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ADDRESS FROM
THE EXECUTIVE
GOVERNOR OF
BAYELSA STATE
NIGERIA

HON. SEN. DUOYI DIRI

06

INVEST IN BAYELSA STATE

HON. FRIDAY BENSON KOMBOWEI

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INTODUCE BAYELSA...

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THE INSTITUTIONAL
STRUCTURE OF BAYELSA
STATE



Dear Bayelsan Diaspora,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bayelsa state is one of the most successful states in Nigeria and was created out of Rivers State in the final years of the 20th century, in 1996. The state is a product of Sani Abacha's military government. Thus, the naming of the state was a derivative of the first few letters of the major local government area names. Brass, Yenagoa, and Sagbama are the names of the local governments whose first letters were used to come up with the name Bayelsa.

Bayelsa is a destination of choice for most investors. The security and infrastructural amenities are excellent. The state's social-political environment is suitable for business and investments. Regardless of the few security concerns affecting the state, the national and state government has adopted various important mechanisms and programs that fight criminality, making the state the most peaceful today and an investment haven.

One can also notice improved land laws, government incentives, and natural aspects that increases the state's ability to assure you and prospective investors that doing businesses with us will be fruitful.

Bayelsa also has a growing population and skilled labour. All these factors are important when it comes to growth and business success.

We implore you to come and invest in Bayelsa State.

His Excellency,

Senator Duoyi Diri

Executive Governor Bayelsa State

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SECURITY



INVEST BAYELSA

Hon. Friday Benson Kombowei

Bayelsa state is a growing investment destination not only for Nigerians but also for global investors. With this document, we want to help potential investors understand the state's institutional structure, infrastructural development, and investment opportunities for the people. We regularly evaluate the security paradigms of the state to encourage people to invest in the region. The integration between state and federal government in ensuring that Bayelsa state is a great investment region will be elaborated in detail.

Economic opportunities for the people in Bayelsa state will be an integral part of this discussion based on the activities that local and foreign investors can engage in to improve their socio-economic lives. In terms of security, we will discuss all the vital stakeholders who play various important roles to combat and maintain a safe environment.

We want to encourage investors to take note of the awaiting advantages should they decide to invest in the state. Bayelsa state has a good investment sphere and businesses will be of mutual benefit of investors, likewise locals. The positive elements and traits associated with Bayelsa state concerning its structure, infrastructure, opportunities, and environment for business will be discussed based on facts and research findings.

INTRODUCE BAYELSA



Dr. RosaLyn Dressman

Bayelsa is one of the most prominent southernmost states in Nigeria.

Historical evidence affirms that it was formed in October 1996. Since then, Bayelsa has manifested progressive economic and social progress which makes it one of the most preferable living and investment destinations, when compared to the other 36 Nigerian states. Bayelsa State is located between Delta and Rivers States at the core Niger Delta region. Bayelsa's capital is known as Yenagoa. Ijaw and Epie are the most common languages used in Bayelsa. However, it is vital to note that English is predominantly used considering that it is the official language not only in the state but also in the whole Nigerian nation.

The fact that most of the villages and towns in Bayelsa are surrounded by water makes it a riverine state. Water is a major means of transportation and a crucial factor when evaluating the state's investment opportunities. According to the 2006 Nigerian population census, Bayelsa indicated an annual population growth rate of approximately 3%. The name of the state was composed of acronyms three LGAs names. The historical information associated with the state manifests tremendous progress both economically and socio-politically. There is a great connection between Bayelsa's institutional structure, economic opportunities, infrastructure, secure environments, and the need to invest in the region.

