**KEY FACTS**

Joined Commonwealth: 1960 (suspended 1995–99)
Population: 162,471,000 (2011)
UN HDI 2011: world ranking 156
Official language: English
Time: GMT plus 1hr
Currency: Naira (N)

**Geography**

Area: 923,768 sq km
Coastline: 853km
Capital: Abuja

The Federal Republic of Nigeria lies on the Gulf of Guinea and has borders with Benin (west), Niger (north), Chad (north-east across Lake Chad) and Cameroon (east). It comprises the Abuja Federal Capital Territory and 36 states.

**Topography:** Nigeria is a large country, 1,045 km long and 1,126 km wide. It has several important rivers, notably the Niger and its main tributary, the Benue, both of which are navigable. The Niger forms a delta some 100km wide, running into the sea west of Port Harcourt. In the north-east rivers drain into Lake Chad. The coastal region is low-lying, with lagoons, sandy beaches and mangrove swamps. Inland the country rises to the central Jos Plateau at 1,800m. The Adamawa Massif, bordering Cameroon, rises to 2,042m at Dimlang (Vogel Peak).

**Climate:** Tropical; hot and humid on the coast, with greater extremes of temperature inland and cold nights in the north during December and January. The rainy season is generally March–November in the south and May–September in the north. In the dry season the harmattan wind blows from the Sahara.

**Environment:** The most significant environmental issues are rapid deforestation, soil degradation, and desertification.

**Vegetation:** Mangrove and freshwater swamps in coastal areas, merging into an area of rainforest, containing hardwoods and oil palms. Moving north, the savannah and plateau regions have grasslands and hardy trees such as the baobab and tamarind. There is semi-desert vegetation in the north-east. In the north, forest depletion has been caused by overgrazing, bush fires and the use of wood as fuel, but there has been government-sponsored planting in an attempt to arrest the southward advance of the Sahara. Oil palms occur naturally and, being valuable, are often spared when forests are cleared. Forest covers 10% of the land area, having declined at 3.2% p.a. 1990–2010. Some 76% of forest is savannah woodland, 20% tropical rainforest and 4% swamp forest. Arable land comprises 37% and permanent cropland 3% of the total land area.

**Wildlife:** The Yankari National Park is an important stopover for migrating birds (some 600 species call there), and also has an elephant population. The Okomo Sanctuary is home to the endangered white-throated monkey. On the grasslands of the savannah are camels, antelope, hyenas and giraffes. An area of 30,100 sq km is protected (2003), or 3.3% of the land area.

**Main towns:** Abuja (federal capital since 1991, pop. 1.35m in 2010), Lagos (commercial centre and former capital, Lagos State, 9.97m), Ibadan (Oyo, 5.18m), Benin City (Edo, 2.41m), Kano (Kano, 2.38m), Port Harcourt (Rivers, 2.10m), Kaduna (Kaduna, 2.06m), Abu (Abia, 1.60m), Maiduguri (Borno, 1.13m), Ilorin (Kwara, 1.08m), Warri (Delta, 933,800), Onitsha (Anambra, 910,800), Akure (Ondo, 847,900), Abeokuta (Ogun, 801,300), Enugu (Enugu, 715,800), Oshogbo (Osun, 678,300), Zaria (Kaduna, 667,400), Ipe (Osun, 635,200), Jos (Plateau, 622,800), Ondo (Ondo, 498,100), Gboko (Benue, 485,700), Owerri (Imo, 474,800), Jalingo

**did you know?**

Chief Emeka Anyaoku of Nigeria was Commonwealth Secretary-General 1990–2000.

Wole Soyinka, born in Abeokuta in July 1934, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1986; and Nigerians have won 14 Commonwealth Writers’ Prizes.

The Seventh Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning will be held in Abuja in December 2013.

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with a population of over 160 million.
The Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) was created vide Act No. 48 of 1999 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to develop Nigerian Airspace to a level of consistency with the requirements of the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS). The Agency therefore is saddled with the provision of Air Traffic Management to ensure safe, efficient, expeditious and economic flight operations.

In compliance with this mandate, NAMA has set a vision of making the Nigerian Airspace rank among the safest airspaces in the Africa-Indian Ocean Region and indeed, the world over.

Vision
To be one of the leading Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) in the world.

Mission
To provide safe, efficient, effective and economic Air Navigation Services to airspace users, through deployment of new technologies and a dedicated workforce.

Objectives
In order to achieve its mission, the Agency has set the following objectives:

- To continue to provide safe and functional air navigation services that will meet international standards.
- To increase Air Traffic Control capacity in order to manage the increasing air traffic volume and simultaneously reduce delays.
- To enhance the service quality.
- To reduce cost for users.

NAMA In the Future
As the Agency lays a solid foundation through capital intensive projects across the nation’s airports and with a dedicated management team and work force, the future looks bright and prosperous.

