

**NIGERIA
GOVERNORS'
FORUM**



THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AN NGF MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Vol.1. No. 16, October, 2019



**UNGA, SDGS
&**

THE CLIMATE IN CONFLICT



**NFG: We must
domesticate
the experience**
– NGF DG
Okauru



ADMISSIBILITY OF ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE IN NIGERIAN COURTS



Information technology and communication have merged in a way that has rapidly changed the way transactions and relationships are conducted globally, so much so that the truism 'no longer business as usual' can no longer be considered a mere cliché.

Businesses are now consummated electronically, and transactions are concluded, recorded and reported on electronic or technological platforms. This has in no small way aided the rise of global commerce and the courts have now keyed into the electronic cum digital age by recognizing and admitting electronically generated documents and other forms of evidence.

Digital or electronic evidence refers to any probative information stored or transmitted in digital form that a party to a court case may use at trial. Electronic evidence has assumed a very important position in the adjudication of

disputes or cases, criminal or civil. Anything done on the computer or the internet usually leaves traces or digital footprints which can serve as evidence in legal proceedings. Electronic evidence can therefore aid the investigation and solving of crimes by law enforcement agents. All this is possible because we are living in an age where most of the things hitherto done manually are now done on computers, computer-like devices, or with the aid of computers and computer network.

The Nigerian lawyer, to be competent and relevant in the scheme of things, ought to be sufficiently literate in the technical issues regarding electronic evidence so as to understand and make use of electronic evidence.

Since the enactment of the Evidence Act of 2011, Nigerian courts have frequently had to confront thorny issues regarding the treatment of evidence generated from computers, mobile phones, and other electronic devices.

The thorn in the judicial flesh is the question and scope of admissibility.

Although section 84 governs admissibility of electronic evidence, the courts have adopted differing, sometimes conflicting, approaches to the application and interpretation of this section. How can bench and bar establish the correct position of the law and attain a modicum of certainty, guidance, and predictive lawyering?

The Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF) is uniquely positioned to contribute to this argument. It is in this regard that the Legal Unit of the NGF is organizing a training on electronic evidence for State Counsel from across the country.

The NGF, in partnership with the Write House, a renowned Law Clinic, plans to hold a Training/Workshop that will assemble leading subject-matter experts from the judiciary, the practising bar and the learned academia to chart a path through the labyrinth of this vital and trending subject.

The training designed in a Train-the-Trainer model will train 10 State counsel from the Ministry of Justice of each State. Details of this event would be communicated to the Governors via the usual channel.

THE TEAM

Director-General

Asishana B OKAURU

Executive Director (Fin & Admin)

Abubakar JIBIA

Executive Director (Res & Str)

Abdullateef SHITTU

Head Media Public Affairs

Abdulrazaque BELLO-BARKINDO

Snr. Publications Officer

Halima S. AHMED

NGF Health Advisor

Dr. Ahmad ABDULWAHAB

Agric Economist

Bunmi AKANBI

Researchers

Abdulaziz OLORUNISHOLA

IT

Bassi HEMAN

Ubong ESSIEN

Senior Economist

David NABENA

Photography

Saeed SANUSI

Legal Advise: Chijioke CHUKU



HENRY SERIAKE DICKSON

Bayelsa State was created on 1 October 1996 out of the old Rivers State. The name, Bayelsa, is an acronym of three former Local Government areas – Brass, Yenagoa and Sagbama – in the then Rivers State, which had earlier on comprised the entire area now constituting Bayelsa State. It has interstate boundaries with Rivers State to the West and Northwest and Delta State to the East and Southeast. The Gulf of Guinea lies to its South.

Nicknamed the “Glory of all Lands”, Bayelsa has the largest gas reservoir (18 trillion cubic feet) in Nigeria and produces 40% of on-shore crude oil in the country.

BAYELSA STATE SNAPSHOT

- Total land area: 9,059 Km²

- Capital: Yenagoa
- Local Government Areas: 8LGAs: Brass, Ekeremor, Kolokuma/Opokuma, Nembe, Ogbia, Sagbama, Southern Jaw, Yenagoa.
- Population: 1,704,515 (Male- 874,083 and Female- 830,432)
- Vegetation: Mangrove and Rain Forest
- Major crops: Cocoa, Rice, Cassava, Pineapple, Oil Palm, Rubber, Banana, Maize.
- Solid minerals: Clay, Silica, Limestone.

MAIN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities for investment exist in:
- Agribusiness
 - Light Manufacturing

ABOUT GOV DICKSON

Hon Henry Seriake Dickson was born on 28th day of January, 1966 in Toru-Orua Town of Sagbama Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Nanaye Dickson of Orua.

He attended Kolobiriowe Primary School, Toru-Orua from 1972 to 1978 and proceeded to Government Secondary School, Toru-Ebeni in 1978 to 1983 where he obtained his West African School Certificate (WASC/GCE). He gained admission into Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt where he studied Law and graduated with LL.B (HONS) in 1992. He proceeded to earn his Bachelor in Law (B.L HONS) from the Nigeria Law School, Lagos



- Healthcare
- Tourism
- Energy
- Mining
- Transportation

The State Government has highlighted agriculture and agro-business as one of its critical solutions to a non-oil driven economic growth to boost its internally generated revenue, and solve the critical challenge of unemployment. Thus, the Government is seeking to bring in investors to establish commercial farming and diverse agro-business activities.

EDUCATION

Bayelsa State views education as one of its most critical solution to sustainable non-oil driven economic growth. Thus, the government seeks investors to bridge any deficit in this sector.

CURRENT INVESTOR-LED EDUCATION PROJECTS ONGOING IN THE STATE:

Adoption of a PPP Model - The Government recognises that large-scale investments in the education sector will have significant catalytic effects in generating economic growth, new revenue streams through increased local manpower skills to meet the needs of a growing diversified economy. The Government is willing to invest public money in these projects if it is necessary to attract additional investments to the State. To support these investments the Government has established a clear legal framework for PPPs that will guide creation of such agreements.

Targeted training to fit human resource requirement of local organisation and industries.

INVESTMENT MODELS SOUGHT:

Government is open to discussions on any of the following investment models:

State-owned/Private Management: The State continues to own the assets but contracts out the management to a private company, with limited subsidy required from the State and freedom from political influences.

Private investment/Joint Venture: The State and a private company jointly own the assets and also drive the management of the venture.

Private investment/Privatization: The State Government sells off the assets of the company to a private company and manages the process of privatization.

INCENTIVES:

1. Guaranteed Access to adequate and efficient gas supply to provide power to all sectors.
2. Formalisation of the Registration of Land.
3. Electrical Infrastructure.
4. Investor One Stop Shop- Providing support services including business registration, assistance with permits required for the establishment and operations of the business, immigration, property acquisition.
5. Waiver of Government fees for investment agreements.
6. Ease in obtaining Certificate of Occupancy
7. Infrastructure support, where needed.
8. Data support for feasibility studies
9. Other incentives on a case by case basis

HEALTHCARE

GLORY OF ALL LANDS", BAYELSA HAS THE LARGEST GAS RESERVOIR (18 TRILLION CUBIC FEET) IN NIGERIA AND PRODUCES 40% OF ON-SHORE CRUDE OIL IN THE COUNTRY

in 1993 and was called to the Nigerian Bar that same year.

Hon. H.S. Dickson joined The Nigeria Police Force in 1986 and upon his graduation in 1993 was appointed a Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1994 whereupon he proceeded to the Nigerian Police Academy Kano for Officer Training. During the course of his training, he voluntarily withdrew his service to practice the profession of law.

As a Lawyer, he worked with Serena David Dokubo & Co as an associate solicitor from 1994 to 1995 and moved to Aluko & Oyeboode, a prominent law firm in Lagos also as an Associate Solicitor in 1995 to 1996.

He then founded the Law firm of Seriake Dickson & Co in Port Harcourt and later Yenagoa, becoming the Managing Solicitor from 1996 to 2006.

Hon. Dickson was appointed the Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice of Bayelsa State from 2006 to 2007 by His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCON, the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who at the time was the Governor of Bayelsa State. He was thereafter elected as Honourable

Member representing Sagbama/Ekeremor Federal Constituency of Bayelsa State in the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Abuja in 2007. In April 2011, he was re-elected for a second term.

Hon. Dickson has held several leadership posts, including Pioneer Publicity Secretary, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) Yenagoa (1996 – 1998); State Chairman, Alliance for Democracy (AD) (1990 – 2000); National Legal Adviser, Alliance for Democracy (2000 – 2002); National Legal Adviser of the foremost Pan-Ijaw Socio-Cultural and Political group called the Ijaw National Congress (INC) (2001 – 2003) and Vice Chairman, Bayelsa State Judicial Service Commission.

His memberships include: National Executive Committee (NEC) representing Bayelsa State (2004 - 2006); Council of Legal Education in Nigeria; Body of Benchers of Nigeria; Body of Attorneys-General of Nigeria; Bayelsa State Security Council; Nigeria Bar Association; International Bar Association; Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (U.K) Nigerian Chapter; and Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria.



The state government has placed healthcare development as one of its priority areas.

Whilst targeting both the urban, and especially the rural communities. The Government is seeking to bring in investors to bridge any deficit in this sector.

The following are some of the medical facilities in the State:

1. Federal Medical Centre in the State Capital, Yenagoa.
2. A State Teaching Hospital attached to the State owned Niger Delta University.
3. A 500 bed General Hospital (Melford Okilo Memorial Hospital) which has been redesigned and upgraded into a Quaternary Hospital with over 80% of requisite equipment supplied to site and waiting installation.
4. A WHO approved Model Management Hospital (Dieta-Koki Memorial Hospital) fully operational and operated by high professional consultants with high tech state of the art equipment.
5. A total of 28 Health Centres spread throughout the State with 70% completion and operations.
6. A School of Nursing and College of Health Technology at the Niger Delta University.