The Institutional Structure of Bayelsa

Bayelsa is a democratic state just like the other Nigerian states. In other words, the legislature serves as the ultimate governance institution in the state. Legislative frameworks are relied on when mediating the interests of managers and the people. Additionally, the military has a vital responsibility when it comes to improving the living standards of the people in Bayelsa. Most of the institutions in this state are bureaucratically managed. The government is the top authority agent followed by heads of various institutions. The state has functional hospitals, religious places, companies, both public and private learning



Golf club Bayelsa state



NCDMB's new building Yenagoa

institutions such as colleges. The Bayelsa State Executive Council is important when analyzing the institutional structure of the state. The council is headed by the governor of Bayelsa. However, in collaboration with various ministerial departments and committee heads execute power at different levels to ensure that all the operations in Bayelsa are professional and beneficial to the people and investors likewise.

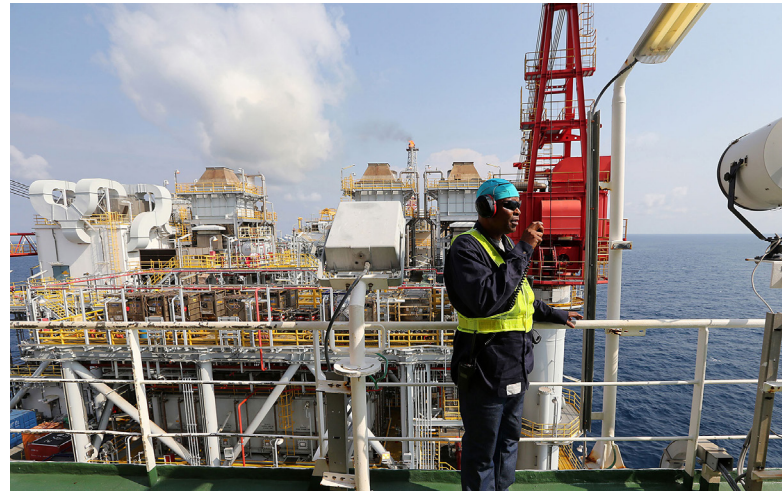
Bayelsa People and the Investment opportunities

The people of Bayelsa State have numerous investment opportunities based on the current economic boom and natural resources. The state is home to one of the largest

natural gas and crude oil deposits. In fact, Oloibiri was the first place where crude oil was discovered in the entire nation. The production of petroleum products is significant to people's lives as they can do business for prosperity. Investment in small and medium enterprises around the production companies is recommendable for the people. Critical analysis of the state exhibits it as a hub for investments. There are numerous business opportunities that locals can embrace and never regret their decision. Other than oil and gas production, Bayelsa's people engage in fishing and boat making activities. Agriculture also plays an important role in increasing locals' ability to generate income.



Azikel Refinery Yenagoa



Oil Facility Gbaran



Fertilizer plant Brass

INVESTING IN OIL & GAS SERVICES

INVEST BAYELSA



Olokola LNG Plant Brass



Gas flaring in Ogboinbiri

The Nigerian Oil and Gas reserves have grown tremendously since the discovery of hydrocarbon in 1956 in Oloibiri, Bayelsa state. As an investor, you can consider investing in profitable service like Gas treatment, Crude Oil and Gas conversion into refined and petrochemical Products and finer chemicals, with the new cargo airport in Bayelsa state, there will definitely be ease of transportation and Marketing of these products.

The people of Bayelsa invites investments in the downstream like Refining, Petrochemicals and Gas

Utilization. To reduce the investors' risk, speculative seismic data acquisition is carried out in the deep offshore using the services of reputable data acquisition companies.

In the inland area, there is direct involvement in exploration activities. Nigeria's production cost per barrels is one of the lowest worldwide. Huge reservoirs of hydrocarbon are in Bayelsa State.

Government has provided generous fiscal terms both for oil production and gas utilization.

The economic environ ensure easy repatriation of profit by investors. Productions from new ventures are guaranteed by Governments deliberate policies.

Opportunities also exist for investors to build gas plants and utilize available gas for production of LPG cooking gas and industrial gases, which are

in high demand. In the urban centers, LPG is the most sought source of cooking energy. In Yenagoa, the state capital, there is no LPG plant. Retailers of cooking gas get their stock from Port Harcourt, the capital of neighbouring Rivers State. "Petroleum production in the Niger Delta offers potential for investment in the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals and allied products for industrial use, for example plastics and fertilizer industries. The oil industry is vast, and technically so.