The facilities, which include the Total Radar Coverage of Nigeria Project (TRACON), the Safe Tower Project, Total VHF Radio Coverage of Nigeria project, AIS Automation Project, WGS-84 Survey, Procurement of Navigational Aids and the refurbishment of 13 Control Towers will, on completion, steadily enhance industry safety and security, high patronage from foreign airlines, reduce air traffic delays and bring economic value to operators.

With this envisaged transformation in seamless air traffic services and management, one can fittingly say that the Agency will be among the best world-rated Air Navigation Service Providers.

www.nama.gov.ng
In the early 19th century, there was upheaval in the north, as and into the forests.

Increasingly powerful. Steam boats took this new culture up-river of Gobir and created a new empire with city states, a common religious and judicial system and Qur’anic schools. The Muslim introduced quinine to control malaria, a new trade in palm oil and iron. They were in contact with Egypt and other north African societies. Two powerful empires arose – Hausa–Bokwoi (beginning as separate states from AD 100–1000) and Kanem–Bornu (from the 11th century). They converted to Islam, traded in gold, slaves, leather, salt and cloth across the Sahara, and by and large successfully kept their enemies at bay.

In the south-west, the Yoruba had, before AD 1000, founded Ife, still the spiritual centre of Yorubaland. The origins of Benin are connected with Ife; Benin culture produced bronze sculpture by the ‘lost wax’ technique. These are naturalistic but slightly idealised heads of great elegance, delicacy and beauty, regarded as a major contribution to the world’s artistic heritage. Ife itself, however, fell victim to conquest by Oyo in the 14th century and later Ibadan and Abeokuta. The people of the south-east were heavily preyed upon by slave traders from the north and along the coast. Forced to abandon their settlements and move into the forests to evade their captors, the struggles of the Igbo peoples were preserved in long epics, memorised and passed down the generations.

Colonial period

In the 15th century, Benin began to trade with the Portuguese, selling slaves and acquiring spices, firearms, the art of writing and the Christian religion. By the 18th century, the British had displaced the Portuguese as leaders of the slave trade. A century later, in 1807, the missionaries’ campaign against slavery had gained support, leading the British parliament to ban the slave trade. The navy began to patrol the coast, arresting slavers and settling captured slaves (most of them Nigerians) in the resettlement colony of Sierra Leone. Several missionaries in Nigeria were themselves freed Nigerian slaves who had converted to Christianity in Sierra Leone. The missionaries introduced quinine to control malaria, a new trade in palm oil and iron also began, and the economies of southern Nigeria became increasingly powerful. Steamboats took this new culture up-river and into the forests.

In the early 19th century, there was upheaval in the north, as Fulani emirs declared a jihad (holy war) against the Hausa state of Gobir and created a new empire with city states, a common religious and judicial system and Qur’anic schools. The Muslim empire spread rapidly.

The Yoruba, under pressure, drew closer to Britain, which annexed Lagos in 1861. In 1884, British control expanded with
THE JOURNEY SO FAR …
Economic Empowerment
- Payment of social security allowance and free education at all levels for the disabled.
- Held first ever Talakawa Summit (a multi-stakeholder project featuring the state government, donors, local and international NGOs, traditional and religious leaders and other moral witnesses).
- Established, rehabilitated and equipped skills acquisition centres.
- Providing training, grants and working materials.
- Providing soft loans to startup entrepreneurs.
- Providing support to women’s groups for economic empowerment.

Capital Development
- Rehabilitation and expansion of roads network and drainage construction.
- Installation of street lights along major roads.
- Construction of institutional buildings, notably the State Secretariat, the Judicial complex, administrative offices for state legislators, housing accommodation for heads, the Manpower Development Institute, office and residential accommodation for the Deputy Governor, and the Mallam Aminu Kano triangle.
- Established three new housing estates with over 1000 housing units.

Education
- Construction, renovation, furnishing and equipping of over 95% of schools of all levels.
- Recruiting and training new teachers.
- The only state that has consistently budgeted over 27% for this sector, far above the recommended UNICEF benchmark.
- Introduced free education for girls at all levels.
- Increased student scholarship allowances and feeding allowances for boarding students by 100%.
- Sponsoring first-class graduates for further overseas postgraduate studies.
- Established state-owned University and College of Remedial and Advanced Studies.
- Established School for the Gifted and Talented.

Health
- Established Gunduma Health System Board to drive the health sector agenda.
- Established a drugs supply company to support government drugs revolving fund.
- Established and equipped a world-class specialist hospital in Dutse, the capital city.
- Introduced free maternal and child care; and free medical treatment for boarding students, prison inmates and accident victims.
- Constructed and equipped a permanent site for the state College of Nursing and Midwifery.
- Renovated and equipped the School for Health Technology to provide healthcare for support staff.
Roads Development and Water Supply
- Construction and rehabilitation of over 2000 km of roads.
- Construction of township roads around the local government headquarters and major towns, as well installing street lights.
- Provided over 1000 water hand pumps in villages and schools and over 500 VIP toilets and urinals to promote hygiene with continued provision of safe water through motorised schemes, boreholes and open wells.

