

Bayelsa State

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Bayelsa State is a state in southern Nigeria in the core Niger Delta region, between Delta State and Rivers State. Its capital is Yenagoa. The language spoken here is Ijaw; however, like the rest of Nigeria, English is the official language. The state was formed in 1996 from part of Rivers State and thus, it is one of the newest states of the Nigerian federation.

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Economy

Bayelsa State has one of the largest crude oil and natural gas deposits in Nigeria. As a result petroleum production is extensive in the state. However, the majority of Bayelsans live in poverty. They are mainly rural dwellers due to its peculiar terrain and lack of adequate transportation, health, education or other infrastructure as a result of decades of neglect by the central governments and petroleum prospecting companies. This has been a large problem in the state since its creation and successive state governments have not been able to address and repair the issue. The state, as a result, has an almost non-existent commerce. Successive state governments have, however, embarked on various industrial projects (even venturing into the oil and gas sector), and "poverty-alleviation" programs to reverse this situation.

The local population engage in fishing on a subsistence and commercial level. The Bayelsa State government is otherwise the main employer of labor in the state.

Geography

Bayelsa has a riverine and estuarine setting. A lot of her communities are almost (and in some cases) completely surrounded by water, hence making these communities inaccessible by road.


Other important cities besides Yenagoa include Akassa, Amassoma (the home of the Niger Delta University), Twon-Brass, Kaiama, Nembe, Odi, Ogbia, Oporoma and Sagbama.

Notable natives

Notable sons of Bayelsa State include veteran novelist and poet, Gabriel Okara; pioneering Nigerian journalist and pre-independent freedom fighter, Ernest Ikoli; Nigerian Civil War hero, Major Isaac Adaka Boro (Nigerian Army) and Canadian Olympic gold medalist; world wrestling champion, Daniel Igali; and National Team footballer and Olympic & Under 20 coach, Samson Siasia. Others include revolutionaries and martyrs of April 22, 1990 Captains Perebo Dakolo and Harley Empere (Nigerian Army); former Governor of Rivers State, HRM Alfred Diete-Spiff (now king of the city of Twon-Brass, Nigeria) the current vice-president of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan.

Due to massive overseas scholarship programs implemented by the old Rivers State in the 1970s and recent Bayelsa State governments, large numbers of Bayelsan professionals reside in Europe and North America. This is part of the general brain-drain trend affecting many African communities.

Administrative divisions

Bayelsa State	
State nickname: Glory of all lands	
Location	
	
Statistics	
Governor (List)	Timipre Sylva (PDP)
Date Created	1 October 1996
Capital	Yenagoa
Area	10,773 km ² Ranked 27th
Population 1991 Census 2005 est.	Ranked 35th N/A 1,998,349
GDP (PPP) -Total -Per Capita	2007 (estimate) \$4.34 billion ^[1] \$2,484 ^[1]
ISO 3166-2	NG-BY

Bayelsa is divided into eight Local Government Areas:

Coordinates: 4°45′N 6°05′E﻿ / ﻿4.750°N 6.083°E﻿ / 4.750; 6.083

- Brass
- Ekeremor
- Kolokuma/Opokuma
- Nembe
- Ogbia
- Sagbama
- Southern Ijaw
- Yenagoa

References

- [^] ^a ^b"C-GIDD (Canback Global Income Distribution Database)". Canback Dangel. <http://www.cgidd.com>. Retrieved on 2008-08-20.

External links

- Bayelsa State Government Portal
- Bayelsa State Government Homepage
- Bayelsa State at OnlineNigeria.com
- Bayelsa Council for Arts & Culture
- Adaka Boro Centre
- Official Website of Samson Siasia

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BAYELSA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED at the end of the BAYELSA STATE'S STAKEHOLDER TOWN HALL MEETING. Saturday, August 29, 2009 at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Yenagoa

- 1.0 The Bayelsa State Inaugural Town Hall meeting was held on the 29th of August, 2009, in order to promote interaction among the State's Stakeholders on matters pertinent to the State's development as well as to provide ideas and inputs relating to the drive for empowerment of Bayelsans.