SUMMARY OF KEY OPPORTUNITIES:

Bayelsa State is still a relatively young state and its development has been in response to the pace of socio-economic development. There are opportunities for private sector participation as well as partnership with the State Government for the growth and development of the State. Priority areas with large opportunities in the healthcare sector include:

- Outsourcing of Hospital Management and Administration
- Supply Chain Management
- Waste Management
- Ambulance services
- Partnerships on facilities and maintenance
- Management of State owned specialised healthcare training facilities
- Development of State owned specialised healthcare training facilities
- Building a general hospital in each of the 8 Local Government Areas of the State

ITEMIZED SECTORAL OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Hospital Management
2. Regeneration And Building Of Existing And New Hospitals
3. Medical Tourism
4. Partnering With International Hospitals
5. Developing Community Health Insurance

Schemes

6. Equipping Hospitals With Primary, Secondary And Tertiary Health Infrastructure
7. Peering, Mentoring, And Knowledge Sharing With Local Medical Staff
8. Completion Of The 500 Bed Melford Okilo Hospital: Over the past seven years, successive Governments have worked to complete the near-complete 500-bed secondary and tertiary care facility. Private investors are being sought on the completion, equipping, partnering and management of this hospital.

POWER

The Bayelsa State Government has placed the provision of power as one of its key priorities and has considered the utilization of Gas as a solution to the Energy needs of the state. A new Energy Master Plan and an Eco Industrial Park are currently being developed for the provision of power for both industrial and commercial consumption.

SECTORAL OVERVIEW

Since creation of the State, petroleum & power matters had been handled by different ministries/parastatal. This trend had diffused the state's focus & policy coherence in responding to energy matters at both local & national levels. Merger of power sector & office of the special adviser on petro-



leum gave birth to the Ministry of Energy as a response to the state Energy challenges. Energy industry calls for an integrated and focused planning. The ministry was later renamed Ministry of Power with the responsibility of providing the energy security that Bayelsa State needs in order to realise its full technological, industrial, economical & social development potentials.

SUMMARY OF KEY OPPORTUNITIES

FDI into the power sector qualifies for a federal tax holiday.

Investors to benefit from a waiver on all import duties for power plant projects.

The construction of an Industrial Park with a power hub powered by gas supplies for the generation of power and production of Gas related products.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SUMMARY OF KEY OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for private sector participation as well as partnership with the State Government for the growth and development of the State infrastructural deficit include:

Agge Deep Sea Port

COMMERCIAL FARMING OF KEY PRODUCE, INCLUDING PLANTAIN, COCO YAM, BANANA, SWEET POTATO, SUGAR CANE

- Telecommunications
- ICT
- Power Generation and Distribution
- Mass Transit
- Ring Roads
- Water Transportation

1. MASS TRANSIT:

Consultancy and development of strategic and multi-modal mass transit network (intra & inter-state) to support economic strategy.

2. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL:

Development of master planned Urban Communities where 20% of Housing units will be affordable by bottom 40% of medium income earners.

Development of effective mortgage system.

Phased development of Central Business District (CBD).

Feasibility studies and development of Local Content Production.

Power Infrastructure: the Regulation for Independent Electricity Distribution Network 2002 issued by the Nigerian Electricity regulator, National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), deregulates captive power generation, transmission and distribution in areas outside the national grid and/or areas that are undeserved and Bayelsa falls under this category, thus, providing opportunity for any independent investor in power and power infrastructure in Bayelsa State.

CURRENT INVESTOR-LED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ONGOING IN THE STATE:

DEEP SEA PORT: The State Government has signed an agreement with Chinese Technical part-

ners- Tianjin Energy Resources Limited to build a \$3 billion deep sea port in Agge Town along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in Ekeremor Local Government Area. The technical partners will finance 85% of the project while the balance will be financed locally. The strategic location of the port gives it direct access to the Atlantic Ocean and will help attract foreign direct investment (FDI) into the state.

Also approved are contracts for an access road to Boro Town in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area.

STRATEGIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Adoption of a PPP Model - The Government recognises that large-scale investments in the infrastructure sector will have significant catalytic effects in generating economic growth, new revenue streams through tourism, hospitality, increased business activity, taxation and employment. The Government is willing to invest public money in these projects if it is necessary to attract additional investments to the state. To support these investments, the government has established a clear legal framework for PPPs that will guide creation of such agreements.

Bayelsa is ready to adopt any of the following PPP models:

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Bayelsa State Government is willing to work with interested investors to implement a well-developed Energy/Power master plan for the State under a PPP arrangement. This could involve scrapping the State Electricity Board and replacing it with independent state power generation, distribution and trading companies.





THE CLIMATE IN CONFLICTS

At the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York last month where the NGF organized a high-level side meeting tagged 'Sub-national Implementation of SDGs and the Paris Agreement: the Nigerian Experience, the most tenacious evidence of activity at the subnational level in Nigeria came from Borno state where the Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum showed commitment to the implementation of the SDGs with his climate gripped under conflict. The governor's presentation centered around insurgency and how it is possible to still create a window to seek solutions to climate change. Governor, Babagana Zulum, called for action against the impact of climate change, noting that the receding Lake

Chad significantly contributes to the security challenges facing Borno State and parts of the northeast.

Zulum explained that he wants to attract interventions to Borno State in order to maximize the benefits of his participation at the UN General Assembly. "We have requested interventions in the area of recharging the Lake Chad, providing infrastructure and strengthening security all in a bid to meet Goal 13 of the SDGs, which is climate action. The goal aims to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries to both adapt to climate change and invest in low-carbon development.

"We are looking at strengthening the resilience of the communities, integrating the national policies on climate change at the sub national level with a view to ensuring that the objectives are well defined and well implemented.

"An enabling environment is being created in Borno State, especially in the area of job creation, fighting de-

sertification, fostering human capital development and upgrading the public's means of livelihood."

Other Governors who also attended the General Assembly dwelt on topics like erosion, desertification, flooding, and such environmentally harmful substances as plastic bags. The Governor of Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun however drew a masterstroke with his concentration on the ease of doing business in his state, being an iconic private sector player.

Chairman of the NGF, and Governor of Ekiti State, Dr Kayode Fayemi, underscored the importance of the event to the subnational level in Nigeria when he stressed that the event had attained such peculiar position given the "existential threat" faced by states.

He said the problem of climate change could no longer be ignored, as the consequences have become too obvious in different states given the amount of erosion, flooding, desertification and other menacing issues associated with the climate in several parts of the country. Dr Fayemi warned, for example, that Lagos State could be submerged if immediate action was not taken.

The NGF Chairman disclosed that Goldman Sachs just released a report that Lagos might be submerged in the next 30 or so years. For me and any of my colleagues, these are issues that we are focusing on in spite of our efforts in ameliorating other difficulties that our people daily encounter.

"We cannot do all that without dealing with the green-bond in Borno which is contributing to the insurgency, or erosion in Ebonyi, access to education in Ekiti, farmers-herders clashes in Plateau etc. These are all byproducts of climate change and human capital development.

There are plans to seek the assistance of international partners to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level in Nigeria, because the paucity of funds has diminished the states' enthusiasm in SDGs. According to Imo State's





THE CLIMATE IN CONFLICTS



Governor Ihedioha, before now, the government at the centre used to release N4 billion annually to fund SDGs but regretted that this has changed in recent times.

Ebonyi governor, Umahi regretted that even though the South-East states had coped well with the consequences of climate change, particularly flooding and erosion, the situation is now deteriorating. Umahi called for international intervention to enable the states upgrade their infrastructure to tackle their peculiar challenges.

He said: "Of course, we had to emphasize the new threat of climate change. In the past, we have had to live with erosion and flooding occasionally, but these days, it is on the increase every year. "We want to let the international community know how we are solving the problem, and its effect on the people, especially schoolchildren. When the roads are flooded or washed away, there are devastating effect in terms of access to medical facilities for children, nursing mothers and other school activities.

"We need strategic infrastructure to tackle these, like infrastructure to control erosion and flooding," Umahi added.

For Kano State Governor, Ganduje, climate change has remained a catalyst for conflict; it was, according to the Governor, responsible for the farmers-herdsmen clashes in Kano state.

"If you look at the herdsmen coming into Nigeria because of the drought in some parts of West Africa, they migrate into the northern parts of the country, and then the southern parts, creating lots of problems along their routes.

Kano State is inclined to embrace the RUGA proposition for the resettlement of herdsmen, so that we change the socio-cultural practices that breed conflict. What we are expecting from the international community is collaboration, especially in the area of education and technology," Ganduje stressed.

Kwara State governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq said: "The SDGs time is running out. It is important to turn to WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene. The North-Central is leading in curbing open defecation in

the country. We are going to modernize the pit latrines, replace them with water systems. "In primary health care, we have to create disruptions in the system. We have to create new improved drug revolving systems that will make medication more affordable. We are going to engage development agencies in areas they can help us in delivering free medication while we provide counterpart funding in areas like malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis."

The governor also said there would be reforms in education, information technology among others. He said his state had gained a lot at the United Nations General Assembly.

The Director General of the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), Asishana Okaura, said the goals should be domesticated in Nigeria. Okauru said, "Climate change is real. It is an existential threat and states have a role in ensuring that they implement things that will mitigate climate change. He stressed that the current set of governors are adequately motivated and intellectually equipped to tackle climate change.

"Secondly, that there is a nexus between climate change and SDG goals. And ordinarily the expectations is for the governors to frame development plans around SDG goals, Okauru emphasized."

The President of the 74th UN General Assembly, Prof. Tijjani Mohammed-Bande, on his part said: "SDGs are critical to the world. We must do our part. But when it comes to implementation, it is up to our local authorities."

The Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Amina Ibrahim, promised the organizers that the UN would support their initiatives.