Information and Youth Development
- Constructed a permanent site for National Youth Service Corps Orientation programmes and sports development centre.
- Renovation and upgrading of three existing township stadiums and constructing a mini stadium in Dutse.
- Supporting all sports and youth development programmes.
- Providing equipment for modern radio broadcasting both AM/FM and constructing a head office for the State Broadcasting Corporation that will house the proposed state television station.

Agriculture and Rural Development
- Providing fertiliser and farm input to farmers at highly subsidised rates.
- Supporting programmes sponsored by world donor bodies.
- Provision of work bull loans to farmers, and improved variety of seedlings.
- Rehabilitation of dams to encourage all year round farming.

Commerce
In pursuance of the national policy on commerce and industry, the State has adopted the strategy of the Federal Government policy on promoting public/private sector partnerships especially in the areas of Engineering, Chemical/Petrochemical and Agro-Allied products.

Opportunities abound for the rapidly increasing small and medium scale industries, which could be the precursor for big industries. In addition to a good raw material base especially for agro-based industries, the availability of solid mineral deposits is a strong potential for developing the sector. The availability of these resources is confirmed in commercial quantity.

Incentives
In order to induce greater support for industrial development, and considering the need to promote a dynamic, efficient and sustainable manufacturing sector, a package of fiscal and export incentives has been introduced by government. These incentives are designed to encourage the private sector to play a vital role in industrial development; the geographical dispersal of industries; an increase in industrial output for domestic and export markets; value addition; increased domestic resource utilisation; improved capacities for entrepreneurship and technical skills; increased competitiveness of made-in-Nigeria products; promotion of industrial linkages; and the facilitation of inflow of capital and technologies.

At the Export Free market Zone (EPZ) of Maigatari essential facilities are provided. The Zone provides an easy access to Niger and other landlocked countries in the West Africa sub-region serving as a distribution centre between the southern parts and the landlocked areas.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
The tourism sector has remained largely unexplored despite its vast potentials to make a substantial contribution to economic and social development.

For more information visit
[www.jigawastate.gov.ng](http://www.jigawastate.gov.ng)
Gateway to Sub-Saharan Oil and Gas Industry

The Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority (OGFZA) was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria Act No. 8 of 1996, and is Nigeria’s investment promotion agency for hydrocarbon and related businesses into the free trade areas of the country.

It has the responsibility of attracting Foreign Direct Investment, managing all the Oil and Gas Free Zones in the country, as well as other activities in the national hydrocarbon industry.

The Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone was the first free trade area under the supervision of the Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority, and has brought US$6 billion into the country since it was established in 1997.

Mission
The Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority aims to be the premier investment promotion agency of Nigerian Government, attracting and retaining top-of-the-league international and local investors in the hydrocarbon industry, by providing world-class facilities using skilled and dedicated staff for the optimum realisation of stakeholders’ interest, while remaining socially responsible.

Vision
Our vision is to meet the requirements of investors in the oil and gas industry by providing strategic support service, cost-effective logistics, inventory management, create awareness of the economic potentials of the zones and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) thereby boosting industrial and economic growth in Nigeria.

OGFZA’s role
• Licensing of investors to operate in Free Trade Zones
• Identifying relevant industries/business in line with the free zone objective
• Ensure free zone advantages/privileges reach clients in the zone
• Interface between free zone clients and other government agencies
• Resolution of disputes
• Liaison between investors and Free Zone host communities

We are poised to …
• Attract downstream investments in refineries, petrochemicals, fertilisers and gas plants.
• Provide specialised infrastructure through our dedicated Oil and Gas Free Zones.
• Promote business opportunities in manufacturing, by utilising by-products from crude oil processing.

Take a fresh perspective
The Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority (OGFZA) – innovating new ways to serve you with your investments as our focus.

www.onnefreezone.com
ITT Base, Onne Port Complex, Onne, Rivers State, Nigeria
History

the creation of the Oil Rivers Protectorate, set up under treaties with Yoruba rulers, and then the north, while the Igbo were conquered. By 1900, Britain had control of Nigeria.

The Colonial Office adopted the system of indirect rule, with traditional leaders continuing in power while owing allegiance to the colonial authority.

Many educated Nigerians objected to the system, since it entrenched traditional practices which, in a freer society, would have evolved into possibly more progressive forms. Nonetheless, the system prevented British settlers from dominating the economy, and Nigerian enterprise built a substantial export trade in cocoa, groundnuts, leather, cotton and vegetable oils.

Constitutional development

In 1914, six Africans were brought into the governor's advisory council. In 1922, a legislative council (ten Africans, four of them elected, and 36 Europeans) was empowered to legislate for the south. In 1947, the council's authority was extended to the whole country. It now had 28 African (four elected) and 17 European members. The 1947 constitution also set up regional houses of assembly in the east, west and north, with a House of Chiefs in the north. The 1951 constitution gave the balance of power to Nigerians. In 1954, Nigeria became a federation; in 1957 Eastern and Western regions gained internal self-government and Northern Nigeria two years later. Elections to the Federal House of Representatives in December 1959 brought in a new government. At its first meeting, the new House requested full sovereignty and Nigeria proceeded to independence on 1 October 1960.