Bayelsa State offers opportunities for technical services, ranging from seismic and other geotechnical, drilling, pipeline, dredging, water transport, diving and underwater services to environmental response management services etc."



TOURISM & HOSPITALITY



For a progressive Bayelsa, sociocultural investments must be considered. With other sector developing, there is need to invest in Tourism in the whole state.

With right infrastructure in place, the tourism industry will change the public opinion of an unsafe and lacking Bayelsa people to a safe, peaceful and prosperous business destination in the country. There are different and interesting investment possibility here: with Medical tourism, Hoteliers, etc. Tourism sector is on a rising trajectory and prospects for more growth in the future are very positive, as such, the ministry is exploring strategies to grow the sector to its full potentials to complement other revenue sources of the state.



FOOD & AGRICULTURE

The state is endowed with enormous natural and mineral resources (especially aquatic) which are yet to be fully exploited in every part of the state.

These resources, most of which are untapped and capable of creating and servicing different industries with obvious comparative advantage over those in other parts of the country as they can be found in very large quantities and comes at prices better than anywhere else.

There are very good and arable land for crop farming (Plantain, Sugar cane, Cocoa yam, Cassava, Wild or African-Mango (Ogbono), Rice, Cucumber, different kinds of Vegetables

and Herbs, Maize, Oil palm etc). Equally in abundance, different kinds of woods which can be exploited for the local market and for export.

Water bodies for large scale fish farming can be found all-over the state and this makes it viable and lucrative for investors in the fish industry.

The processing and packaging of agriproducts are an untapped goldmine waiting to be harnessed by serious-minded investors.

Of course, our conducive vegetation is a plus for commercial snail farming also.

BOAT MAKING & REPAIRS



According to Ejituwu and Gabriel, Boats play various social-economic roles in Bayelsa. Thus, boat making is a considerable investment option for locals. Most people hold that boat making is among the thriving businesses in Bayelsa. Since most of the boats are locally made, it is important if people come up with new and modernized boats. Most Bayelsa indigenes carve the boats themselves. The curving process is time-consuming and can be tiresome. Investors should take the challenges facing boat making as an investment opportunity. The utilization of technological forces should also be integrated with the investment for newer boats to have demand. Eventually, boat making can be a successful business opportunity at personal and national levels. In other words, new investors should focus on making more reliable boats, such as speed boats aiming to ease transportation and mobility in the state.

Progress in making speedboats will open more investment opportunities for the Bayelsa people. For instance, speed boat sales will need a repair business. Repairing speedboats will attract massive profits for investors. Any investor thinking of the money-spinning business should not only consider introducing modernized boats but also repairing and spare parts business in Bayelsa state.

Since people have not yet exploited the potential speed boat sale and repair shop, it is obvious that any serious investor will make profits out of the business. However, investors must ensure that the shops are strategically positioned. The utilization of experts and competent service providers is significant in ensuring that the success of the repairing business.

LARGE SCALE FISHING



Although fishing is among the major occupation for people living in Bayelsa state, this economic activity has not been fully exploited. The fact that Bayelsa is a riverine state escalates its suitability for fishing. Investors can start

large scale fishing in Bayelsa state and make profits. For large scale fishing to be effective, local investors should embrace the use of advanced fishing vessels or equipment. Additionally, large scale fishing will open more investment opportunities, especially if investors get international markets. Fishing is a great investment since people can sell

fish in Bayelsa state, other Nigerian states, and nations. Following this observation, a businessperson can consider buying vehicles which can ease transportation while keeping the products preserved. The vehicles can also transport other goods to increase the profit margin of the people.



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ADVANCEMENT OF SEA TRANSPORTATION



Any person who has visited the Bayelsa state can confirm that water transportation influences most people's lives and businesses. However, it is agreeable that most of the boats used are not powered by engines. The boats are paddled manually.

