

Introduction

This Strategy Plan provides the elaboration of the mandate and promises that form the pact of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Niger State, Alhaji Babangida Aliyu with the people of Niger State. The new vision of the State is to make it one of the top three economies and developed States of Nigeria by the year 2020. The Government gives highest priority to Education, Agriculture, Health and Infrastructural Development.

Values

This Development Action Plan derives from the principles that the state



places premium on. They form the norms, traditions, practices and stem from the aggregation of the State's most cherished ideals, its history and the environment within which it exists and are summarized below:

- Fear of God

- Recognition for real life achievements
- Accountability/transparency in public life
- Respect for elders and Constituted Authority, Laws and Regulations
- Caring for the under privileged, especially the physically-challenged and aged persons.
- Governance for the good of the people rather than self or group interest.
- Relating reward and

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wealth levels to productivity and contribution to economic output, rewarding excellence and hard work.

- Sanctioning for non-performance

Vision

To transform Niger State into one of the top three state economies in Nigeria by the year 2020 by being a model and leader in agro-based industrialization where there is employment and wealth creation opportunities for all in an atmosphere of peace.

Mission

To empower Nigerlites by providing a conducive environment for living, through wealth and employment creation opportunities in



collaboration with development and public private partners.

OVERALL STRATEGY

The overall development strategy of the state is to use its agricultural endowments through Private-Public-Partnerships (PPPs) to develop/industrialize/modernize the State's economy for the improvement of the welfare of the people.

Agro-based industrialization implies that agriculture and allied industries and services will form the fulcrum of the State's development. The is that

implication is that most of the other sectors, policies and strategies will revolve around the promotion of agriculture. The strategy does not imply that other sectors will be neglected; it is a matter of relative emphasis and mutual reinforcement between agriculture and the other sectors.

In point of fact, our advisers have indicated their willingness to extend their expertise in our bid to exploit commercial opportunities in solid minerals mining and tourism.

NIGER STATE: PEOPLES, HISTORY AND RESOURCE PROFILE

Niger State, one of the 36 states of Nigeria was created out of the defunct North Western

State on 3rd February, 1976. Situated in the North Central geo-political zone, Niger State shares its borders with the Republic of Benin (West), Zamfara State (North), Kebbi (North-West), Kogi (South), Kwara (South West), Kaduna (North-East) and the FCT (South-East). The State comprises 25 Local Governments Areas grouped into 3 administrative zones: A, B, C with each zone having 8, 9 and 8 Local Government Areas (LGAs) respectively. In line with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, two levels of government exist in the State; the State Government and the Local Government Councils.

With the merger of Borgu Emirate from old Kwara in August 1991, Niger

State is one of the largest states in Nigeria covering about 86,000km² (or about 8.6million hectares) representing about 9.3% of the total land area of the Country.

The State's major rivers are: Niger, Kaduna, Gbako, Eko, Gurara, Ebba, Ega, Mariga and their tributaries. The common fishes found in these rivers are: Nile Perch (Lates) Trunck fish, Cat fish, Osteoglosid, Tilapia, Synodontis, Tiger fish, Moon fish, Mormyrid and Electric fish.

The 2006 census has not provided information on the age grouping yet. However, by the 2006 census, the State's population is 3,950,249 comprising 2,032,725 males and 1,917,524 females. These represent the proportional share of 51.5% for males and 48.5% for females respectively. As opposed to a national annual growth rate of 3.2%, Niger State is growing at 3.4% annually.

The easily identifiable major ethnic groups are Nupes, Hausa, Gbagyi,



Kadara, Koro, Bassa, Kamuku, Ingwai, Fangu, Kambari, Dukkawa, Fulani, Abewa, Bisan, Gungawa, Bauchi, Bariba, Urah, Boko, Bokobaro, Bauchnu, Achifawa, Dakarkari, Kakanda, Ganagana, and Dibo (26 in all) and numerous non native tribes.

State is agriculture:- farming, fishing, and cattle rearing. The other economic activities (though limited in scale) include banking, trading, transportation, local arts and crafts with Bida, the heart land of the Nupes, famous for its brass work. These activities constitute the means of livelihood of the people of Niger State in addition to public service engagement.

Niger State is accessible by road, air, and rail and water transportation. It has about 1384 Km of

Asphalt, 207Km of Surface dressing, 140km (1731km) of Earth roads and 1503km of trunk 'A' roads. Access to, and communication within urban areas of the State is relatively easy. In addition, telephone, postal and courier services are available in the state capital, Minna, and some local government areas. Other socio-economic infrastructures in the State include 3 NTA Stations, 1 State Television and a State Radio Station properly networked throughout the State. Education and Health facilities (both public and private) exist at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Resource Profile

Niger State is a peaceful State reputable for its hospitality and good neighbourliness. Niger



State is also blessed with a lot of natural resources (solid minerals, vast arable land, good weather condition and water). The mineral resources available in the State include:- Gold (found in Minna, Kontagora, Rafi, Paikoro, Magama and Shiroro LGAs), Talc (Kontagora, Rafi and Shiroro Local Government Areas), Kyanite (Rafi and Shiroro Local Govt. Areas), Kaolin (Lavun, Gbako and Mokwa), Graphite (Rafi and Minna), Ball Clay (Edati, Suleja, Gbako, Minna, Agaie and Paikoro) Feldspar (Shiroro, Kontagora and Borgu), Marble Dolomite

(Gurara), Manganese (Shiroro), Mica (Shiroro), Lead and copper (Suleja), Quartzite (Rijau and Gurara), Asbestos & Iron (Kontagora and Rijau), Silica Sand (Gbako & Katcha), and Granite (Rafi & Kontagora).