The Assistant Secretary-General and Director at UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Ahunna Eziakonwa, said the "NGF is something we need to take quite seriously, as a bridge to those who need help the most. You can count on UNDP. See us as a vessel to create a healthy competition among states. We need a healthy competition among local governments too, which should be underpinned by data and evidence, to drive service delivery and development in communities."



BORNO STATE

BABAGANA UMARA ZULUM



Borno State is of pluralistic ethnic composition with rich but diverse historical and cultural heritage that dates back to over one thousand (1000) years.

It borders the Republics of Cameroun, Chad and Niger, making it a major trading hub for goods. It also borders the Nigerian States of Yobe, Adamawa, and Gombe.

The nickname of Borno State is “Home of Peace”; it is mainly agrarian with large deposits of mineral resources. It is also a major source of fresh water fish in the country as it houses part of the Lake Chad.

BORNO STATE SNAPSHOT

- Total land area: 72,609 Km²
- Capital: Maiduguri
- Local Government Areas: 27 LGAs: Abadam, Askira-Uba, Bama, Bayo, Biu, Chibok, Damboa, Dikwa, Gubio Guzamala Gwoza Hawul, Jere, Kaga, Kala/Balge, Kondunga, Kukawa, Kwaya, Kusar, Mafa, Magumeri, Maiduguri, Marte, Mobbar, Monguno, Ngala, Nanzai, Shani.
- Population: 6,272,536 (Male- 3,198,993 and Female- 3,073,543)
- Vegetation: Tropical Savannah
- Major crops: Millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea, rice, wheat, cassava, cocoyam, gum arabic, livestock, tamarind, mangoes, oranges, tomatoes, onions, cabbage, lettuce, spinach and groundnut.
- Solid Minerals: feldspar, limestone, kaolin, clay, potash, iron-ore, natural salt, quartz, magnetite, diatomite, trona, mica, silica sand, gypsum, granite chips, flutters earth and uranium.
- There are three agricultural zones in Borno state: Biu, Bama and Kukawa.

OVERVIEW

Though ravaged by insurgency, the government of the state has provided critical infrastructure development in massive mega schools con-

Though ravaged by insurgency, the government of the state has provided critical infrastructure in schools construction, industrial constructions, roads rehabilitation, construction and expansions; provision of modest rural infrastructure, water supply and healthcare

struction, industrial constructions, roads rehabilitation, construction and expansions; provision of modest rural infrastructure, water supply and healthcare structures re-development.

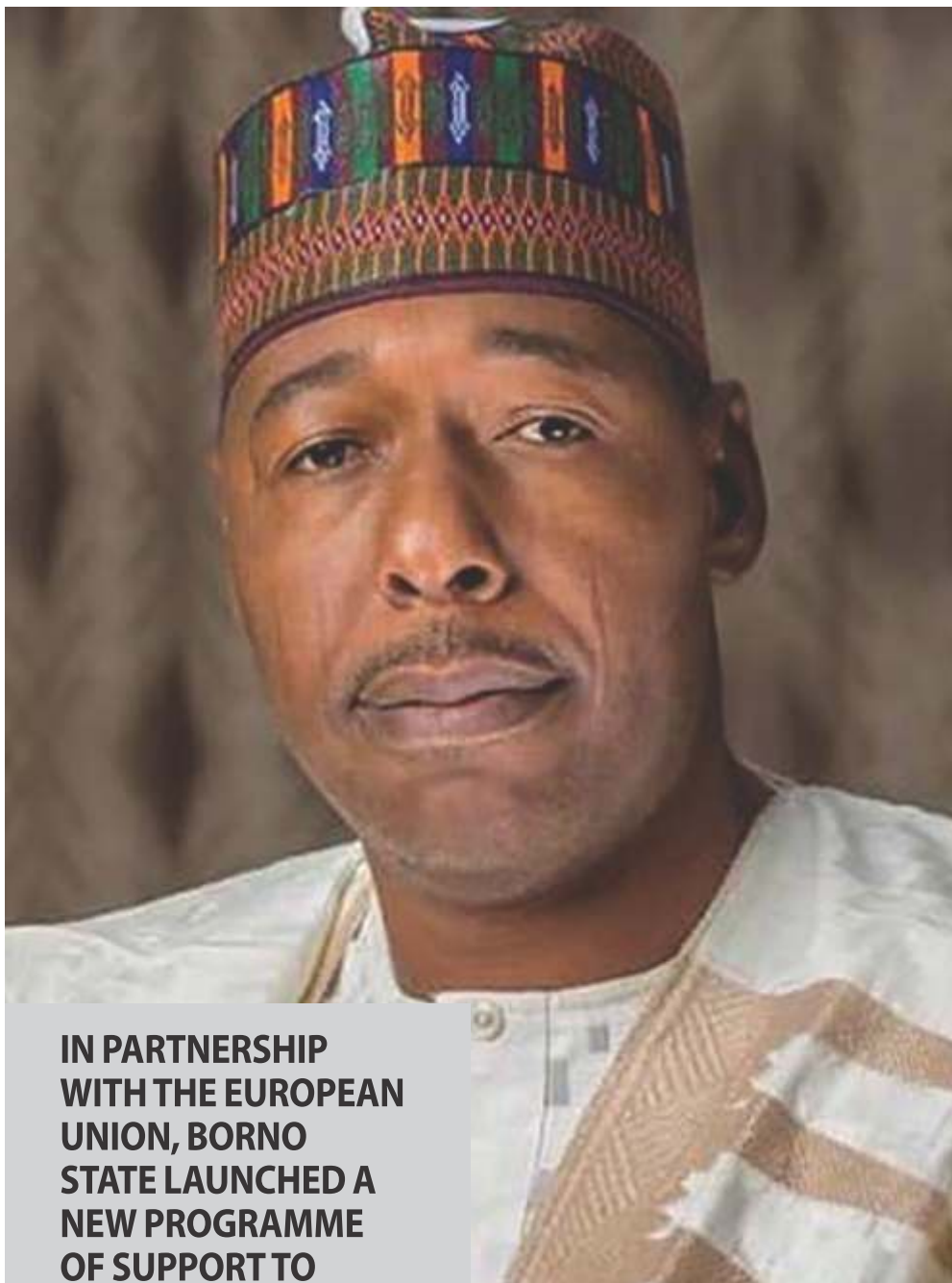
Roads construction and rehabilitation in Borno are uniquely being executed using what development experts call ‘systematic-all-inclusive’ approach - a form of development approach that is designed to be connected to human capital development, productive job creation, siting projects where they are needed most, as well as using them as avenues for generation of more revenue for the government to support other sectors of the economy.

The road network expansion and reconstruction in some hitherto isolated communities like Bulumkutu, Bolori etc., are designed to create, encourage and improve positive synergy, enhance social cohesion and integration by giving citizens access to the same opportunities.

AGRICULTURE

The Borno State government procured 50 units of Centre Pivot Irrigation System of Modular 35Ha each, to meet the food demands of the state and the country at large. Since Agriculture is the predominant occupation in the state, people in the state are farmers, herdsman and fishermen. The state has a vast agriculture and livestock development potentials. Borno State Agricultural Development Programme has three agricultural zones.

As part of its ongoing effort to support victims of Boko Haram insurgency the state, the government, through the UNDP has provided farmers with agricultural inputs. During the same period, livestock was distributed in Askira-Uba and Hawul, Local Government Areas, in Borno State. After ten years of instability, Borno State government is supporting



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION, BORNO STATE LAUNCHED A NEW PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT TO EDUCATION WHERE OVER ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN THOUSAND CHILDREN AND 944 TEACHERS WILL BENEFIT FROM

efforts aimed at resuscitation of food production in conflict-affected communities by providing key inputs to family communities. These include seeds, tools and fertilizers, in combination with timely training of farmers and extension services on better land and livestock management practices. These interventions will not only boost expected output from the 2019 farming season, it will also put communities back on track to self-reliance.

This year, through assistance from the UNDP, the state is targeting up to 3,000 households with this

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for investments exist in:

- Agribusiness
- Manufacturing
- Real Estate
- Healthcare
- Tourism
- Energy
- Mining

kind of support - all made possible through generous funding support from the European Union. An additional 1,300 households will be supported through funding support from the government of Japan.

EDUCATION

In partnership with the European Union, Borno State launched a new Programme of Support to education where over one hundred and eighteen thousand children and 944 teachers will benefit from.

The three-year project is funded by the European Union (EU) and is aimed at providing access to safe, inclusive and quality primary and secondary education for both boys and girls in particular (aged 6-18) who have suffered displacement or have returned.

More than 10 million children out of school are in Nigeria, with 60 percent of them being girls. The North East region has one of the lowest literacy rates com-

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



PROFILE OF GOV BABAGANA ZULUM

Babagana was born in August 26, 1969 in Mafa Local Government Area of Borno State. After elementary schooling in Mafa Primary School from 1975 to 1980 and secondary education in Government Secondary School, Monguno from 1980 to 1985, he went to Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, where he obtained a National Diploma in Irrigation Engineering in 1998.

Then, from 1990 to 1994, he studied at the University of Maiduguri, where he obtained a degree in Agriculture Engineering after which he served as a youth corps member with Katsina State Polytechnic. He proceeded to the University of Ibadan from 1997 to 1998, where he obtained a Masters degree in Agriculture Engineering. In 2005, he enrolled for a PhD in Soil and Water Engineering with the University of Maiduguri which he completed in 2009.

Babagan's first appointment was in 1989 with Borno State Civil Service as an

Assistant Technical Officer in the State's Ministry of Agriculture. In 1990, Babagana moved into Borno State Unified Local Government Service as Senior Field Overseer and later Principal Water Engineer. In 2000, he took up an appointment with the University of Maiduguri as an assistant Lecturer where he rose to the rank of Professor. Babagana was Deputy Dean and Acting Dean, Faculty of Engineering in 2010 and 2011 respectively. In 2011, Babagana Umara was appointed the Rector of Ramat Polytechnic. Meanwhile, he retained his teaching position in the University of Maiduguri. In 2015, he was made Commissioner of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement by Governor Kashim Shetima of Borno State, a position he held till 2018.

