 document which will outline a development plan for Delta State leading up to the year 2020. The State Vision 2020 project comprises four organs. (a) The State Vision Council (b) The Steering Committee (c) The Sub-Committees / Thematic Work Groups and (d) The Secretariat of the Delta State Vision 2020 project (which is the Ministry of Economic Planning). Membership of the State Vision Council chaired by His Excellency, the Governor includes his Deputy, former Governors of the State, former Deputy Governors, the three Senators representing Delta State at the National Assembly, three Honourable members of the Federal House of Representatives, the two Honourable Ministers of Delta State origin in the Federal Executive Council, the leadership of the Delta State House of Assembly, distinguished Captains of Industry of Delta State origin, elder statesmen, some traditional rulers, representatives of various organization's, unions, associations and some members of the Delta State Executive Council. The State Vision Council has responsibility for providing leadership for the project, reviewing and approving the recommendations of the Steering Committee, reviewing the progress of work and approving the final vision document and modalities for its implementation. The State Steering Committee is similarly made up of distinguished Delta State citizens from a broad spectrum

of the society. Membership of both the State Vision Council and the State Steering Committee was structured to ensure representation for the widest spectrum of stakeholder groups in order to ensure inclusiveness and ownership of the process. The State Steering Committee has responsibility for producing the Delta State Vision 2020 document and presenting it to the State Vision Council for review and approval. The detailed work of the Steering Committee is carried out via its twelve subcommittees which are Strategic Frame Work and Economic Direction, Energy, Physical Infrastructure, Human Infrastructure, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Industry, Commerce, Science and Technology, Finance and Fiscal Management, Lands, Urbanization and Regional Panning, Environment, Governance, Culture, Tourism and Entertainment and Cross Cutting Issues.

The Sub-Committees have the responsibility to critically examine and develop blue prints for their respective subject areas, which will be subsequently reviewed by the State Steering Committee and the State Vision Council. The Sub-Committees submitted their draft reports earlier in the year which were deliberated upon by the Steering Committee and the final drafts which have incorporated inputs from the Steering Committee are ready to be forwarded to the State Vision Council for further review. After inputs from all organs have been fully incorporated in the reports of the various Sub-Committees, the reports will be incorporated into a single Delta State Vision 2020 document and presented to the State Vision Council for a final review and adoption/approval for implementation. Information regarding the detailed Membership of the State Vision 2020 Council and the Steering Committee as well as information regarding the terms of reference for the various organs and other activities with regards to the Delta State Vision 2020 project can be seen at the website:- www.deltastatevision2020.com. During the course of this work, several invitations were made to all Deltans in the print and electronic media inviting all and sundry to participate in this process by sending

memorandum to the Delta State Vision 2020 Secretariat (i.e. the Ministry of Economic Planning) or to any of the Sub-Committees / thematic work groups. The response from Deltans has been very encouraging. On the whole, the Delta State Vision 2020 project provides all Deltans with an opportunity to engage ourselves and to utilize our various experiences and expertise in defining the Delta State of our dreams.

3.0 BRIEF BACKGROUND ON DELTA STATE

- 3.1. Delta State, also known as the “**Big Heart**” of Nigeria, was created on 27th August, 1991 and has a population of a little over 4.0 million people according to the 2006 National Census. The State occupies a total area of 18,050km² with about one-third of the State lying in the mangrove swamp. The State also has a coastline of about 163km.
- 3.2 There are five major ethnic groupings – Urhobos, Ibos, Itsekiris, Isokos and Ijaws. Major cities and towns in the State include Asaba, Warri, Sapele, Ughelli, Agbor, Patani, Bomadi, Burutu, Oleh, Koko, Ozoro, Kwale, Ogwashi-Uku and Abraka among others.
- 3.3. The State is a leading producer of crude oil and natural gas in Nigeria. The repository of natural gas in the State is more than oil (about 40% of the national total of 150 trillion cubic feet). Oil-based industrial facilities in the State include the Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company; a gas plant; steel complex; two gas fired electricity stations and oil export terminus.
- 3.4. In addition to crude oil & natural gas deposits, the State is richly endowed with Agricultural, Forestry, Fishery and various mineral resources including Rubber, Oil Palm, Silica, Industrial clay, Kaolin, Fruits of various types, Timber etc.