Independence

Nigeria's independence government was led by the Northern People's Congress in alliance with the National Council of Nigerian Citizens (a largely Igbo party), with Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as prime minister. In 1963, the country became a republic and Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe its first (non-executive) president.

The first of several coups occurred in January 1966 and Tafawa Balewa was among those killed. Army commander Major-General Aguyi-Ironsi headed a new administration, which abolished the federation and instituted a unitary state. In July 1966, troops from the north retaliated with another coup in which Aguyi-Ironsi was killed and Lt-Col Yakubu Gowon assumed the leadership. He restored the federal state and replaced the four regions with 12 states. He included civilians in government and promised to restore democratic rule as soon as possible.

In May 1967, Lt-Col Chukwuemeka Ojukwu declared eastern Nigeria an independent state named the Republic of Biafra. This led to civil war. Hostilities lasted until Biafra was defeated in January 1970 and Ojukwu went into exile; the war cost some one million lives.

In 1975, Gowon was deposed in a coup and replaced by Brigadier Murtala Muhammed, who introduced radical economic reforms, a new structure of 19 states and a programme for a return to civilian rule in four years. He was assassinated in an abortive coup in 1976. Lt-Gen Olusegun Obasanjo succeeded and continued Muhammed's policies: the ban on political activities was lifted (1978), multiparty elections were resumed (1993); and democratic principles were restored (1999). The Nigerian constitution of 1979 gives Nigeria a federal structure with a president, a federal legislature, and 36 state governments.

ACCOUNTABILITY

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ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF NIGERIA

Specialised network banking services throughout Africa

MISSION To be the foremost Specialised Bank for providing development funds for Infrastructure and Housing and other allied sectors of the economy through efficient network banking services throughout Africa.

VISION To attain and maintain the highest standard of ethical conduct by practicing what we say; reporting our stewardship with accuracy and transparency; and maintaining full compliance with the laws, applicable to our businesses; and to be at the top end of the market.

The Nigeria construction industry is one of the world's largest markets running to a trillion dollars. There are many opportunities in terms of returns on capital and dividend appreciation. The recent reformation of the banking sector has affirmed the necessity to found the Associated Infrastructure Development Bank of Nigeria, a public/private financial institution fulfilling the urgent need for a specialised bank to provide required funds for construction and infrastructure projects. The Bank is being promoted by all recognised professional bodies of the Construction Sector in Nigeria.

Associated Infrastructure Development Bank of Nigeria welcomes investors to partner with us in the running of the Bank. The government created an opportunity for foreign investors, through the Nigeria Investment Promotion Act, which allows foreigners to repatriate their profit and dividend net tax free.

For further information please contact

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Cowry Asset Management Limited is an investment banking firm incorporated on February 22, 2005 by a team of highly successful Nigerian professionals and entrepreneurs who have distinguished themselves in diverse sectors of the economy such as Banking, Capital Markets, Engineering, Education and Business.

Cowry Asset Management Limited is licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission as Issuing House, Financial Adviser, Underwriter and Venture Capital Manager.

Cowry Asset Management provides in-depth and value-adding services in the following areas:
- Corporate Finance/Investment banking
- Financial Advisory Services
- Research

Vision
To be the foremost pan-African wealth creating financial services provider of global repute.

A testimony of the quality of our professional services and competencies is reflected in the number of several mandates we have handled but not limited to the following:
- Joint Financial Adviser/Issuing House to Cement Company of Northern Nigeria (CCNN) N45bn hybrid offer
- Co-Financial Adviser/Joint Issuing House and Lead Stockbroker to Ebonyi State N20bn bond issue
- Sub-underwriters to Bayelsa State N50bn bond issue
- Placement Agent to the Edo State N25bn bond issue
- Sub-underwriters to Benue State N13bn bond issue
- Joint Issuing House/Underwriter and Lead Stockbroker to the proposed Abia State N30bn
- Revenue bond issue and Underwriters to Zamfara State N18.75bn bond issue.

Mission
To create exceptional wealth for all our stakeholders.

Philosophy
We will continue to reinvent ourselves ahead of the competition to remain not only the best in Africa but a world-class financial services provider.

Our Subsidiaries:
- Cowry Securities Limited - Securities trading (equity and fixed income)
- Cowry Consulting Limited - Business process, Revenue Management, etc.
- Cowry Realty Development Limited - Real Estate Development and Management
- Cowry Treasurers Limited - Fund/Portfolio Management
- CAML BDC Limited - Bureau de Change

Our Core Values
As we create wealth for our fast expanding clientele, our operations are premised on the following core values:
- Professionalism
- Service excellence
- High ethical standard
- Respect for the individual
- Team work
- Social responsibility

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NIGERIA UNION OF TEACHERS

NUT fights for the livelihood of Nigerian teachers as Nigeria moves to amend its 1999 constitution

One of the major areas of concern in the proposed amendment is the autonomy of Local Governments and whether the State Joint Local Government Accounts should be maintained. It has been a major lifeline for the continuous and sustainable payment of primary schools teachers’ salaries.