Professor Babagana was elected to the Office of the Governor of Borno State at the 2019 governorship election held on March 9, 2019.

pounded by a decade of insurgency. The project, which was launched by the Borno State Governor, Babagana Zulum, is aimed at restoring children who have been displaced by the crisis in the

state back to school.

The implementation is being led by Plan International Nigeria in partnership with Save the Children.

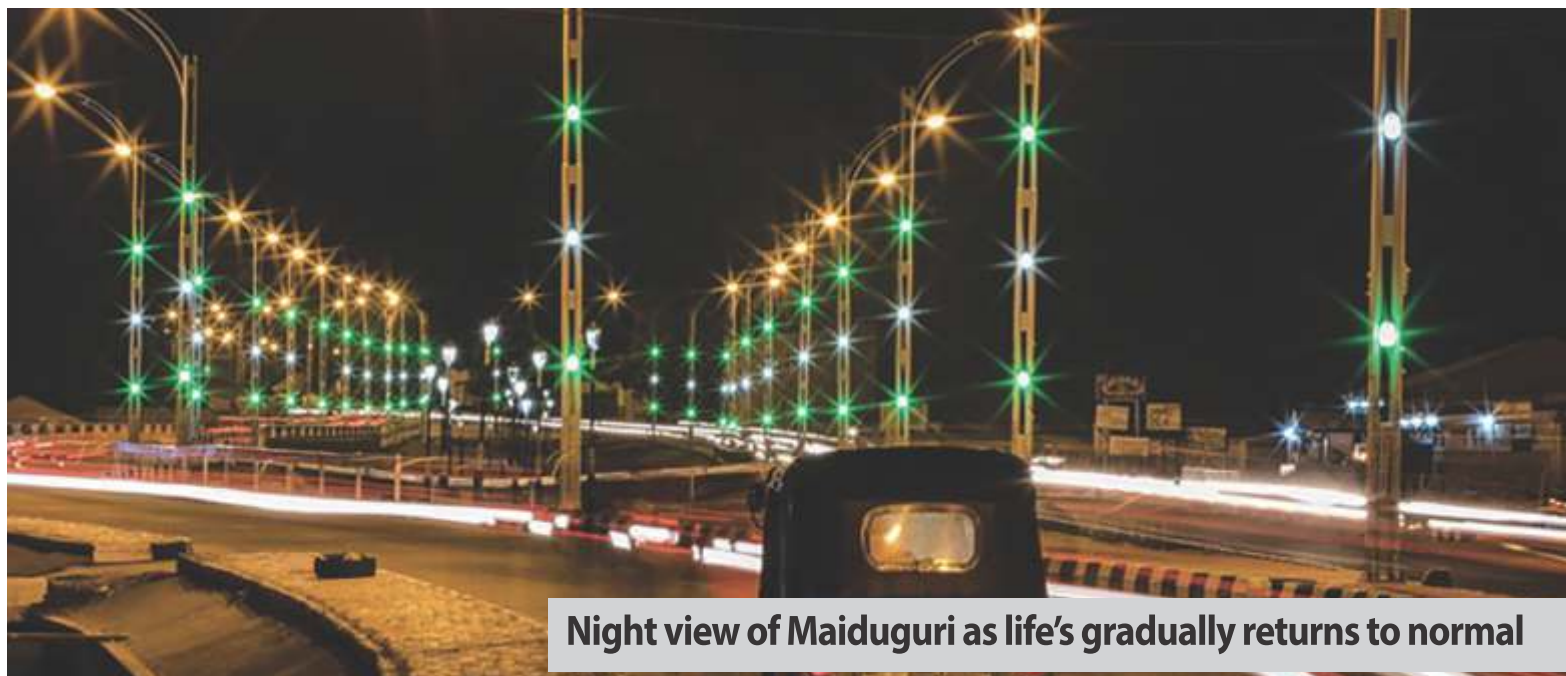
At least 18, 000 children and youth who have dropped out of education will benefit from Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) in cohorts over the course of the project, 80, 000 primary and secondary school pupils will benefit from improved access to quality education, 12, 000 young people will benefit from life skills training and 4,300 will be receiving employability and business training.

The project is part of our wider intervention and support for vulnerable population in the North East of Nigeria.

The project will support over 100 million girls in Nigeria to learn, lead, decide and thrive in the next five years and will help to bring down the poor literacy rate in the region.

The project will renovate and rehabilitate 182 physical disabilities inclusive classrooms, construct 550 gender disaggregated, girl and disability friendly latrines, 16 new boreholes with hand pump, provide voucher based scholastic materials to benefit 23, 000 learners targeted, train and sensitize beneficiaries on hygiene practices.

Also, there are provision of teaching kits to the 123 schools, and dignity kits to 14, 620 girls to encourage attendance limiting absenteeism related to menstruation.



Night view of Maiduguri as life's gradually returns to normal



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EBONYI STATE PROFILE

E Ebonyi State Governor David Nweze Umahi (known popularly as Dave Umahi, was born January 1, 1964, to the family of Elder Joseph Umahi Nwaze and Margaret Umahi of Umunaga.

Umahi had his secondary education from Ishiagu High School and the Government Secondary School of Afikpo before entering the Enugu State University of Science and Technology in 1982. He graduated in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering.

In 1990, he co-founded Norman Engineering and Construction Nig. Limited with Ombo Isokarari, serving as its general manager until 1993. Until 2011, he served as chairman and CEO of Brass Engineering & Construction Nig. Ltd., Focus Investment Nig. Ltd., and Osborn La Palm Royal Resort Ltd.

Umahi entered public service in 2007 as the acting chairman of the Ebonyi State chapter of the People's Democratic Party. From 2009 to 2011, he served as state chairman of the party. During that term, he served a year on the governing board of the Federal Medical Centre in Asaba as its chairman.

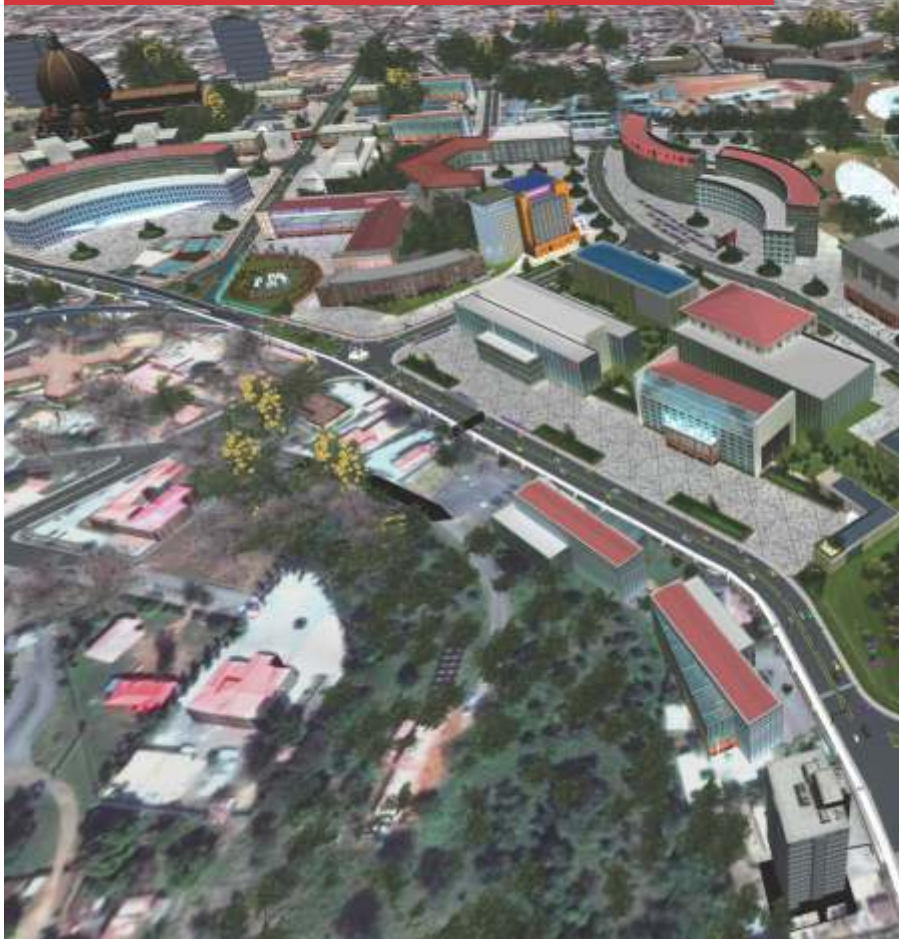
In 2011, Umahi became deputy governor of Ebonyi State on a ticket with Martin Elechi. He was elected as Governor on 12 April 2015. On the 16th day of March, 2019, David Umahi was re-elected as Governor of Ebonyi State.



Governor David Nweze Umahi



EBONYI STATE



ABOUT EBONYI STATE

Ebonyi State is located in southeastern Nigeria and is inhabited and populated primarily by the Igbo speaking people of Nigeria. Its capital and largest city is Abakaliki. Other major townships include Afikpo, Onueke, Edda, Unwana, Uburu, Onicha, etc. It was one of the six states created in 1996 by the then federal military government of General Sani Abacha.

The State of Ebonyi was created from parts of both Enugu State and Abia State, which were the Abakaliki division from Enugu State and the Afikpo division from Abia State respectively. It has three senatorial zones, the Abakaliki division make up Ebonyi North and Ebonyi Central senatorial zone, while the Afikpo division makes up the Ebonyi South senatorial zone.