The Meeting was presided over by the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, His Excellency, Chief Timipre Sylva and had in attendance; the Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State, Hon. Peremobowei Ebebi, Honourable Members of the State House of Assembly, Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Traditional Rulers Council, Founding Fathers, Elders Consultative Forum, National Union of Bayelsa State Students (NUBSS), Members of the Civil Society, Youth Organisations and other Stakeholders.

- 2.0 The Executive Governor highlighted the State's achievements so far, in the area of infrastructure and socio-economic development. The areas in which the State has made significant efforts include the following amongst others; Agriculture and Food Supply, Infrastructure - Roads, Bridges, Power Supply, E-Governance, Public Financial Management, Peace and Security, especially Amnesty for Militants etc.

Particularly, His Excellency restated his commitment to the One-Year Uninterrupted Power Supply for Bayelsans.

- 3.0 KPMG Professional Services made a presentation: "A Socio-Economic Transformation Agenda for Bayelsa State", which highlighted key imperatives for growth and development in Bayelsa State. Comparisons were made with other cities and countries that have executed major infrastructure projects.

Various options for funding of the State's infrastructure requirements were mentioned. Among these are the commercial bank loans, donor and multi-lateral agency funding, Public-Private Partnership and issuance of bonds.

- 4.0 The Stakeholders commended His Excellency and his administration on the following:

- Initiation of the Town Hall Meeting as an advocacy and participatory governance approach
- Achievements and progress recorded on the various infrastructural projects in the State especially the completion of projects initiated by previous administrations. Such completed laudable projects include the following, amongst others:

- Peace Park
- Gloryland Castle
- Kolo Creek Gas Turbine
- Ekoli Bridge
- Glory Drive etc
- Judiciary Complex
- Revenue House
- New Secretariat Complex

The Stakeholders enjoined the Executive Governor and the administration to explore the following, for improved governance:

- Regular and enhanced interaction and communication with the elder statesmen, to leverage on their experience
- Diversification of the economic base with more emphasis on Agriculture, including improved involvement of small holders

The following key resolutions were unanimously passed by the Stakeholders at the meeting:

- His Excellency and his administration should progress and move forward on its medium and long-term economic growth and development strategies/initiatives
- The administration should creatively seek efficient and optimal funding for its development projects
- The House agrees that the Bond option is an optimal and relatively cheaper source of funding. Consequently, the House approves that the State should adopt this option in funding its medium and long-term infrastructural development projects and other socio-economic development initiatives
- The Executive is to report progress on the Bond issuance programme to the Stakeholders. Consequently, the House nominated and approved the following as members of the Stakeholder Committee, to work closely with the State Executive in implementing and monitoring the Bond issuance programme.

The members of the Committee are as follows:

- | | | | |
|--|----------|--|--------|
| 1. Chief Anderson Eseimokumo | Chairman | 10. HRM Malla Sasime | Member |
| 2. HRM King Joshua Igbagara | Member | 11. Godwin Okosu | Member |
| 3. Prof. F.D. Sikoki | Member | 12. Barrister C.J. Ayabowei | Member |
| 4. Prof. N. Brambaifa | Member | 13. Chairman to National Youth Council | Member |
| 5. Chief A.R.S. Dienagha (Engr.) | Member | 14. Dr. Amba Ambalawei | Member |
| 6. Sen. E.W.T. Difa | Member | 15. Major D. Sele (Rtd) | Member |
| 7. Chief T.K. Okorotie | Member | 16. Hon. Graham Ipigansi | Member |
| 8. IYC Central Zone Chairman | Member | 17. Mrs. Helen Opigo | Member |
| 9. President, National Council for Women Societv | Member | 18. President, NUBSS | Member |