

**BRIEF OF CROSS RIVER STATE BY THE SECRETARY TO
THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE
SECRETARIAT OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM;
SATURDAY 31ST NOVEMBER, 2009**

The present Cross River State came to being in 1987 when Akwa Ibom State was carved out of the former South Eastern State.

The State has a land mass of 98 square kilometers with a population of about 2.89m (2006) population census.

Cross River State has 18 Local Government Areas, namely; Abi, Akamkpa, Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Bekwarra, Biase, Boki Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, Etung, Ikom, Obudu, Obanliku, Obubra, Okukpani, Ogoja, Yakurr and Yala.

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AUTHORITIES

The State economy is dominated by the Public Service, which has about 20,000 employees. Agriculture is the leading economic sector in the State.

Tourism sector has also been identified as holding great potentials for driving other sectors of the economy. Accordingly, the sector is receiving unprecedented investments.

At the inception of the present Administration in 2007, it became necessary to consolidate the achievements of the last administration and reposition the State towards sustainable wealth creation, employment generation, and value reorientation. To achieve these, the State carried out tremendous reforms.

The first step towards the realization of these objectives was the drawing up of the State Economic Blue Print.

The Blue Print contains the administrations key development objectives captured under the seven point development agenda as follows:

- 1 Make agriculture more productive and rewarding by encouraging the adoption of agricultural best practices and ensuring that investment in the sector is participatory and adaptable;
- 2 Grow the tourism industry by enhancing a existing tourist sites, developing new site and initiating and strengthening

tourism activities in the State, particularly through the provision of a well regulated conducive environment;

3. Expand access to an affordability of qualitative education and social services to empower youths with relevant technological skills and knowledge;
4. Institutionalize basic health care by providing primary health delivery system that meets the needs of both urban and rural communities;
5. Develop a strong private sector driven economy by growing the purchasing power of Cross Rierians and encouraging private enterprise and strengthening the real sector of the State economy;
6. Build, upgrade and maintain infrastructure for transportation, electricity supply, communication, water supply and sanitation in urban as well as rural communities;

7. Preserve the physical environment through conservation and promotion of environment friendly practices in development and lifestyle.

To attain these specific goals calls for urgent reforms that would make Government proactive and better positioned to meet the challenges of development.

The Administration therefore quickly established agencies and structures to drive these objectives.

These include:

- i) Rural Development Agency to improve the quality of life and standard of living of the rural populace since the majority of the State population resides in the rural and semi-urban areas;
- ii) Investment Promotion, to directly intervene to promote investment in areas where private initiative is weak;
- iii) International donor Support;

- iv) Department of Public Transportation to develop infrastructure to support the economy and create wealth through improve access to our vast resources, as well as improved the quality of lifestyle of the citizenry;
- v) Department of Information and Communication Technology;
- (vi) State Electricity Agency;
- vii) State Debt Management Department;
- viii) Due Process and Price Intelligence Department: This is to underscore the State's commitment to public procurement reforms and ensuring that value of money is obtained in public expenditure;
- ix) Border Communities Development Commission;
- x) The process of setting up the Waste Management Agency is also in the pipeline.

CALABAN URBAN AUTHORITY
 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 in all urban towns (now)

In the course of interaction with Heads of the various MDAs, you will be properly briefed on the journey so far.