

PROFILE OF JIGAWA STATE
A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE HONOURABLE
COMMISSIONER OF INFORMATION, YOUTH, SPORTS
AND CULTURE, ALHAJI AMINU MUHAMMAD AT THE
OCCASION OF THE PEER REVIEW TOUR TO JIGAWA
STATE BY THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD
AT NEW STATE SECRETARIAT DUTSE, JIGAWA
STATE, 21ST APRIL, 2010:

INTRODUCTION

Jigawa State came into being as a result of the formation of groups and movements of the people at various levels demanding for the creation of states following the decision of the then Military Government to do so.

The issue was initially a difficult task but we proved we were equal to the task to forge ahead and develop despite all odds. This may interest you to note your Excellencies that we have made tremendous progress as a people from its inception to the present.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Jigawa State also known as the New World was created on Tuesday 27th August, 1991 by the Military President, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida along with other eight states under Decree No. 37 of 1991.

The State was carved out from old Kano State between latitudes 11degrees – 13degrees North and longitudes 8 degrees – 35degrees East. It has a land mass area of about 22,410 square kilometers. In the west it is bordered by Kano state, in the east by Bauchi and Yobe states and in the north by Katsina and Republic of Niger.

The topography of the state is generally flat where the northern, central and eastern parts are covered with sand dunes running in

the north west and north east direction. The southern and western parts of the state and state capital Dutse have the highest hills and elevations up to 600 metres above sea level. The state is bisected by the Hadejia River, which headwaters are in Kano State and the river traverses the State from the West to East through Hadejia – Nguru westlands and empties into the Lake Chad.

With a tropical climate, the temperature varies at different times. High temperatures are normally recorded between the months of April and September. The daily minimum and maximum temperatures are 15 degrees and 35 degrees Celsius. The rainy season lasts from May to September with an average rainfall between 600 to 1000 millilitres. The southern part of the state has a higher rainfall percentage than the northern part.

The vegetation of the State is within the Sudan Savannah, but there are traces of Guinea Savannah in the Southern part of the State.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

With a centrally controlled Government from the state capital Dutse, the state has twenty seven (27) Local Government Councils, Three Senatorial Districts, Eleven Federal Constituencies and Thirty (30) State Assembly constituencies as enshrined in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

As presently constituted in the 1999 constitution the Governor is the Chief Executive of the State charged with the responsibility of running the day to day affairs assisted by his Deputy and Members of the State Executive Council assisting.

The state was administered by four Military personnel and Three Civilian elected Governors since its creation.

S/NO.	NAME	PERIOD
1.	Colonel Oliyinka Sule Milad	Aug.'91 – Dec.'91
2.	Alh. Ali Sa'ad B/Kudu	Jan.'92-Nov.'93
3.	Colonel Ibrahim Aliyu Milad	Dec.'93 – Aug.'96
4.	Lt.Col. R.A. Shekoni Milad	Aug.'96 – Aug.'98
5.	Lt. Col. A.Z. Maimalari Milad	Aug.'98 – May'99
6.	Alh. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki (Civilian Governor)	May'99 – May'2007
7.	Alh. Sule Lamido (Civilian Governor)	May'2007 – Date

The State has over the last three years witnessed tremendous achievements in various aspects of human endeavours in the areas of Education, Health, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Commerce and conducive political atmosphere devoid of rancour through skills acquisition training among the youth and drug – free society. The state capital also received a boost comparable and even beyond some of its contemporaries.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

According to the 1999 Constitution, the state has twenty seven (27) Local Government Council Areas headed by elected Chairmen and assisted by at least ten Councilors each elected on the plat form of the Peoples Democratic Party with only one seat for the opposition party.

On appointed Councilors there is at least one female councilor and a representative of physically challenged in each of the 27 local governments in the state. The implementation of the programmes of each local government is the joint responsibility of councilors with various portfolios who constitute the council with the Chairman as the Chief Executive.

TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE

The State is made up of five Emirates namely Hadejia, Kazaure, Gumel, Ringim and Dutse each administered by an Emir (Sarki) with District, Village and Ward Heads assisting them. The Emirs and District Heads serve as custodians of our culture, tradition and advisers to the government on traditional and religious affairs. All the emirs are First Class Emirs.

S/No.	NAME	EMIRATE
1.	Alhaji Adamu Abubakar Maje CON (Chairman Council of Chiefs)	Hadejia
2.	Alhaji Najib Hussain Adamu CON	Kazaure
3.	Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Sani II CON	Gumel
4.	Alh. (Dr) Sayyadi Mahmoud Usman CON	Ringim
5.	Alh. (Dr) Nuhu Mohammed Sanusi	Dutse

POPULATION

According to the 2006 census the state has a population of 4.3 million people (National Population Commission Office Dutse) Eighty percent (80%) of this population is found in the rural areas most of which are Hausa, Fulani and Mangawa (a kanuri dialect). Cross border migration between Jigawa State and neighbouring states and between the state and Niger Republic is common especially during the dry season when cattle harders migrate in search of greener pasture for their cattle. Government has taken a bold step to check this migration by empowering the people economically especially the youth. The farmers/Fulani pastoralists clash has been greatly minimized through the formation of Grazing

Land Committee by the government and the involvement of leaders of farmers association, Miyetti Allah of the Fulani pastoralists, traditional rulers and law enforcement agencies.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION

The people of Jigawa State are mainly Hausa, Fulani, Mangawa, Badawa and Ngizimawa, which are dialects of the Kanuri language. They constitute significant percentages in Birniwa, Guri and Kiri Kasamma Local government areas. There are other settled tribes both from within and outside Nigeria settling in almost all the local government areas of the state with the highest concentration in the state capital.

RELIGION

Islam is the most predominant religion of the people with over ninety nine percent (99%) of the population being practicing muslims.

CULTURE

The rich cultural heritage of the people is reflected in their mode of dressing, music, dance, craftsmanship and hospitality. Hausa culture and tradition have over shadowed others but the Fulani, Mangawa, Ngizimawa and Badawa still maintain their cultures and tradition in their areas of concentration. These are mostly seen through their mode of dressing, food processing and pattern of settlement.

FESTIVALS

Among the festivities indicating the culture of the people of Jigawa State include the Eid-el-fitr marking the end of the Ramadan Fast and Eid-el-kabir observed on the tenth of the last month of the Muslim year. Another popular festival on 12th of the third month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar is well celebrated in Hadejia and Gumel Emirates popularly known as "Sallar Gani" to commemorate the birth of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

ECONOMY

The economy of Jigawa State is largely characterized by informal activities with agriculture as the major economic activity. Over eighty per cent (80%) is engaged in subsistence farming and animal husbandary. Trade and commerce are undertaken on small and medium scale, especially on agric goods, livestock and other consumer goods. Other informal sector activities include blacksmithing, leather-works, tailoring services, auto repairs, metal works, carpentry, tanning, dyeing, food processing, masorry etc. Even though modern industrial sector is yet to gain a solid footing, the seed for their development was planted through establishment of small-scale industries in areas of food processing and other agro-allied activities. Others include calabash and wood curving, traditional textile and architecture.

CONCLUSION

One can go on and on giving a profile of Jigawa State in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. But for the purpose of this presentation quite a lot has been highlighted for a showcasing on Jigawa State.

Thank you for listening.