NUT proposes three options in favour of teachers:

• To maintain the status quo and allow the State Joint Local Government Accounts to remain to guarantee the teachers’ salaries.
• To pay teachers’ salaries from first line charge from the Federation Account, through the Universal Basic Education Commission.
• To hand over completely the responsibility of paying their salaries to the State Governments, in which case the salaries component of the revenue allocation of the Local Governments will have to be transferred to the State Governments and restructure the fiscal allocation of national resources in favour of the States to guarantee uninterrupted and unfettered Primary Education in Nigeria.

Meanwhile the Union has taken its advocacy for the above options to all the Federal constituencies, senatorial districts and geopolitical zones. It has also presented its memorandum on its position to the National Assembly.

As the debate rages on, the voice of the Nigeria Union of Teachers is a very significant one.

President Michael Alogba Olukoya

Email: ijobong@yahoo.com
nutnigeria_hqtrs@hotmail.com

www.nutnigeria.org

History

were held (1979) and Shehu Shagari of the National Party of Nigeria became (executive) president, re-elected in 1983.

However, in 1983 a military coup put an end to this brief period of democracy. New head of state Major-General Muhammadu Buhari initiated a severe austerity programme with campaigns against idleness and self-enrichment. This provoked a further coup in 1985 bringing Major-General Ibrahim Babangida to power. He repealed the most unpopular decrees and, in 1987, promised a return to civilian rule by 1992. In 1989 two parties were formed (only two parties were permitted).

The transition to civilian rule went as far as elections to state assemblies in 1991 and presidential primary elections in 1992 (re-run 1993) before the whole process was halted. The newly created Social Democratic Party won the majority in both Houses, and its leader, Chief Moshood Abiola, was believed to be leading in the presidential elections. But before all the results had been announced, the elections were annulled by Babangida, who shortly after resigned. For a few months civilian Chief Ernest Shonekan was head of an interim government, and charged with holding yet further elections.

However, in November 1993, in Nigeria’s seventh coup, General Sani Abacha assumed power and cancelled the scheduled return to civilian rule. He dissolved the interim national government, national and state assemblies, the state executive councils and the two political parties, and banned all political activity.

In June 1994 a constitutional conference was held to devise a programme for a return to civilian rule. The conference failed to reach consensus. Shortly before it opened, Chief Abiola, on the basis of the 1993 elections, proclaimed himself president. He was arrested and charged with treason; he was held in solitary confinement and was never brought to trial.

In March 1995, during a clamp-down after an alleged counter-coup, the military arrested prominent opponents of the regime and campaigners for a rapid return to democracy, including retired generals Olusegun Obasanjo and Shehu Musa Yar’Adua – whose political influence stemmed from the fact that they headed the military government which handed power to a civilian government in 1979. Obasanjo and Yar’Adua were tried for treason and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Shortly afterwards, in October, Abacha further postponed plans for a return to democracy, and announced a new three-year timetable for completing the transition by late 1998.

Amid the many political detentions of this period, one of Nigeria’s most popular writers, Ken Saro-Wiwa, leader of the campaign against pollution of Ogoni lands and waters by the oil industry, and eight others were arrested and charged with the murder of local chiefs. They were tried by a military court and executed on 10 November 1995, hours after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting had opened in New Zealand. In response, on 11 November, Commonwealth Heads of Government suspended Nigeria from membership of the Commonwealth for contravening the principles of the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, and called for the release of Abiola and 43 other political prisoners.
Background

Founded in 2003 by Nigerian telecoms entrepreneur Bassim Haidar, Channel IT (CIT) forms part of the Channel Group, a diverse pan-African company operating in the fields of telecommunications and related infrastructure, distribution and power solutions, and is increasingly active in the provision of value added services (VAS) for the mobile industry.

Channel IT is Africa’s largest independent distributor of mobile network services, and is a trusted partner of mobile network operators, boasting a portfolio of both integrated and independent services and products specifically tailored to the region, falling under two broad categories:

Value Added Services (VAS)

- **Airtime Credit Service**
  Offering a convenient recharge facility to subscribers and enabling operators to retain and support customers.

- **SMS Content**
  A subscription-based service offering high-quality and international content, tailored to the profile and areas of interest of subscribers.

- **Mobile TV**
  Delivering mobile access to local and international channels, or video-on-demand on both subscription and pay-as-you-go basis.

- **Electronic Airtime and Mobile Money Platform**
  A transaction platform which enables the sales of electronic airtime and mobile money transactions over POS terminals, mobile phones, ATMs and websites.

- **Phone Backup Service**
  Generation of recurrent revenues from a subscription-based backup service that stores, synchronises and restores data from handsets.

Mobile Network Infrastructure

- **Tower Supply**
  Supply, installation and maintenance of Angular, Hybrid, Rapid Deployment and Guyed Towers.

- **Base Station Antennas**
  Supply and installation of top-of-the-range 2G, 3G, and LTE antennas providing high quality reception.