4.0. THE 3-POINT AGENDA OF THE DELTA STATE GOVERNMENT

The framework for the accelerated development of Delta State by the present Administration headed by His Excellency Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan is based on an integrated development strategy flowing from the Government's three Point Agenda of Peace and Security, Human Capital Development and Infrastructure Development which are briefly described below:

4.1. Peace and Security

Since the inception of the Uduaghan administration, Delta State has witnessed, and continues to enjoy, relative peace and security of lives, properties and investments. The perception of violence, hostage-taking and disruption of production activities hitherto associated with the State has given way to prevailing peace and security following the interventions of the Governor.

It is noteworthy that his first task in less than 48 hours after assumption of office was the constitution of the Delta Security and Waterways Committee (DSWC) that is mandated to monitor and report movement and activities in the hitherto restive riverine areas and thereby prevent any breach of peace and security. Delta Security and Waterways Committee (DSWC) is one of the institutional arrangements manned by well trained and experienced personnel to manage peace and security in the State. Government is continuously engaging traditional rulers, chiefs, youth leaders, market women, and security agencies in discussions in a proactive manner such that before any contentious issues and flash points develop, they are resolved and nipped in the bud. Consequently, Delta State has remained distinct, peaceful and secured within the larger Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

4.2. **Human Capital Development**

The peace and security efforts of the Uduaghan administration are complemented by human capital development initiatives. The capacity of the State's human resource is being strengthened across board including educational empowerment, beneficial health programmes for the generality of the masses, skills acquisition and improvement for the workforce as well as introduction of several welfare packages for the labour force, among others. The free maternal healthcare programme and the micro-credit schemes introduced by the Uduaghan administration are all inspired by the Governor's commitment to human capital development.

4.3. **Infrastructure Development**

In the area of Infrastructure development, we have recorded great strides across the State. From roads construction and reconstruction, airport development, City beautification projects, street lights and general urban renewal initiatives, the State government has displayed overwhelming commitment to upliftment of the lives and living conditions of the people of our State.

5.0 **ACTIVITIES UNDER THE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

5.1. This agenda is being pursued by many concurrent Programmes in various sectors. These include the following:

- a. *DELTA STATE MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAMME (DMCP) AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS*

In 2008, the DMCP empowered over 25,000 Deltans from over 2,000 groups or Clusters engaged in four activity areas namely **Cottage Industry, Trading, Agriculture and the Service Industry**. The businesses, trades and vocations of these people are thriving and their living standards have

improved. A total sum of ₦450 million was disbursed under the DMCP in 2008. Similarly, the Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (**DESOPADEC**) also disbursed ₦1.2 billion to Co-operatives in oil producing communities which impacted positively on the lives of people, including the Youths in these communities. The State Government is also partnering with the Bank of Industry to fund Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the State. In this regard we have signed an MOU with the Bank of Industry and we have also contributed our own share of ₦500 million to the ₦1 billion fund to be used to support the SMEs to enable them expand their scope of operations, create more jobs and contribute to our economy. Furthermore, the State Government is partnering with Oceanic Bank Plc to fund Small Medium Scale Enterprises in the State through the Delta/Oceanic Micro-Credit Scheme Account (**DOMSA**) to the tune of ₦200 million.

b. *PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILLS ACQUISITION*

Through various programmes of government such as the Peasant Farmers Support (PFS), the Youth Empowerment Through Agriculture (YETA), Live Own and Farm (LOAF) Programmes, many Deltans have been empowered. In 2008 alone, peasant farmers in four different enterprise groupings - Fishery, Poultry, Piggery and Crops were assisted with working capital, tools and inputs. A total sum of ₦600 million was committed to this programme – Peasant Farmers Support Programme in 2008. Similarly, in 2008, 450 Youths were trained and assisted to become productive farmers through the State Youth Empowerment through Agriculture (YETA) Programme in the areas of livestock production, Aquaculture, Crop production, e.t.c. Those trained are currently being assisted with input supply and technical support.