The traditional institutions have been preserved and very effective in grassroots mobilization and sensitization. There are eight emirates ruled by First Class Emirs who together constitute the Emirate Council. Each LGA is subdivided into districts and the districts further subdivided into Wards/Villages. Each district is supervised by a District Head appointed by the Government.

Due to urbanization and migration, Niger State government has put in place stringent measures to adequately measure up to challenges that may be

accrued to urban developed cities. To further promote the peaceful coexistence and friendly environment, the State government has put in place adequate security to ensure safety of its citizens, investors and other stakeholders in ensuring that the state achieves its development goals.

Tourist attractions

Tourist attractions in the State include Zuma Rock (Suleja) Gurara Falls; Kainji Lake National Park;

Mongo Park Cenotaph (Jebba); Kainji, Shiroro and Jebba dams; Baro Empire Hill and Port; Zungeru Colonial ruins; Bida brass and glass works; Kuserki Magnetic Hill; Pissa Cave; Moving Rock; Bina Foot Prints; Fogbe Hut; Nagwamatse Well; Juju Rock; Ladi Kwali Pottery; Mayanka Water Falls (Suleja) and Annual Durbar festivals.

However, little or no effort has been made to explore these abundant



resources. The State's water resources are vast, supporting three hydroelectric power stations; Kainji, Shiroro, Jebba and the Zungeru (proposed). The hydro electric power stations in addition support and offer increased prospects and opportunities for irrigation farming, animal husbandry and fishing. An estimated 80% of the 86,000km² of the land area of the State is suitable for agriculture (i.e. arable) and the range of crops species that can

be produced is wide, given the soil texture and climatic condition.

The State's potential for Fadama development is also enormous. The state has an estimated 682,331 hectares of irrigable land of which only 25% has been developed. Only 105,556 hectares is put to use annually with about 26,500 hectares being cultivated during the dry season. It is estimated that about 129,000 hectares of the potential can be developed

through harnessing of sub-surface water using water bores or tube wells while the balance can be developed using river diversion modules, flood control structures and surface pumping.

Crops

The major crops being cultivated in the State are rice, yams, sorghum, maize, groundnuts, beans, cassava, sugarcane, melon and millet.

Livestock

The State has ideal conditions for livestock development. The abundant grassland and fodder, favourable of weather and abundant water sources as well as the successful control of the tsetse fly menace favour rearing and production of various breeds of livestock. However, production is largely by traditional

small holders and potential for large-scale production exists.

Electrification

Electrification in most urban areas and a few villages are successful and this is being spread through the entire state.

The human resources of the State are equally great. The economically active population is about 50%. With the present number of schools (both primary, secondary and tertiary) and the efforts of the present administration in the area of youth empowerment through skills acquisition, and improvement in general health, the human resources of the State can only be expected to maintain an upward trend. Being a key input in both aggregate and micro-stage production, the current human resources

of the State offers great opportunities for agriculture based industrialization and private sector development.

The context of the Plan: MTSS AND MTEF

This Strategic Plan 2007-2011 is a public declaration by the Government and people of Niger State not to dedicate themselves to "business as usual", but to "Government for growth and service." In the context of Medium Term Sectoral Strategy and Medium Term Expenditure Framework, this plan acknowledges that real change in the behaviour of all people including those in Government is critical to the advancement of the State.

The plan matches activities and budgeting to available resources. It is designed to stimulate

growth enhancement and empowerment of the people through wealth creation, value re-orientation, employment generation and poverty alleviation. It emphasizes peoples' participation and Public-Private-Partnership using all the abundant resources of the State.

This plan is a coordinated action framework arrived at through proper consultations with, and participation of all stakeholders in Niger State. It is expected to build a solid foundation for the attainment of the long-term vision of an industrialized state based on the State's resources in order to create a State



of excellence that is self sustaining.

Consultation Processes

This plan is a product of wide consultations of all Nigerlites. It is produced from a synthesis of actionable points from the Advisory Committee, submissions of Ministries and Parastatals, retreat document, Transition Committee document, submission from Local Governments and other submissions by individuals and groups. Indeed, it is expected to be continuously improved upon through implementation and further consultations. So it should be seen as a working document to be discussed, debated and enhanced for the development of Niger State.



Mineral resources available in Niger State



Gold

Feldspar

Lead



Marble

Talc

Kaolin



Kyanite

Ball Clay

Manganese



Quartzite

Silica Sand

Mica



Copper

Graphite

Iron