Ebonyi has thirteen local government areas as well as local development centres created by the state government. It is home to six Higher institutions of learning; Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki (EBSU); Federal University Ndufu Alike Ikwo (FUNAI); Akanu Ib-

iam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana; Savannah Institute of Technology, Ishieke Junction, Abakaliki; Federal College of Agriculture, Ishiagu; Ebonyi State College of Education Ikwo (EBSCOEI) and College of Health Sciences, Ezzamgbo.

In 1999, Dr. Sam Ominyi Egwu was elected as the first governor of the state under the People's Democratic Party (PDP). He was succeeded by Martin Elechi who was elected in 2007 and successfully ran and won re-election in 2011, under the same party, the PDP. Gov Martin Elechi was succeeded by the current Governor, Dave Umahi, who was elected in March 2015.

AGRICULTURE

Ebonyi is primarily an agrarian region. It is a leading producer of rice, yam, potatoes, maize, beans, and cassava in Nigeria. Rice and yams are predominantly cultivated in Edda, a region within the state. Ebonyi has several solid mineral resources, including lead, crude oil, and natural gas, but only a few large-scale commercial mining takes place in the state.



INCENTIVES

The state government has, however, given several incentives to investors in the agro-allied sector to encourage production. Ebonyi is called "the salt of the nation" for its huge salt deposits at the Okposi and Uburu Salt Lakes.

Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is saddled with the responsibility of the formulation and implementation of agricultural policies and programmes of the state. The ministry has eight (8) Departments, six (6) Units and five (5) Parastatals which help in carrying out the functions. The vision of the Ministry is to achieve an accelerated pace of agricultural development and make it a major revenue earner for the state.

The Agriculture Ministry also hopes to raise the farmers' purchasing power by increasing their real income and improving their quality of life and living standards alongside those of their rural dwellers.

The State aims at increasing food production to ensure the attainment of a level of food security that will generate availability and affordability of food commodities to the populace. This will also provide jobs for the teeming unemployed youths.

While its mission is to promote crop production, processing, preservation, packaging, storage and marketing, it is also looking at the promotion of increased application of modern/improved technology and management to agricultural production, processing, storage and distribution, so that agriculture can be more responsive to the demands of other sectors of the state economy. Ebonyi State envisages success in optimum utilization of human resources for the agricultural sector of the states' economy, particularly at non-professional levels.

HEALTH

Currently, there are 555 health facilities in Ebonyi State. These include registered, private and public health facilities. Further breakdown of this shows that Ebonyi has 13 general hospitals and six mission hospitals, 417 primary health care centres and 119 private hospitals/clinics.



THE STATE MADE N30.91BN AS ITS INTERNAL GENERATED REVENUE IN 2018. GOVERNOR DAVID UMAHI RECENTLY SWORE-IN FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE DEFUNCT SPRING BANK, MR. MIKE CHUKWU AS THE STATE CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL REVENUE BOARD. HE WAS TASKED WITH THE MANDATE OF MAKING THE REVENUE BOARD SELF-SUSTAINING.

However, in order to provide world-class health services, Ebonyi State Government is presently upgrading 171 PHCs i.e one PHC per ward and 13 General Hospital i.e General Hospital per LGA in the State.

The Ministry also oversees all health training institutions in the State and at present the Ebonyi University College of Medicine and Health Sciences is using the facilities of Federal Teaching Hospital Abakaliki.

Ebonyi State Ministry of Health is a ministry of the Ebonyi State Government charged with the responsibility of developing and planning health policies and supervising its implementation. It provides health services to the people of Ebonyi State through the services rendered at the health facilities.

Ebonyi State School of Health Technology Ngbo and School of



Nursing and Midwifery Uburu are billed to commence academic activities in the 2017/2018 academic session.

The Ebonyi State Ministry of health also has three parastatals with boards viz: State Hospital Management Board, Ebonyi State Primary Health Care Development Agency and Ebonyi State Traditional Medicine Board. The Ministry of Health in Ebonyi State enjoys huge support from Development Partners and UN Agencies.

EDUCATION

The Ebonyi Ministry of Education on Wednesday closed 17 schools in Abakaliki and its environs. The schools were closed by the monitoring team of the ministry for either being illegal or below

acceptable standards. This happened after an inspection team had undertaken an assessment tour of the affected schools. Other reasons cited for closing down the schools included: operating without necessary approval by the ministry, operating with sub-standard structures/ facilities and over population.



INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE

The state made N30.91bn as its Internal Generated Revenue in 2018. In line with the vision of His Excellency Engr. Dave Umahi to make Ebonyi a worthy place for living, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has as one of its major functions to generate through:

- Registration of business Premises fees.
- Haulage fees from quarry Industries in the state.
- Fees from registration of Cooperative Societies.
- Audit and supervision fees.





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THE PITFALLS OF GENDER INEQUALITY



The World Bank Nigeria Gender Innovation Lab paid a courtesy call on the Director General of the Nigeria Governors Forum, Mr Asishana B Okauru at the NGF Secretariat in Abuja.

The World Bank team was led by Dr Juliet Vaillant in the company of Andrew Brudevold Newman and Ayodele Emmanuel.

In her address Dr Vaillant outlined a strategy of engagement between the World Bank Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) and the Government of Nigeria (GoN) to encourage evidence-based policy making to close gender gaps, which will in turn help to achieve the objectives outlined in Nigeria's national development plans.

This engagement began with consultations to discuss which policy relevant questions should be prioritized for an ongoing diagnostic. Upon completion of the diagnostic, GIL will hold a participatory meeting with key influencers in government to analyze findings and develop an action plan for piloting and testing innovations to address the gender-specific constraints identified in the diagnostic. GIL will also establish a Steering Committee to provide strategic direction and policy guidance to the team with inputs on key opportunities for new and existing GIL evidence to be integrated into policy and programming moving forward.

She explained that gender inequality prevents women, girls, households, and economies around the world from realizing their full potential, stressing that economically empowering women is both important in its own right, and smart economics.



Dr Juliet Vaillant further emphasized that compelling evidence exists that addressing gender inequalities can promote productivity and growth and when women become more productive, they in turn boost economies' productivity, households' incomes and individuals' wellbeing.

On why they are at the NGF Vaillant explained that "We are holding consultations with key stakeholders in government and the development community to discuss available evidence and policy solutions on closing gender gaps in agricultural productivity, business growth and wage employment."

These consultations include an introduction of GIL's current portfolio of relevant results and a discussion on an ongoing diagnostic to map the constraints women face in the Nigerian context.

These meetings will serve as an opportunity for key stakeholders to share reactions to available evidence and policy solutions, as well as to offer suggestions on key issues and questions that would be valuable to investigate in the diagnostic.

In parallel with the consultations, we are conducting a diagnostic exercise to understand the gender-specific constraints to economic activities. This ex-



THE PITFALLS OF GENDER INEQUALITY

regarding the constraints, what we know works to address them, and what we still need to learn. To the extent the data allows, the diagnostic will seek to identify constraints and gender gap disaggregated by Nigerian geographic areas (e.g. North/South). The GIL will also organize a participatory, high-level, workshop where the diagnostic results will be presented and discussed. This session will focus on i) a presentation of the constraints identified during the diagnostic, ii) a mapping of proven solutions and gaps in evidence related to the constraints, and iii) a conversation on where we need to innovate, experiment and evaluate. The team will bring to the table best practices from Nigeria and the

region to brainstorm potential innovative policy and programing options to implement and evaluate to close the gender gaps in Nigeria.

The diagnostic and participatory workshop will be the foundation for developing an action plan for uptake of applicable evidence and for steering the GIL's research agenda in Nigeria moving forward. The action plan will detail how GIL will generate new evidence by conducting rigorous, scientifically-credible impact evaluations (IEs) of innovative program aiming to address the priority con-



straints as identified in the diagnostic-and during the participatory workshop. By measuring impacts relative to a carefully-identified comparison group not receiving the program, GIL will be able to demonstrate not only whether an intervention works, but also the magnitude of the benefits and overall cost-effectiveness. GIL aims to continuously engage with policymakers to provide customized evidence and policy advice based on the findings of these IEs.

The GIL proposes establishing a Steering Committee (Country Advisory Group)—comprised of key government stakeholders and development ts in Nigeria—to review and approve the GIL's annual work plan and share insights on areas where GIL evidence could enrich domestic policies and programming. Steering Committee members will serve as policy champions of GIL's research, helping to strategically position the lab for policy influence by highlighting key opportunities and channels for research uptake.

GENDER INEQUALITY PREVENTS WOMEN, GIRLS, HOUSEHOLDS, AND ECONOMIES AROUND THE WORLD FROM REALIZING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

ercise will determine which constraints are binding, and how important they are relative to other constraints in the Nigerian context. The diagnostic will include a review of the current state of knowledge



About Gov John Olukayode Fayemi

Governor John Olukayode Fayemi is a native of Isan-Ekiti in Oye Local Government of Ekiti State, Nigeria. He was born 9 February 1965. He previously held the office of the Governor of Ekiti State between 2010 and 2014. He resigned as the Minister of Solid Minerals

Development on 30 May 2018 to contest for the Ekiti State governorship election for the second time, an election perceived to be a battle between himself and his political rival, Fayose.

Fayemi attended Christ's School Ado Ekiti from 1975-1980 and received degrees in History, Politics and International Relations from the Universities of Lagos and Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and his Doctorate in War Studies from the King's College, University of London, England, specializing in civil-military relations.

Kayode Fayemi is a former Director of the Centre for Democracy & Development, a research and training institution dedicated to the study and promotion of democratic development, peace-building and human security in Africa. Prior to his establishment of the Centre, he worked as a lecturer, journalist, researcher and Strategy Development adviser in Nigeria and the United Kingdom. He was Strategy Development Adviser at London's City Challenge; research fellow at the African Research & Information Bureau in London, UK, reporter with the newspapers, The Guardian and City Tempo, editor of the political monthly, Nigeria-Now, management consultant at Development and Management Consultants and lecturer at the Police College in Sokoto, Nigeria.