c. *HEALTH CARE*

The vision of the State is to provide accessible and affordable healthcare services with a view to achieving a life expectancy of 70 years for citizens. Among the policies for achieving these are:

- Ensuring that in every 5 kilometer radius of the State, there is functional primary healthcare centre; and
- Bringing healthcare services to the doorsteps of citizens thereby improving health indices.
- Providing Free Maternal Healthcare.
- Increasing immunization coverage.

The following programmes are highlights of the policy thrusts just mentioned:

c (i). *FREE RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME*

Through the “Free rural health programme”, many lives have been saved. Under this scheme, mobile clinics manned by Senior Medical personnel are dispatched to rural communities to conduct on the spot diagnosis and treatment of the rural poor who ordinarily have no access to conventional healthcare. Major diseases have been combated and free surgeries carried out across the length and breadth of the state.

c (ii). *FREE MATERNAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME*

This programme which was launched in 2007 is aimed at achieving one of the health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The scheme covers antenatal care, normal delivery, provision of routine drugs through out the duration of pregnancy and up to one week after delivery. Under this programme, the State Government pays the antenatal bills of all women registered in public Hospitals. In 2008 alone, over 60,000 antenatal bookings and 20,000 deliveries were recorded under the programme.

c. (iii). *OTHER SPECIAL AREAS OF INTERVENTION IN HEALTHCARE*

- Functional Accident and Emergency Centres at Central Hospitals, Agbor and Warri, to cater for accident victims and patients with other acute illnesses.
- Functional Anti-Retroviral Treatment Centre at Central Hospital, Agbor, to cater for patients in the State with HIV/AIDS.
- Haemodialysis Centre at Central Hospital, Warri, where patients with Renal (Kidney) failure will be managed.
- HIV/AIDS awareness centre located at the office of the State Primary Health Care Development Agency is provided to function as a centre for awareness creation and counselling.
- Special Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) Centres established across the State (in almost all Local Government Headquarters) for counselling and testing of people for HIV/AIDS infection.

d. *EDUCATION SUB-SECTOR*

Government continues to pursue the objective of giving equal access to Educational opportunities to all Deltans. In this regard, we have implemented a number of education enhancement measures including the re-opening of many schools shut down during the past ethnic crises, payment of examination fees for secondary school students, bursary schemes and subsidized fees for students of tertiary institutions. We also released the sum of N1billion as our counterpart fund for the Universal Basic Education Scheme (UBE).

Government is eager to reduce the student – teacher ratio in the primary and post primary schools in the state and has embarked on the process of employing a total of 5,600 teaching and non-teaching staff. One of the policy thrusts in the Education sub-sector is to ensure availability of adequate manpower for the learning process in the public primary and secondary schools system.

e. *2008 CONDITIONAL GRANTS SCHEME FOR MDGs*

The State released the sum of N1billion as counterpart fund for the 2008 conditional grants scheme. Having fulfilled the requirements for the payment of 50 per cent counterpart fund into the dedicated account, the National Committee on Conditional Grants has now released part of the sum of N2billion which the State is currently applying to the funding of key projects and programmes –in critical areas of need requiring intervention towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Projects are on-going in health, sanitation and Youth development sub-sectors.