Time is an important element of survival and business progress. Using manual boats can be time consuming and inappropriate for modern operations. Based on the challenges associated with boats, the introduction and improvement of ferry transportation in Bayelsa state is a considerable investment opportunity.

The business will face minimal competition from the boats and guarantee investor profits. The ferry business will succeed since people need to move faster and participate in various daily activities. Great returns can be realized by ferry investors within a short period of time.

EDUCATION AND CONSULTING SERVICES



like most people in Africa. The urge to pursue international standard education makes educational and consultancy a significant investment channel. As most Bayelsan students dream to travel abroad for studies, other investors can consider improving air transportation in the state.

The cooperation between education, consultancy services providers and airlines can tremendously increase the profits for both investments. Canada, the USA, Europe are dream destinations for Bayelsan students. It is the educational demand that makes educational and consultancy a recommendable business to invest in.

In Bayelsa, you have an opportunity to invest in Education and Consulting service. Research and determination to attend to the educational needs of the people is another lucrative business opportunity awaiting the Bayelsa state diaspora. The willingness and ability to start education and consultancy services is a potentially profitable business sphere.

The Bayelsa state people are very much interested in international studies just

SOLAR AND REGENERATIVE ENERGY



The world needs to decrease energy-related carbon dioxide discharges by 2030, reduce them again by 2040, and then target for net-zero discharges by 2050 with substantial reductions beyond to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

For the Bayelsa economy to build better and more sustainably, we must start our energy quest with reliance on fossil fuels.

We promote industrial energy diversification into low-carbon technologies such as concentrated solar thermal for hot water, hydrogen, or ammonia.

Today, more than 11 million people work in the renewable energy sector globally, while a good number of people work in the energy efficiency industries across Nigeria. Accordingly, investing in energy will create direct and indirect jobs,

create local employment opportunities within small- and medium-sized businesses too.

As administrations around the world rise stimulus packages to create jobs and reflate their economies, two things are clear:

We would like to invest in things that strengthen the health and well-being of our citizens; and we are looking at reducing economic and infrastructure vulnerability. Propping up old, polluting industries is not a solution.

Additionally, renewable energy reduces air pollution, noise, makes people less vulnerable to disease and controls the death traps posed by generators, increases security in the most rural areas while at the same time, very lucrative for investors because of the abundance of sun in Nigeria. Investors are able to generate huge quantity of energy in short time.

HEALTHCARE & WELL BEING



Bayelsa State is in the Southern part of Nigeria with a total area of 10,773 km². According to the 2016 census statistics, Bayelsa State has a total population of 2.28 million people.

The total fertility rate of the State is 4.8 and that of the adolescents is higher at 6.2. The crude death rate of the state is 206 deaths per 1,000 live births and has a life expectancy of 54.4 years. The rate of nutritional deficiency among children below five years in Bayelsa is below the acceptable rate of 5 per cent. The prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding for a period of up to 120 days of age is only 26.9 per cent.

The state has been on the rise in the number of reported cases of preventable diseases, particularly by vaccination, including measles. The annual incidence of HIV/AIDS in Bayelsa State is higher than that of the federal nation and is at 1.8 per cent. Causes of infant deaths entail preterm deaths, which make

the largest contribution to neonatal deaths at 31 per cent and closely followed by asphyxia at 27 per cent.

Various neonatal infections such as ARI come third, contributing 20 per cent while diarrhoea, which includes ADD stands at five per cent of these deaths. The health determinants of the state include social, political, environmental and economic factors. In terms of the healthcare infrastructure, there is a need to improve both the facilities teaching healthcare and directly providing the care. Moreover, there a huge gap in the technology and equipment provided, with most of these failing to function properly.

There is a deficiency of the qualified personnel, including doctors, nurses and pharmacist, and none of the categories meets the recommended guideline by the WHO. As such, the quality of healthcare in Bayelsa State can be improved by having streamlined fund sources, which can be increased by investors participation.