Kayode Fayemi has lectured in Africa, Europe, the Americas and Asia. He has also served as an adviser on transitional justice, regional integration, constitutionalism, security sector reform and civil-military relations issues to various governments, inter-governmental institutions and development agencies. He was the main technical adviser to Nige-

ria's Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (Oputa Panel), which investigated past abuses and currently serves on the Presidential Implementation Committees on Security Sector Reform, NE-PAD and the Millennium Development Goals. He was

technical expert to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on small arms and light weapons and United Nations Economic Commission of Africa on governance issues. He is also a member, Africa Policy Advisory Panel of the British Government. At other times he has served as a consultant to the OECD on Security Sector Reform and chaired the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative's Committee of Experts on developing guiding principles and mechanisms of constitution making in Commonwealth Africa.

Kayode Fayemi is a Fellow of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Ibadan, Adjunct Professor of Security Studies at the African Centre for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., USA. He was also a Visiting Professor in the African Studies Programme at Northwestern University, Evanston, USA in 2004. Dr

Fayemi serves on numerous Boards including the Governing Board of the Open Society Justice Institute, Baobab for Women's Human Rights, African Security Sector Network, and on the Advisory Board of the Global Facilitation Network on Security Sector Reform and on the Management Culture Board of the ECOWAS Secretariat.

Dr. John Olukayode Fayemi was elected Chairman of the NGF in 2019. His main agenda is to rebrand the Forum and further deepen democracy among governors.





Ekiti State

Ekiti was created on October 1st, 1996. It lies south of Kwara and Kogi State, East of Osun State and bounded by Ondo State in the East and in the south. The State has a total land Area of 5887.890sq km, and a population of approximately 3 million people, Ekiti is an agrarian state, with agriculture employing over 75% of the population. It is also abundant with mineral deposits, and several natural tourism assets.

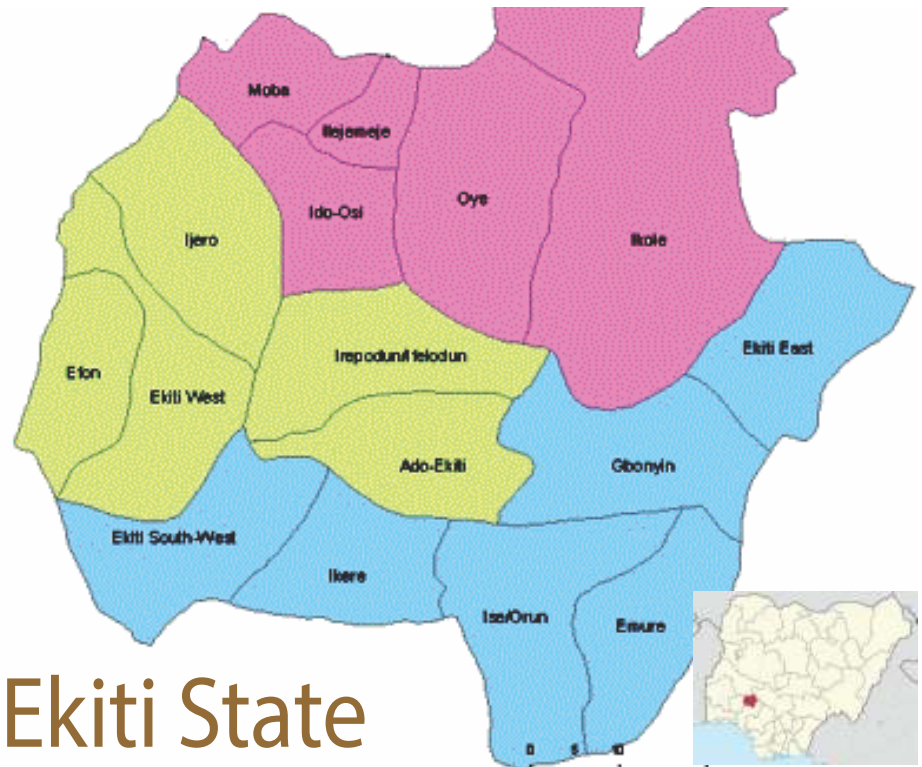
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EKITI STATE

In a bid to ensure Ekiti State becomes an attractive destination for investment, the current Government created the Ekiti State Development and Investment Promotion Agency (EKDIPA), with its enabling Law in 2019. This agency will coordinate investment promotion activities within the state, and house the one-stop-shop for anyone looking to invest in Ekiti. In addition to the agency, the State has also commenced a set of 29 reforms, covering business origination, contract enforcement, property registration and dealing with construction permits. When completed, the State expects to be ranked as one of the three friendliest states to do business in Nigeria.

AGRICULTURE

The Government has identified an 38,000 hectare agricultural corridor, that will serve as a special agricultural processing zone designed to support the cultivation and processing of strategic crops including cassava, coca, cashew, oil pam and rice. The zone will be supported by access roads, three dams to ensure irrigation is available for optimum yield, and a dedicated plan to power the zone. At the moment, four processing plants are being built by investors with a combined capacity of 145,000MT, and we expect this zone to be the leading cassava processing hub in Nigeria within the next three years. in addition, Ekiti state is developing plans to boost ranching and by extension, the meat and dairy industry. The state has brownfield opportunities like the Ikun Dairy Farm and other abandoned assets that are being repositioned for private investment, to take advantage of the meat and fresh milk supply gap in Nigeria.

EKITI STATE IS HOME TO THE FAMOUS IKOGOSI WARM SPRINGS, ARINTA WATERFALLS OLOSUNTA HILLS AND SEVERAL OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



Ekiti State

KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Ekiti State is known for its historical heritage of being Nigeria's knowledge capital. Capitalizing on this, the government is developing a 955 Hectare Ekiti Knowledge Zone, designed to be Nigeria's first service based Special Economic Zone. The area is located within the Education Quadrangle that includes Afe Babalola University Teaching Hospital, Ekiti State University, Federal University Oye, Federal Polytechnic Ado and College of Education Ikere. When completed, this zone will house universities, schools, technology campuses, workspaces and offices to service business process outsourcing and back office operations. The government also plans to develop the talent pool to serve the community and ensure tenants have the right tools to optimize their operations.

TOURISM

Ekiti State is home to the famous Ikogosi Warm Springs, Arinta Waterfalls Olosunta Hills and several other tourist attractions. To optimize cultural and recreational tourism, the Government has invested in security, curated it's traditional festivals and improving access roads to the state, leading with the Ado Ekiti-Akure road that connects Ekiti State to the Akure Airport. To complement this, the State has also developed Nigeria's first MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events) strategy, a clear plan to make Ekiti a destination for business tourism.





Plateau State



PLATEAU STATE IN BRIEF

The unique physical features of Plateau State (Home of Peace and Tourism) are its high relief; a combination of a mountainous area with captivating rock formations, punctuated by deep gorges, lakes, bare rocks, rivers, waterfalls that define its grass lands especially in the north, and its geological history.

In the formative years of British colonialism in Nigeria, much of Plateau State was part of Bauchi Province. In May 1967, Benue and Plateau Provinces were merged to form Benue-Plateau State and by 1976 Benue-Plateau State was severed and became Benue and Plateau States and remained as such until 1996 when the present Nasarawa State was carved out of Plateau State. In essence, the old Plateau province has given birth to the present Benue, Kogi, Taraba and Nasarawa states.

The Administrative Capital of Plateau State is Jos. The State, which is governed by an elected Executive Governor consists of

17 Local Government Areas (LGA), namely, Bassa, Barkin Ladi, Bokkos, Jos East, Jos North, Jos South, Kanam, Kanke, Langtang North, Langtang South, Mangu, Mikang, Pankshin, Qu'a'an-Pan, Riyom, Shendam and Wase. Each LGA is governed by an elected Executive Chairman with other officials. The Map of the present Plateau State, with its administrative areas is shown in Figure 2. The State can broadly be divided into three parts, which crystallize in a manner that often defines the politics, culture and languages of the people. Most significantly is the fact that the people share a deep cultural and linguistic homogeneity that necessitates their desire to belong together.

Since inception, our administration has been working assiduously towards creating a conducive environment for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This is even most auspicious with the dwindling oil revenue, economic downturn and myriads of challenges facing all the states in the country in spite of our abundant natural and human resources. These challenges have necessitated our thinking out of the box, embracing

the new normal and identifying areas of discriminating competencies or comparative advantage. The mechanisms will certainly widen and stimulate the frontier of productivity in the economy, rather than mere consumption. By implication, and in the democratic setting, we are required to fashion out practical, feasible and defensible policies that will meet the yearnings and expectations of the people through effective service delivery. We note that policy, as a purposeful course of action designed to achieve set objectives requires constant review in line with contemporary challenges that a state or country finds itself. Ours cannot be an exception.

The estimated population of the state is about 3,206,531 (2.27% of the Nation) people. (National Population Commission of Nigeria, 2006 Census figures). The mass population also guarantees abundant human and natural resources, sufficient to add economic viability and "Global Value" for sustainable growth.

The people generally have an autochthonous origin and cultural affinity, with many categories of people identified with a common language, ancestral, social, cultural, religious (mythology and ritual) experiences, primarily an inherited status. There are 53 ethnic groups in Plateau State.

Within the context of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, the state still pride itself with nature's gift of a stunningly beautiful Plateau State. This sector has greater multiplier effects on other key sectors of development, especially as it relates to embracing and keying into the private-sector-driven culture in governance.