6.0 ACTIVITIES UNDER THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

On infrastructural development, we are implementing a number of initiatives. We are presently building the Asaba International Airport to take advantage of the growing business opportunities within the State and across the Niger. We are also liaising with other relevant parties towards the expansion of the Osubi Airport to enable it take bigger aircrafts. In the area of road construction, work is currently going on in many township roads and highways across the state to provide an enabling environment for economic growth and development. Similarly road construction work is also going on in the riverine areas and hinterlands. Several road dualization projects are currently being executed across the State. The dualization of the 150Km Warri/Ughelli/Asaba Highway has already commenced and its strategic importance is to link the Warri Port to the commercial city of Onitsha. We have been discussing with the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the issuance of a Free Trade Zone (FTZ) license for Koko which would activate significant business activities in the State. This would provide ample opportunities for multinational companies seeking to expand their operations

through outsourcing and other production and manufacturing concerns. To facilitate the FTZ, preliminary works on the dualization of 32KM Koko – Ugbenu road have commenced to open up the area and facilitate economic activities. Government's efforts directed at stimulating increased business activities at the Warri Port have started to yield dividends as the volume of goods being imported through the Port is increasing by the day. Because the totality of all the revenue receipts of government from all sources is insufficient to provide the critical infrastructure necessary to drive business and boost the economy, various strategies are being pursued by government including public / private partnership (PPP) for the infrastructural development of the State. Accordingly, the Delta State Integrated Development Act has been enacted. The Agency will ultimately provide the platform for foreign as well as local private investment inflow into the state. We are determined to grow the economy of our state through various methods. We are conscious of the limitations of an Oil dependent economy since oil is an exhaustible resource. In this regard, we have commenced work on actualizing our Warri Industrial Business Park (WIBP) project under a Public-Private Partnership arrangement. Warri Industrial Business Park is planned to be a modern environmentally friendly mixed-use industrial, business and recreational development park covering an area of 300 hectares. We plan to have in place an Industrial and Business Park with uninterrupted power supply, effective communication facilities, water, good drainage system, Security and all other infrastructure and amenities required for the sustenance of industrial growth. The Park will offer Lease and Land options to tenants (manufacturing companies, service companies e.t.c.) at competitive rates. We believe that a secure industrial and business park with world class facilities will reverse capital outflow from the State and attract investments – both foreign and local. We also that the WIBP will provide a platform for the take-off of numerous small and medium scale enterprises in the state providing services and needed inputs to the major

manufacturing concerns in the industrial and business park. The presence of the WIBP will also lead to the development of sophisticated technical and business skill base, reduction in cost of production and consequently higher profits to the business enterprises. It will also result in increased tax revenue to Government.

The State has overall energy demand of 1000MW out of which only about 100 MW is available from PHCN. This power demand/estimates is based on available indices as well as industrial demand growth forecast. Having identified power generation as a major problem in the Energy sub-sector, the State has commenced the process of establishing an Independent Power Plant (IPP) through Private Public Partnership (PPP). The plant will generate 150MW of electricity. We are also partnering with the Federal Government in the area of IPP. In this connection, Delta State has made her contribution of ₦15.9 billion to the Federal Government towards the realization of the National Independent Power Project (NIPP).

Between May 29 2007 to date, 27 electricity projects involving the construction and installation of 300KVA, 33/11Kv transformer substations and 7.5MVA, 33/11Kv transformer substation with the accompanying overhead/low tension lines were awarded across the state out of which 21 have been completed and commissioned. One is awaiting commissioning while the remaining 5 are at various levels of completion. In particular, the State Government in 2008 installed 1 (No) 25 MVA transformer substation at AT&P Sapele as part of efforts to revitalise the company and to boost its economic activities in the area. It is our firm believe that with completion of all these projects including the 7.5MVA substations enumerated above, the Government would have made appreciable impact in the area of power distribution in the State.

In the area of transmission, Government in realization of the challenges of inadequacy of transmission from outside the State has embarked on the phased

construction of the Delta State 132 KV power grid transmission line from the Delta IV power station at Ekakpamre to Ogwashi - Uku to boost power supply and stabilize electricity within the State.