This state is blessed with a lot of natural talents in various sporting activities that if properly groomed and invested upon, will become world beaters in the shortest possible time. Also, the sports industry is yet to reach her investment potentials in the state, therefore any investor putting his resources in this near virgin sphere shall not only reap tremendous rewards but shall thank God for choosing Bayelsa.

Specific areas like the power sports (wrestling, weightlifting, boxing, taekwondo etc), Swimming, track, and field, and of course soccer. Special and urgent consideration can be given to the establishment of soccer academies to catch them young as this state is endowed with many future world-class soccer stars who can turn out to be investor' gold mine if given the right and conducive environment, equipment, training, and exposure.

Going by the results of the last two Olympic games, the Commonwealth games, the All-African games and the National Sports Festival, this state and the Niger Delta Region, particularly, Bayelsa State can be seen to be the home of budding international stars

and potential medallists at major events.

With a little investment in this area, a visionary investor will certainly go home thanking his stars in no time at all.

Building a private state of the art Games Village in Bayelsa is another potential revenue earner for an investor as individual sportsmen and women, states, private and corporate sponsors will be attracted to send their wards to the village for proper camping and all-round training preparatory to major events.

This can be leveraged on the present government of the state's deliberate program/policy of encouraging private investors coming to the state. Moreover, since the fact that this kind of facility is at present non-existent in this region makes its lucrativity a sure bet, a guaranteed win-win situation for any investor who moves into this near virgin island right away.

And what better place to site such an investment than this state-BAYELSA, where the required "raw materials" are readily available and in large number too.

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

The media and entertainment with its many genres and outlets will continue to play a vital role in our society. As it influences our perception and behaviour. Indeed, be it through the screen or radio and with each breakthrough in technological advancements, product presentation and advertisement appeal, the average individual appears to lose more confidence in his own opinion and decisions and inadvertently trusts the media on a wide range of issues especially as it concerns his cultural, social, and even religious beliefs.

The Media thus present as a readily available option for consumers who

yearn to keep up with new ways of doing things. We learn how people in other parts of the world speak, dress, eat, marry, and even worship because of the window created for us by media outlets. In Nigeria, the notion is not different. The role of the media in accelerating change in lifestyle especially among the youths is unprecedented.

Therefore, investing in Media and entertainment in Bayelsa State where we have several many young people will be very profitable as it brings the best out of the youths, creating jobs that keeps the body, mind and soul together.



BAYELSA INFRASTRUCTURE



Infrastructure is a vital development and prosperity element for African nations. Economic growth and alleviation of poverty tremendously depend on a nation's infrastructural development.

Economists hold that infrastructure enhancement is exhibited by the availability of efficient facilities that make human operations or businesses possible. For instance, transportation networks, communication channels, electric connections are important infrastructures in most contemporary societies.

For Bayelsa people to access services at Yenagoa, they must travel approximately forty kilometers using water transport means or road. For this



reason, the Government has dedicated finances to build several senatorial roads. The roads are important because they improve connectivity between Yenagoa and other districts. Roads also link people

to the airport and ports. Thus, roads are vital investments in Bayelsa when analyzing the state's infrastructural competence and ability to propel business success.

To provide social and infrastructural development services, the state government embraces the important role driven by partnerships. The capital city of Yenagoa and the surroundings have several modernized road networks.

The construction of the roads is necessary for a growing urbanized economy and the provision of crucial services to the rising population. The road networks link the rural areas to the city and facilitate business operations. Residential, commercial, and industrial development require a reliable water access system and sewer line.

INVESTOR CLIMATE



Research from the "African Business Magazine" indicate that Nigeria's "Doing Business Index" significantly improved in 2020. The improvement can be confirmed by the fact that the nation rose 15 places according to the World Bank ranking.

Thus, it is true that Nigeria as a nation has enhanced the business and investment climate in most states, particularly Bayelsa. The Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) has played an important role in ensuring that Bayelsa is a suitable investment destination. Since 2016, PEBEC has facilitated paramount reforms that increase the potential of investments and businesses to thrive.