PLATEAU STATE SNAPSHOT

- Total land area: 27,147 Km²
- Capital: Jos
- Local Government Areas: 17 LGAs: Jos North, Jos South, Jos East, Bassa, Kanam, Barakin Ladi, Quai'an-Pam, Wase, Langtang North, Langtang South, Pankshin, Shendam, Riyom, Mikang, Kanke, Mangu and Bokkos.
- Population: 4,433,501 (Male- 2,261,086 and Female- 2,172,416)
- Vegetation: Tropical Savannah
- Major crops: Maize Guinea Corn, Cassava, Yam, Grain, Cow Peas, Rice, Fonios Acha, Monumental Crops, Mango, Straw Berries, Flowers. Vegetables, Tomatoes, Onion, Cabbage, Carrot, Cucumber.
- Solid minerals: Tin, Columbite, Lead, Coal, Clay, Kaolin, Marble, Gemstone, Barytes and Zinc.



Plateau State Governor Simon Lalong was born 5 May, 1963 in Shendam, Plateau State, he is a Nigerian lawyer and politician.

After his elementary and secondary schools education in Shendam Local Government Area he proceeded to the School of Preliminary Studies (S.P.S) Keffi, passing out in 1986. He then continued to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, graduating in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in Law. This was immediately followed by the Law School in Lagos, where he was also called to Bar. He later obtained a master's degree in Law from the University of Jos, in 1996.

Lalong's professional career as an attorney lasted between 1992, the year following his graduation from law school, and 1998, the dawn of Nigeria's new democracy. During this period he worked with a few law firms, one of which he co-owned. Between 1992 and 1994 he was the Deputy Scribe of the Nigerian Bar Association in Plateau State. After a political stint that lasted seven years he again returned to legal practice as the Principal Partner of Simon B Lalong and Co, until 2015.

Simon Lalong temporarily discarded legal practice to join the political bandwagon in 1998. Under the People's Democratic Party (PDP), he successfully contested the seat of the member of the Plateau State House of Assembly representing his native Shendam Constituency.

In October 2000 he became the speaker of the assembly, occupying that position till the year 2006, following a political storm within the House.

The seven years he served as the Speaker of that assembly made him the longest serving speaker of the House in the history of Plateau State. During that period he was two times (2001–2002) elected as the Chairman of the Conference of Speakers of the 36 states of Nigeria. In the year 2015, as the second tenure of the serving Governor of Plateau State, Jonah Jang, neared its end, Lalong joined the contest to succeed Jang. This time, he did so under the All Progressive Congress (APC) political platform. His chances seemed narrow at the beginning, but the capricious nature of politics tipped the balance eventually, favoring him by a slim margin. He was sworn in as the new Governor of Plateau State on May 29, 2015.

In the March 9, 2019 Plateau State Gubernatorial Election and March 23, 2019 Plateau State supplementary Gubernatorial Election, Lalong was reelected as Governor of Plateau State, having polled 595,582 votes against his rival, Gen. Jeremiah Hussein of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) who polled 546,813 votes. He was re-elected as the governor of Plateau State on May 29, 2019.



GOV Simon Bako Lalong

AGRICULTURE

The state agricultural production is within the context of: agriculture, food production, food security & poverty alleviation.

In addressing the issue of food production, the state identified: Very weak industrial base, except at artisanal levels) (c.f. north-west (kano), south-western (Lagos-Ogun-Ibadan axis, & South-Eastern axis), Mono economy and risk of dwindling oil revenue, poverty (low income/purchasing power) as a major factor militating against its successes.

The uniqueness of agriculture on the Plateau is the semi-temperate weather, which is favourable for the production of tropical and other exotic temperate crops. Wide varieties plants that are

cultivated across the state and present great investment potential include: acha or fonio (*digitaria exilis*; *digitaria iburua*), cassava, sweet and irish potatoes, tomatoes, yam, sugar, rice, wheat, sesame (*sesamum indicum*), cucumber, pepper, egg plants, atili or African elemi (*canarium schweinfurthii*), moringa and other medicinal plants.

Fish farming has gradually become a major economic activity in the State. A modern hatchery with a capacity to produce two million fingerlings of tilapia, carp and mudfish for sale to farmers has been established, as well as pond fisheries consultancy service unit to stimulate private investment in fish farming to boost the industry.

The geo-strategic positioning of the state for unique agricultural production and value chain development cannot be over-emphasized, given

our comparative advantage in the production of exotic Fruits and Livestock such as: apples, grape vines, strawberries, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli.

INFRASTRUCTURE

In the area of infrastructural development, the state recognize that this sector forms the bedrock of economic activities as it is not only a catalyst but also a lubricant, the Government has within the last four years placed a premium on this sector.

The state government has completed inherited projects from the previous administration and award of critical contracts at a total sum of thirty-eight billion, one hundred and sixty-eight million, four hundred and seventy thousand, six hun-



Main Investment Opportunities

- Agribusiness
- Light Manufacturing
- Tourism
- Mining
- Healthcare
- Solid Minerals



Plateau State

dred and sixty-seven Naira (N38,168,470,667.00).

SOLAR ENERGY

Plateau State, is reportedly rich in renewable energy sources for electricity generation. The state has said it will give about 10 out of the 30 per cent contribution of renewable energy in Nigeria's as part of its contribution to the energy mix in 2030.

The state initiated conscious efforts and procedures to accomplish the target, starting with its recent launch of renewable energy policy and implementation plan which is supported by a guide on initiating and engaging public-private partnerships on solar mini-grids systems.

The state, basically, is in a hurry to get started on its plans for renewable power generation, if achieved it could claim immense competitive advantage on solar, wind, biomass, and small hydropower generation over all states in Nigeria.

HEALTH

The manpower demand in the health sector in Plateau state is on the rise owing to the current and emerging health challenges confronting its citizens. The need for trained, qualified and skilled health professionals is paramount in or-

der not to allow our people to be at the mercy of quack practitioners.

Also, the need to strengthen the health training institutions in the area of infrastructural development, manpower capacity development, improve and conducive learning environment is necessary for the accreditation of new courses and advanced learning.

Plateau State was a beneficiary of the gesture of Georgia Atlanta in collaboration with The Carter Center (TCC) through the Nigeria Public Health Training Initiative (NPHTI). The items donated included furniture, classroom accessories, teaching and learning aids, laboratory equipment, laboratory consumables and other equipment such as desktop computers, printers, photocopiers, wifi modems, etc.

INTERNAL GENERATED REVENUE

Plateau state in 2018 generated N12.72bn.

The State Internal Revenue Service (PSIRS) is its major revenue-generating Agency saddled with the responsibility of collecting all forms of taxes within its jurisdiction. Over the years, PSIRS has increased the State's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) by executing and implementing strategies which have impacted positively on revenue generation and collection, with the IGR growing steadily thereby augmenting what the state is receiving from the

federal account.

To make tax assessment and payment convenient for taxpayers, PSIRS established mini tax offices in over 15 locations across the state and all the offices are in operation. Furthermore, PSIRS is strongly advising her esteem taxpayers to explore the self-assessment option of assessment in order to enjoy the 1% waver.

SOLID MINERALS

Plateau State is endowed with rich deposits of a variety of industrial minerals of high quality. Tin and columbite have been mined on the Jos Plateau since 1902. Although production has declined due to a drastic fall in demand, this area was once the world's leading producer of tin with an annual output of 17,000 tons in the peak war period of 1941-45. Other minerals found in Plateau State in commercial quantities are barytes, kaolin, zircon, monazite, marble, limestone, sphalerite, quartz, galena, glass sand, clay and gemstones.

The high relief, or more appropriately, the Jos Plateau, provides a hydrological centre for many rivers in northern Nigeria and confers on the northern part of the state a cool climate suitable for livestock rearing and growing of exotic crops. The process of formation of its high relief makes Plateau State one of the States in the country with rich mineral resources.



GOVERNORS IMPACTING EDUCATION

Education in Nigeria has been recognised as the key that unlocks national development. Its sustenance at difference educational levels like, teacher remuneration, welfare and the payment of school and examination fees, including the feeding of schools at different levels is bringing accolades to governors.

Recent developments show that governors are not just talking but working, at least in the education sector. And teachers are applauding.

Since the state of emergency in the education sector was declared in November 2018 by the Federal Government, governors of the 36 states of the federation have allocated at least 15 percent of their yearly budgets to education with a view to revolutionizing the sector. They were also enjoined to constitute a task force to manage the funds and ensure infrastructure renewal in public schools nationwide.

The governors, in changing the narrative on public schools in Nigeria, have paid WAEC and NECO fees for students as well as embark on free feeding to attract enrolment in public schools. Teachers in various states have had their salaries paid as at when due and the impacts are beginning to unfold.

For example, in Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai fulfilled his campaign promise to enrol his six-year-old son, Abubakar el-Rufai, in a public school when he turned six.

This is after he was widely criticized for sacking 22,000 teachers who were not, according to him, qualified to teach. He explained that his decision was to generally overhaul the education sector and weed it of misfits. It appears, however, that his approach is yielding results as public schools in the state can now stand toe-to-toe with private schools.

Speaking shortly after enrolling his son, the governor said it was when political leaders' children attend public schools that the schools would attract the needed attention.

Recall that the governor in a broadcast in December, 2017 made a declaration to revamp education in the state and that, "I will by personal example ensure that my son that will be six years of age in 2019



KADUNA STATE GOVERNOR, MALLAM NASIR EL-RUFAI FULFILLED HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISE TO ENROL HIS SIX-YEAR-OLD SON, ABUBAKAR EL-RUFAI, IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL WHEN HE TURNED SIX

will be enrolled in a public school in Kaduna State."

On his part, Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun announced the reinstatement of two of the three teachers sacked over alleged "gross misconduct". He, however, advised them on the need to adopt a moderate approach and show understanding in pushing their demands to government.

For Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo State, who was given the award of performing governor in Nigeria for the year 2019, by the national leadership of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), a facelift for the sector cannot be compromised.

According to the Secretary General of the



GOVERNORS IMPACTING EDUCATION

IFEANYI OKOWA REWARDED 12 OUTSTANDING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL HEADS IN PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE STATE WITH CARS AND CASH GIFTS



Union, Mr. Mike Ike Ene, the Governor was nominated for the award based on his achievements in the education sector within the three years of his administration in the state and his roles in improving basic education and teachers' welfare in the State.