- **Cables and RF**
  Installation of lightweight, cost saving aluminium Feeder Cable, Connectors and RF Sub-Systems, enabling operators to optimise existing infrastructure and ensure faster deployment of network upgrades.

- **Power Solutions**
  Supply of generators, hybrids, rectifiers, batteries, and solar solutions, ensuring maximisation of major OPEX savings to operators.

- **Low Cost Rural Site Solutions**
  Solutions which unlock new subscriber bases, on the periphery or outside the coverage of operators, at remarkably low cost, with lucrative returns.

- **In Building Solutions**
  Provision of turnkey solutions which provide high RF signals to users within buildings, dense urban areas, and public venues.

- **SIM and Bio-registration (KYC)**
  Supply of locally appropriate technology enabling an accurate registration process for SIM and mobile banking.

- **Services**
  Finance, logistics, warehousing and project management, in addition to turnkey through Channel IT’s partner network of service companies.
A truly African company, Channel IT has experienced phenomenal growth in its first decade. CIT’s technical expertise, coupled with its success in the Nigerian market has resulted in significant demand for replication of both its experience and service provision to the wider African region.

Channel IT has now expanded to serve the greater African market, and currently has a presence in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and has recently established a presence in Asia and the Middle East.

Channel IT is committed to proactively identifying, introducing and implementing new technologies, sourcing end to end solutions, and ensuring the timely supply of these to all partners and clients.

A word from the CEO

‘I founded the company on two principles “innovation and delivering value”. Put simply, we have targeted areas where there have been key needs. We encourage our teams to collaborate with partners, combine this with product research, and then bring the idea through from germination through the process of development, and guarantee timely implementation. The teams are highly motivated and capable of meeting the diverse challenges Africa brings, ensuring CIT’s relationships are built on trust with vendors, supplier and operators – and strengthening this through on time delivery of products and solutions.

Channel IT is currently investing significantly in the introduction of Value Added Services (VAS) across networks in operational areas, and I envisage that products and services will only form approximately 30% of our revenue in the future, as VAS becomes a core part of our business. A key product promises to be Advanced Delivery Service, where customers have the facility to go over balances, continue to use the airtime, and pay later. This has been an area of explosive growth over the past few years, and experience shows it to have played a critical role in terms of customer attraction and retention for operators. Mobile TV, video, and live music streaming are likewise areas for further growth within the African context, given the challenges faced in terms of TV ownership, and power networks across the continent.

I firmly believe that the IT and mobile industry have untapped potential in terms of the socio-economic and technological development of the African continent, and I am determined that Channel IT will be a partner on this journey.’

Bassim Haidar, Group CEO
Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics is the national agency saddled with the responsibility of producing and managing the nation's catalogue of national statistics.

The Bureau came into being with the merger of the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) and the National Databank in 2006. As FOS, it was largely unknown and undervalued, with many statistics seen as unreliable and of limited use. With support from the government and key development partners, the Bureau has undergone significant transformation, the results of which are now beginning to become apparent.

Substantial development can be seen in the areas of infrastructure and equipment; human resource management and development; and improved data production methodology, data management, dissemination and access. Aside from the regular quarterly GDP and monthly CPI surveys over the last two years, survey studies on Nigeria's development have been conducted too with 45 Reports published. Focus areas are employment, welfare indicators, trade, agriculture, industry and business, energy, environment, inflation and others.

These studies, surveys and publications are published on a revamped NBS website and new Online Data Analysis portal. The Online Data Portal, which has a wide range of functions, including data analysis, mapping and reports functions enable users to access the data in customised formats suited to their needs.

These positive transformations motivated the NBS to expand its scope through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to cover both federal and state producers of statistics. The objective is to make the national statistical system in Nigeria one of the foremost and modern knowledge-based national statistical offices in Africa and the world at large. The 36 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory are all being brought on board. All states are expected to develop a State Strategy for the Development of Statistics (SSDS) that would feed into the national strategy. Presently, more than half of the states have done this, with 12 having passed and established fully functioning state statistical agencies.

The NBS still has a great distance to go in becoming the world-class centre for statistics which it aspires to be. Infrastructure, human capacity and funding still exist as major challenges for the Bureau, but there can be no doubt that NBS and indeed the NSS is on the right track.

Dr Yemi Kale, CEO
In 1996 five parties were registered and local elections took place in March 1997, when the United Nigeria Congress Party (UNC) and Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN) won most seats. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, in October 1997 Nigeria’s suspension from Commonwealth membership was extended until 1 October 1998 by which time the Abacha government had said it would restore democracy and civilian government. If the transition programme failed, or was not credible, Nigeria would be expelled. In December 1997, UNCP gained a majority in 29 of the 36 state assemblies.

By April 1998 all five registered political parties had adopted Abacha as their candidate for the August presidential election, although he had not publicly agreed to stand. In the general election in the same month, a very low poll, UNCP took a majority of seats in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Abacha died suddenly in June 1998 and was replaced as head of state by Chief of Defence Staff General Abdulsalami Abubakar, who promised to return the country to civilian rule and released nine political prisoners including Olusegun Obasanjo. Chief Abiola also died suddenly, in July 1998 while his release from detention was still being negotiated. He was 60 and, though some initially suspected foul play, an international team of pathologists who were called in to conduct an autopsy confirmed he died of natural causes. His health had however been adversely affected by the harsh detention conditions.