For example, the council cooperated with other vital stakeholders to ensure that investors are free from bureaucratic constraints that can discourage people from engaging in business. The leadership of Bayelsa has focused on easing business requirements. The improvement in entry and exit of persons and goods make Bayelsa a surpassing investment option.

The political and social aspects in Bayelsa are great, considering that the government officials and leaders embrace transparency. It is the transparency in sharing crucial information that increases the state's investment climate. The protection of investors and their businesses is another Bayelsa investment element that should not be taken for granted when evaluating a potential investment place.

The Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) directly facilitates the investment improvements seen in Bayelsa today. The improvements in investments are based on attractive and supportive policies in the state. NIPC often organizes business and investment forums in Bayelsa. The forums are incredible businesses and investment aspects because investors can use them to market their goods and services. NIPC also advocates for the needs of Bayelsan investors. It is the willingness of such organizations and the government that makes the investment climate in Bayelsa extemporal.

NIPC serves as the Secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Committees on Investor after Care and, Doing Business & Competitiveness. The organization also operates a reliable network of zonal offices in Bayelsa. The fact that NIPC is determined to attend to all the needs of investors in the state makes Bayelsa's investment climate admirable and sustainable. The organization also promotes domestic investment by providing "Aftercare Services" to investors hence improving investment in the climate region. Keeping and updating the database of investors for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is another mechanism that NIPC has always utilized to advance the nation's investment climate.

Bayelsa is has a viable investment climate, which can be credited to NIPC because the council provides swift and dedicated support to all investors with the help of a dedicated project team. Besides, NIPC through One-Stop Investment Centre (OSIC) avail pre-investment services to investors in Bayelsa and other Nigerian states. For example, the organization grant approvals, and licenses through its Bayelsa offices. The accessibility to necessary permits and provision of investment information or data to investors escalates the suitability of investing in Bayelsa. OSIC is a Nigerian government initiative which intends to ease business operations and facilitate investment opportunity.

INVESTORS

7 REASONS TO INVEST IN BAYELSA

1 Availability of Plentiful Unexploited Agricultural and Mineral Resources.

Bayelsa has numerous considerable resources that are not fully exploited to date. Therefore, the state is a motivation for people who need to invest and prosper in various businesses. According to Bayelsa Investment Promotion Agency (BIPA), the state exhibits a competitive for the production of food and cash crops. In other words, crops like cassava, sugarcane, coconut, palms, mango, and rubber can be produced in larger quantities for local and international markets. Willing

Bayelsan investors should also acknowledge the state's potential for seasonal foods such as maize and fruits. Because Bayelsa has the largest gas reserve in the country and several grains for glass production, the region improves investment and business operations. The prevalence of various industries and unexploited resources are entrepreneurial factors that should encourage investors to consider Bayelsa as their chosen destination in Nigeria.

2 Free Market Economy

Just like other Nigerian states' Bayelsa is a free market economy. The national government has purposely supported policies and programs that create a satisfactory climate for businesses, investments, and industrial endeavors, particularly in Bayelsa. In Bayelsa, the administrative and bureaucratic processes are greatly rationalized. The streamlining of vital bureaucratic processes increases the state's prowess and ability to accommodate businesses and investments. It is the Government policies and programs that work towards ensuring Bayelsa is a free

market economy that enhances the state's investment. Most investors like free-market economies. Free market economies utilize a system where demand and supply processes are subject to no or minimal control from governments. The operations in such economies are voluntary. Thus, investors can make more profits based on their innovativeness and ability to attend to clients' needs and demands. Bayelsa is a free market economy where investors are most likely able to fulfill their ambitions and visions.



3 *The Prosperity of the Private Sector*

The realization of a robust private sector in Bayelsa substantially makes the state a reliable investment place. Bayelsa has initiated the process of embracing a dynamic private sector. The flexibility of investors to privatize their companies and business is advantageous to investors. Therefore, it is agreeable that Bayelsa's ability to assure investors have an ample business environment is a greater state responsibility that improves its investment and economic spheres.