In addition to this, a fourth-year medical student, Ikponmwosa Kingsley Osamede, emerged winner of a national essay competition organised by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) and the National Universities Commission (NUC). He attributed his success to the usual motivation from Gov Obaseki to students. In celebrating the World Teachers Day, Delta State Governor, Ifeanyi Okowa rewarded 12 outstanding teachers and school heads in primary and post-primary schools in the state with cars and cash gifts. Governor Mai Mala Buni on his part, declared a state of emergency in education in Yobe state following the poor performance recorded in the 2019 WAEC results.

This made him to further solidify a longtime friendship with Nigerian Tulip International Colleges in order to revitalize the state's education sector. In Anambra State, it was all celebrations for Governor Willy Obiano after the state recently won four of the Federal Government's 24 awards bestowed on institutions and individuals to mark this year's Teachers Day in the country.

He noted that at the 2019 President's Teachers and Schools Awards for Excellence in Education organised by the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Education, the state won prizes for producing the best public secondary school in the country.

It may not yet be peace in the education sector but one thing is certain- that like wildfire, the revolution revamping education at the subnational level has just began and it is only a matter of time that like in Rwanda where public schools are pushing the private ones aside, Nigeria's education sector will rise.



STATES ACHIEVEMENTS/POLICY THRUST IN AGRICULTURE: NORTH WEST ZONE



In continuation of our series on States policy thrust in the agricultural sector, we take a cursory look at the North West geopolitical zone which comprises Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara States.

Below are the state governments' achievements/policy thrust on agricultural sector:

JIGAWA STATE

Jigawa state is blessed with a large expanse of arable agricultural land, rivers and flood plains suitable for crops, livestock and fish production. More than 90% of the Jigawa population engage in subsistence farming, while the governor, Alhaji Abubakar Badaru is making serious efforts to migrate the states farmers to commercial agriculture.

Below are Jigawa State's agricultural achievements/policy thrust:

I. Introduction of high-yield crop varieties.

- II. Purchase and distribution of 15,450mt fertilizer.
- III. Special fertilizer intervention with 50,000 MTs.
- IV. Purchase and distribution of 58,445lt/kg of assorted agrochemicals.
- V. Production and distribution of 1,058.75 MTs of certified seeds.
- VI. Re-stocking of Dam distribution of fishing gear.
- VII. Introduction of Goats Breeding Micro-Credit to Women.
- VIII. Provision of over 15,000 simple farm equipment.
- IX. Control of Pest eg. Quelea birds, army worms, stemborer etc.
- X. Identification, adoption and dissemination of proven Agricultural technologies on crops, livestock, fisheries, processing etc.
- XI. Capacity building of Extension workers and farmers
- XII. A total of 1,196,222 heads of livestock (cattle, sheep/goat, dogs and poultry) vaccinated
- XIII. Introduction of Cluster farming during the 2016 rainy season,



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XIX. Demarcation of 2 nos. grazing reserves.

XX. Installation of additional 30 nos. Windmills bringing the total to 81

KADUNA STATE

Kaduna State is an agrarian state with over 70% of the population engaged in crop and livestock production. It has a land area of 4.5million hectares out of which 2 million is arable land. Kaduna State Government is recording landmark achievements in its drive to promote agriculture. The Government is creating opportunities for investment in Agriculture and the state is in partnership with World Bank on Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support Project (APPEALS), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and UKAID. Below are the Kaduna State Agricultural and Fiscal policy:

2016/17 wheat growing season and 2017 dry rice.

XIV. Attracted investment in the Agriculture sector: Dangote Group, Lee Group, Klysat, Majestic Dairy and Rice mill, Three Brothers rice mill, BUA Group, Jiffatu Ltd., and many other medium scale rice mills.

XV. Conduct of survey on irrigated Agric. potential.

XVI. Additional 3,500 Ha developed with annual plan of 10,000 Ha.

XVII. Development of agricultural youth and women empowerment programme involving over 3,500 youth has been put in place.

XVIII. Gazetting of 52 no. grazing reserves.

MORE THAN 90% OF THE JIGAWA POPULATION ENGAGE IN SUBSISTENCE FARMING, WHILE THE GOVERNOR, ALHAJI ABUBAKAR BADARU IS MAKING SERIOUS EFFORTS TO MIGRATE THE STATES FARMERS TO COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE

Kaduna State Agricultural Policy

I. Liberalize foundation seed policy to allow private sector to commercialize seeds.

II. Eliminate government distribution of fertilizers and replace with private sector distribution.

III. Move away from a flat fertilizer price subsidy to targeted support to small holder farmers.

IV. Incentives to engage young commercial farmers for farming as a business.

V. Development of Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Centers.

VI. Farm skill acquisition centers.

VII. Access to land and finance.

VIII. Create institutions to support the agricultural transformation agenda.

IX. Marketing Corporations, to replace marketing



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boards.

X. Guaranteed minimum price for food crops to stabilize prices.

XI. Revise the Land Use Act to enable easier access to land for investors.

XII. Rapid expansion in irrigation facilities and revamping of existing ones.

Kaduna State Fiscal Policies

I. Zero tariffs (custom, excise and value added) for import of agricultural equipment and agro-processing equipment.

II. Tax holidays for investors putting processing plants in staple crop processing zone.

III. Increase tariff on any commodity that Nigeria can produce (rice, starch, sugar, wheat etc.) to promote domestic production and local content.

IV. Current policy on import levy of 5% for brown rice and 30% for polished milled rice, and 5% on raw sugar and 10% on starches should be increased and revenue used to support domestic production.

V. Supportive incentives for investors for blending plants for ethanol

KANO STATE

The Agriculture sector in Kano contributes more than 70% of its Gross State Product, approximately 50% of the populace is directly or indirectly engaged in some form of agricultural activity including crop, livestock and fishery production. Kano is presently the most irrigated State in Nigeria, with more than 20 dams providing about 2 million cubic metres of water to support agricultural and industrial activities. Current annual production of grains exceeds 4 million metric tons with an estimated value of N721.20b. Cereals (Rice, Wheat and Barley), Legumes (Groundnut), Oil Seeds (Soya Beans, Sesame and Castor), Fibers (Cottons and Sisal), Spices (Ginger, Chili Pepper) being the major export crops



produced in the State. Kano is also a major producer of non-staple crops, such as sweet potato, tomato, cassava and cowpea. The State also supports the production of horticultural crops such as banana, sugar cane, onion, Mango, e.t.c. Below are some of the State achievement in agriculture.

I. Sponsorship of 100 pastoralists to learn artificial insemination in Turkey.

II. Invested heavily in dry season wheat farming and rice farming in Kura Local Government of the State.

III. Procurement of modern



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mechanized tools.

KATSINA STATE

The Agricultural policy thrust set by the current administration was restoration of productivity by accelerating its growth and development. The overall objective was to remodel the sector in order to make it the bedrock of modernization, diversification, and strengthening of the economy to create wealth and jobs for the people of the State. To pursue their achievement, the State partnered with the CBN on the following:

- I. To introduce the Anchor Borrowers Programme to support farmers.
 - II. Rehabilitated about a dozen dams for irrigation and livestock feeding.
 - III. Rehabilitated and constructed about twenty (20) irrigation schemes across the state.
 - IV. Introduced a livestock drugs revolving scheme.
 - V. Carried out a mass de-worming of livestock across the State.
- State governments have also revived and strengthened extension

services including providing overseas training in modern farming techniques to extension workers; evolved a sound agricultural mechanization policy; distributed agro-chemical products and improved seed varieties to farmers; and facilitated partnership for establishing rice, tomato, and fertilizer factories in the State by private investors.

KEBBI STATE

The State government initiated an agricultural revitalization, transformation and diversification drive through partnership with the Bank of Agriculture, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Kebbi State is one of the largest rice-producing state in Nigeria. Kebbi has become a model and a hub in rice and wheat production. The state has entered into partnership with the Lagos State government in the production of Lagos-Kebbi Rice (LAKE Rice) has created a sustainable, reliable and profitable ready market for the paddies produced by farmers in Kebbi, transforming their fortunes and boosting their socio-econom-



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ic standards of living.

Kebbi has also entered into partnership with Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Sokoto, and Zamfara states as well as the Moroccan Government to receive the supply of over 300,000 tonnes of fertiliser.

The state government has also procured for distribution to farmers 100 tractors, 1000 ox-drawn ploughs, 100 rice threshers, rice rippers and 100 motorcycles for trained agricultural extension workers.

The government is encouraging livestock production, prevention and control of diseases in poultry and fisheries.

SOKOTO STATE

The state government policy thrust on agriculture is to industrialize agriculture, in order to transform it into a commercial venture, to maximize its economic and employment potentials.

I. Completion of the college of Agriculture, Wurno.

II. Procurement and distribution of fertilizer, farm implements and improved seeds, pesticides and other essential requirements by farmers.

III. Took delivery of a Herd of One Hundred and Seventeen cattle from South Africa for the smooth take-off of the Sokoto Dairy Project.

IV. Collaboration with members of the business community, both at local and international level to explore the possibility of joint ventures investments in several Agric- Based business.

V. Establishment of a Tomato Processing Factory by Erisco Foods Limited in Sokoto. An MoU has already been signed while land for the project has been handed over to the company by the Government.

ZAMFARA STATE



Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the state and their major source of income. Major agricultural products include millet, guinea-corn, maize, rice, groundnut, cotton, tobacco and beans. The present administration achievements on agricultural sector is the implementation of the Ruga settlements initiative on 100 hectares of land in each 3 senatorial districts of the state. This is to resettle herders and boost economic activities of the State. The state government also provided fertilizers to some selected existing Fulani Settlement.





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