7.0 INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE

7.1. Mindful of the reference to tax revenue in the immediately preceding section, permit me to call your attention to steps being taken to boost Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). Firstly, chargeable rates and fees for Government services are being reviewed in line with current realities. To achieve this, an Inter Ministerial Committee was set up. This Committee has submitted its report. Following this, a bill has already been sent to the House of Assembly on new rates and fees which is currently being considered by the House. Secondly, strategies are being worked out to fully bring the informal sector of the State's economy into the state's revenue base. Thirdly, the Board of Internal Revenue is being re-positioned and strengthened for higher effectiveness and efficiency in its tax administration role. All these, with expected higher compliance rates and increased return on investments are expected to result in increased Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). In 2009, we are targeting an Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of =N=35.2 billion as against the sum of =N=18 billion achieved in 2008. With the foregoing measures and other Strategies in the works, we hope to achieve the N35.2 billion IGR target for 2009.

8.0 HARNESSING THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN DELTA STATE.

There are seven key areas of investment opportunities within the State:

- Energy
 - Gas
 - Electricity

- Transport
 - Highways (Already started)
 - Deep Sea Port
 - Railways
 - Airport Facilities (Already Started)
- ICT (Computer Hard and Software, Telephony, Internet and Video services)
- Housing: New Towns and New Estate Developments.
- Agriculture: Large Scale Farming in Rubber, Oil Palm, Aquaculture and Snail production.
- Manufacturing: Seeking manufacturers in various sectors from Steel to Plastics and Glass.
- Tourism: Like Tinapa, Delta State offers so many beautiful beaches, rivers and Creeks that rival the best locations in the world.

Our overall goal in Delta State is to become Africa's premier logistics hub as well as the destination of choice for entrepreneurs and investors seeking to establish factories for quality goods.

This will be accomplished through provision of:

- Targeted and dedicated Infrastructure.
- Secure and safe environment for Investors and Assets.
- One Stop Investment platform managed in the Governor's Office which helps potential investors to avoid bureaucratic bottlenecks and smoothes the process of establishing their business in the state.

We have identified several areas for specific industries. To encourage those industries to locate their business in these areas, we are targeting and in some cases dedicating some critical infrastructure to these areas.

Example: KOKO EXPORT FREE ZONE.

We are currently constructing a new road to the Export Free Zone for easy access as well as providing dedicated power (About 150 Mw) through a new Independent Power Plant.

We are making the logistics of establishing business easy and straightforward by providing;

- Raw material Data and information on best locations in the state to site your business venture
- assistance with land acquisition and ensure that documentation is easy and handled without hassles.(This is a combination of our Ministry of Lands and Surveys/Commerce & Industry, Local Government authorities and Communities)
- We also help with providing pre-industry studies including Market Share Analysis (Delta State, Nigeria and in some cases West Africa)
- We provide a Project Security Support Strategy Report: This is a report that looks at all the security risks of siting the project in the state and provides suitable mitigation/remedies to enable an investor have peace of mind.
- We help with issues regarding regulatory authorities. This is sometimes a matter of collaboration with Federal agencies or in some cases State and local council laws
- We also help investors in securing appropriate labour pool of qualified Deltans or Nigerians when there is no suitable Deltan for the job. In some cases, Investors can assess the “Train for Purpose programme”.
- The “Train for a Purpose” is a human capital development initiative where the Government trains specific persons to meet an investor skilled labour requirement. This ensures that any investor can be guaranteed appropriate staff when they site their investment in Delta State

9.0. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Delta State has continued to create and sustain Peace & Security by direct empowerment of Deltans and providing them opportunities for productive self - expression through effective Human Capital Development. We shall also continue to invest in critical infrastructure which would help to consolidate these gains. Some of our programmes and projects such as the EPZ will require Federal legislative support which we are confident of receiving. The Federal Government is willing to provide all necessary assistance. We also hope that the increasing commitment from Corporate Nigeria generally towards the development of the Niger Delta, will translate to positive actions from all stakeholders in partnering with our vision. We thank you for sharing your precious time with us.

Office of the Honourable Commissioner,
Ministry of Economic Planning,
Asaba.
Delta State
May, 2009