4 *Availability of Outstanding Incentives*

A comprehensive package of significant business incentives is vital Bayelsan components, which are put in place to attract investment. The first incentive is guaranteed access to sufficient power supply. Investors need environments where power sources and supply are reliable for purposes of running the various business. Power generation gives room for development. Eventually, Bayelsa will portray successful business and increase competitive when compared with other states. The presence of development projects is also essential for businesses and investment to thrive. Formalization of land registration and ownership is another significant incentive that makes Bayelsa investable. The state has improved rural infrastructure is another important incentive for investment. Data sustenance for feasibility studies, government waivers for investment agreement fees are other noble incentives in Bayelsa. The government is determined to avail infrastructural support anytime there is demand. The fact that it is easy for investors to obtain certificates of occupancy is essential for potential investors. Community relations are also monitored by the government to ensure that mediation between the members of various communities and investors is efficacious.



5 *Fast Growing Monetary Sector*

The development and rising banking and financial sector is a considerable element that should make investors choose Bayelsa. Joint venture arrangements and financial institutions are requirements that should concern investors before making final decisions. Progress in banking and the general financial sectors will enable investors to easily access operational capital and other important credit facilities. For example, the united bank for Africa has several branches in Bayelsa. Other prominent banks include Stanbic, Mainstreet Bank Limited, First Bank Nigeria Plc. Lapo is a microfinance bank contributing to momentary growth in Bayelsa. Arguably, Bayelsa has several financial institutions that are crucial for financial progress. Investors should consider financial growth as a fundamental consideration and invest in Bayelsa.

6 *Skillful and Low-cost Labor*

Bayelsa has a population of around two million people. Skilled people are among Bayelsa's population. It means that the state has abundant persons who are skilled and able to provide labor at a favorable economic cost. A favorable economic cost can, therefore, support new investments and enable young companies to progressively grow. Economical labor force reduces the production costs for businesses. Following this observation, Bayelsa investors can make use of low-cost labor. However, investors must understand the role of motivation in increases business profits. Motivated and well-paid workers enhance organization production and the general image of a company. Eventually, the companies that address the needs of works will progress even in the face of stiff completion from other organizations.

7 Longest Coastline in Nigeria

Geographically, the Bayelsa State is known for having the longest coastlines in the country. The state also has one of the deepest natural berths situated in Agge Town. The Bayelsa State administration government has commenced plans to establish and build a Deep Sea Port at Agge. The port is intended to act as a transshipment port focusing its services on the entire Gulf of Guinea and the neighborhood of Nigeria. All

these traits make Bayelsa an expensive state suitable for development and necessary for investments. Investors in this region have all that is crucial for successful operations. For instance, the coastline can also be used as a tourist-attracting site and trigger the need for more business. Hotels and massage parlors are some of the tourist businesses that can prosper and investors need to consider choosing Bayelsa.

SECURITY IN BAYELSA STATE



A secure environment is characterized by business spheres that are enabling, safe, fair, and one that guarantees investors' sustainable development based on the political and social factors that can impinge on business operations.

Secure environments enable investors to expand or grow their business without any limiting factors. Following this observation, it is significant to note that Bayelsa's state government embrace the role of a secure environment for business success.

The government operations, programs, and incentives affirm that security is one of the cardinal objectives of the government.

The Bayelsa State Government and has under no circumstances faked the need to promote a secure and enabling environment. For example, the government cooperates and works with other determined and dedicated

security agencies.

The Bayelsa State in general and Yenagoa in particular have transformed from one of the most dangerous and dreaded or avoided places to the most protected, safe, and peaceful regions in Nigeria. The fact that the Bayelsa State Government and the national government increased the need to invest in security.

As a result, the role of the state is clearly visible in development programs. The nation has invested heavily in security measures by purposely creating new security outfits with the help of technological advancements.