Abubakar dissolved the principal bodies associated with the Abacha regime’s democracy programme, released detainees, allowed unfettered political activity and published a new election timetable. A new Independent National Electoral Commission was set up in August 1998. As a result of the local government elections in December 1998, the People’s Democratic Party (PDP), All People’s Party (APP) and Alliance for Democracy (AD) went forward to contest the state and federal elections. The PDP took 23 state governorships, APP eight and AD six. In the National Assembly elections, PDP won nearly 60% of the seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The presidential election gave PDP candidate Obasanjo a convincing victory with 62% of the votes against 38% for joint APP/AD candidate Chief Olyemiti Falae. These federal elections were closely monitored by international, including Commonwealth, observers. Although cases of serious irregularities were noted, especially in the presidential poll, when the turnout figures were often inflated, they were not deemed to have brought the overall result into question.

In the wake of the elections, the departing military rulers published a new constitution. When Obasanjo became president in May 1999, Nigeria’s suspension from the Commonwealth was lifted. The 1999 constitution, which permitted the practice of Sharia law for consenting Muslims, opened the way for some northern states – led by Zamfara State in October 1999 – to seek to implement it. This plunged the country into a heated controversy and some violence as Christians in these states were not convinced by assurances that it would not adversely affect them. This continued as the northern states successively adopted Sharia law. Zamfara was first to carry out an amputation in March 2000 and Sokoto first to sentence a woman to death by stoning for adultery in October 2001 (later revoked).
To transform Niger State into one of the three top economies in Nigeria by the year 2020, by being a model and leader in agro-tourism, where there is employment and wealth creation opportunities for all, in an atmosphere of peace.

In the last five years, Niger State under the leadership of the Chief Servant, Dr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, CON, Talban Minna, has witnessed significant changes in key sectors of the State's burgeoning economy. The train of government as driven by the Chief Servant is on course and has in several ways justified the confidence reposed in him by Nigerlites when they trooped out en masse to vote for his re-election in the 2011 governorship election.

His efforts have impacted meaningfully as Niger State was rated for the 3rd year running as the Best State in the Federation in Fighting Poverty based on the recent statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics. According to the report, Niger State has the lowest poverty rate at 33.8 per cent, followed by Osun State at 37.9 per cent and Ondo State at 45.7 per cent.
Agriculture
Agriculture, particularly crop production, is a major component of Niger State's economy as it engages a little over 70% of the State's labour force. The State occupies 10% of the total land area of the country, 85% of which is favourably arable with potential for growing a wide variety of crops, notably rice, cassava, cotton, maize, sorghum, millet, cowpeas, soya beans, sugar cane, groundnut and beniseed (sesame seed).

Opportunities in Solid Mineral Sector
Solid minerals are a substantial part of natural resources that have become increasingly important because of their application as raw materials in many branches of modern industry. The geological location of Niger State endows it with abundant mineral resources. Rich commercial deposits of various types of industrial minerals of high quality are available in the State which can be used for both domestic and export markets. Some of the viable solid minerals are gold, talc, kaolin, tantalite, granite, marble, copper and lead. Considering the importance of this sector, the present administration has established a separate ministry of mining and solid minerals for effective and efficient exploration of the valuable resources. The State is open for partnership in areas of exploration and processing.

Opportunities in Tourism Sector
Niger State has over 56 tourist sites - the richest in the country in terms of tourism. None of the tourist sites are fully developed. All are awaiting genuine investors and patronage. Government has embarked upon the strategic development of its Tourism and Culture sector to transform the revenue base of the State. Through the PPP model, the State is pursuing the execution of the following projects: the Zuma Rock Tourist Resort Village, Suleja Twin City Development Project and the Gurara Water Falls Resort. All these initiatives have been appropriately captured in the Niger State development plan.

It is noteworthy that the 23rd occasion of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST), hosted in Minna in October 2009, was adjudged to be the best since its establishment and its attendant economic benefit to the participating States. The State will encourage cultural festivals and introduce agricultural festivals and competitions among the local government areas on an annual basis.
DAMAGIX NIGERIA LIMITED, an indigenous oil service company incorporated in 1993, is dedicated to the provision of services to the Nigerian oil and gas industry in conjunction with its technical partners.

DAMAGIX is managed by a set of core professionals who have gained a total of over 60 years’ working experience in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

DAMAGIX represents dozens of pipe mills from all over the world, whose total milling capacity is over 20 million tonnes of pipes annually.

DAMAGIX has executed numerous pipe supply contracts for multinational oil companies operating in Nigeria, notably Total, Shell, Agip, Chevron and Conoil Producing.

“In addition to our proven track-record, and our determination to remain the most preferred oil services company in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, DAMAGIX has just achieved another golden milestone by attaining the biggest pipes supply contract ever awarded by TOTAL to an indigenous company in Nigeria.”