For example, Operation Doo Akpo, the installation of efficient CCTV on major roads, and the protected command center for coordination of activities show the determination of the government to enhance Bayelsa state security.

OPERATION DOO AKPO

Operation Doo Akpo is a prominent and operational security code name for an organization that was formed to coordinate and maintain security in Bayelsa. The members of this operation are experienced police officers, army experts, the navy, air force personnel, and voluntary citizens. Doo Akpo operations are supported by most people when it comes to restoring dignity, improving trust among people, and ensuring that Bayelsa's dwellers live harmoniously. The Doo Akpo operation partners attend to calls instantly and most Bayelsan people confess their contentment and confidence in the abilities of the agency. The positive reputation and effectiveness are at global level standards, making Operation Doo Akpo an outstanding security services giver in Nigeria and beyond.

Panic, palpable fear, and extrajudicial killings are some of the traits linked with insecure environments. The deployment of police agencies in Bayelsa aims at enforcing the law and combating crimes. Governor Dickson can be credited for setting up operation Doo-Akpo which directly translates to "peaceful life" in English. The operation was approved and encouraged by the government. By February 2019, Bayelsa's governor Dickson Seriake re-



launched Operation Doo Akpo as a substantial strategy to curb insecurities in the region. The re-launching of the outfit in the capital of the state as a result of concerns business and communal parties.

The governor's willingness to ensure that Operation Doo Akpo is operational confirms that the state is serious about matters associated with security. The governor confirmed that he was determined to ensure that the outfit had essential equipment, relevant training, ultimate support, and subject to supervision to ensure that it delivers quality services. The governor also confirmed to the Bayelsa people that he was determined to make the state safer when compared to other states in Nigeria. He also manifested satisfaction with the state's achievements and noted that security was necessary for the realization of better

accomplishment. According to Dickson, criminality has no partisan barriers and it should be fought with all necessary means for the sake of creating a secure investment and living environment. For this reason, he advised the outfit to take mandate and chase or eliminate all criminals. Cultists' terror communities and unnecessary political pressure was discouraged in the state. The fifty-five vehicles, several gunboats, and twenty-six motorbikes given to the outfit during the re-launch indicate that the state government is serious about security concerns. By today, the state is believed to be safe for local and foreign investors because of the enabling business environment.

Secure Investment and the army

Bayelsa state is home to three army defense bases, which increase the security measures of the state. The three bases

include the Naval Base, the Air Force Tactical Command, and the collaborative Joint Task Force. All three bases have a role to play when it comes to the improvement of the state's security. The bases also confirm the national government's efforts to ensure that Bayelsa is safer and free from any vulnerabilities triggered by criminal activities. The Bayelsa State Government has also created and established a tactical state level joint force called Doo Akpo, which work closely with the army when reacting to crimes and crime scenes. Such security initiatives have been integral ingredients in the state's safe and creating a viable business and investment environment. The availability of hundreds of police cars, prevalence of security agencies, numerous police offices, and army officers escalate Bayelsa's state security levels. The security stakeholders have adopted modernized security strategies such as the use of GPS systems to maintain security levels. It is, therefore, factual and agreeable that Bayelsa is one of the states that understands security impacts on investments. The state and national governments significantly avail important support to ensure that living and working in Bayelsa is enjoyable to all people.

Security Tentacles

Bayelsa State Government has strategically distributed security tentacles along most waterways. The government under the navigation of the governor re-invented the Bayelsa Volunteers all for purposes of protecting travelers and traders in the state. Security tentacles along the numerous creeks and rivers in Bayelsa help in combating adverse activities associated with piracy, kidnapers and other potential crime minded people. The state government gunboats, vehicles, and resources are important elements and efforts of the state government to strengthen security. However, it is important to note that cooperation between all security stakeholders

such as the government, the public, Operation Doo Akpo, and human rights organization is a recommendable effective method to eliminate criminal elements and improve state security. Security and safety will ensure that investors and businesspeople have a good working environment where innovations and hard work can yield profits and prosperity.