This major contract was for TOTAL’s OML 58 O.U.R. Pipeline Upgrade Project, for the procurement, fabrication, coating and supply of 25,000 tonnes, 46 km of 42” X 65”, 3-layer PE-coated line pipes induction bends.

With the Local Content Bill now signed into law in Nigeria, DAMAGIX has strategically accelerated its plans to immediately establish a Threading Plant and a Hot Induction Bends (HIB) Facility. We have also started the long term plan to establish a Pipe Mill, to fabricate OCTG and line pipes to be commissioned in the next two years.

In order to improve its Management System, DAMAGIX has commenced the ISO 9001:200 Certification Processes which will be concluded in the near future.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
DAMAGIX stocks and supplies all sizes and grades of casings, tubulars (OCTG), line pipes and fittings.

In collaboration with our technical partners, we provide the following supply services:
• Line Pipes and Bends/Accessories
• Casings Pipes and Tubulars (OCTG)
• Stainless Steel Pipes
• Piling Sheets/Piling Pipes
• Ductile Iron Pipes
• Oil and Gas Consultancy Services

DAMAGIX opened a branch in Ghana, last year in line with its international expansion programme.

www.damagix.net
(Taraba, 439,000), Asaba (Delta, 407,100), Oyo (Oyo, 383,700), Ado (Ekiti, 378,500), Sokoto (Sokoto, 360,500), Minna (Niger, 322,200), Uyo (Akwa Ibom, 320,000), Calabar (Cross River, 318,400), Bauchi (Bauchi, 294,400), Ogborunowo (Oyo, 269,300), Katsina (Katsina, 213,600), Gombe (Gombe, 197,400), Makurdi (Benue, 171,000), Okene (Kogi, 122,100), Birnin Kebbi (Kebbi, 119,100), Yola (Adamawa, 111,800) and Nsukka (Enugu, 39,700).

**Transport:** 193,200km of roads, 15% paved, link all main centres. Some secondary roads are impassable during the rains.

There are around 3,530km of railway, the main routes running from Lagos to Kano, and from Port Harcourt to Maiduguri, with a branch line from Zaria to Gusau and Kaura Namoda. Much of the network is single-track, and the narrow gauge restricts speed and load-carrying capacity.

Main ports are at Apapa, Tin Can Island, Warri, Sapele, Port Harcourt and Calabar. Ferry services operate along the Niger and Benue rivers and along the coast.

Lagos international airport is 22km north of Lagos; other main international airports are at Abuja (35km from the city), Kano and Port Harcourt, and main domestic airports at Benin City, Calabar, Enugu, Jos, Kaduna, Lagos, Maiduguri, Sokoto and Yola.

**Society**

**KEY FACTS 2011**

- Population per sq km: 176
- Life expectancy: 52 years
- Net primary enrolment: 58% (2010)

**Population:** 162,471,000 (2011); 50% lives in urban areas and 15% in urban agglomerations of more than 1 million people; growth 2.4% p.a. 1990–2011; birth rate 40 per 1,000 people (47 in 1970); life expectancy 52 years (40 in 1970).

Nigeria is one of the most ethnically diverse countries. There are some 250 ethnic groups, with the Hausa–Fulani, Yoruba and Igbo making up 70%.

**Language:** English (official language), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and more than 200 other languages and dialects.

**Religion:** Muslims (mainly in the north and west) 50%, Christians (mainly in the south) 40%, and the rest holding traditional beliefs.

**Health:** Public spending on health was 2% of GDP in 2010. 58% of the population uses an improved drinking water source and 31% have adequate sanitation facilities (2010). Infant mortality was 78 per 1,000 live births in 2011 (123 in 1960). In 2011, 3.7% of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

**Education:** There are nine years of compulsory education starting at age six. Primary school comprises six years and secondary two cycles each of three years. Some 80% of pupils complete primary school (2009). The school year starts in September.

By June 2012, the National Universities Commission had accredited 37 federal universities, 37 state universities, and 50 private universities, including 4 federal universities of technology, 3 federal universities of agriculture and the National Open University of Nigeria. The longest-established universities are University of Ibadan (1948); University of Nigeria, Nsukka (1960); Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (1962); University of Lagos (1962); andObafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (1962). The first state university, Rivers
Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) was established in 2010 as a tool for reviving and stabilising Nigeria’s banking industry by purchasing Non-Performing Loans (NPLs).

In 2008, the Nigerian banking industry had experienced a crisis evidenced by a huge number of NPLs, inadequate capital ratio and poor corporate governance in many of the banks. AMCON acquired approximately 13,000 NPLs worth N3.5 trillion (US$20 billion). In addition, AMCON injected fresh capital into eight national banks. Five of them have since entered into successful mergers. As a result of the recapitalisation of banks, AMCON currently owns Mainstreet Bank, Enterprise Bank and Keystone Bank. The Corporation intends to divest from these banks in the short to medium term with the help of approved financial advisory firms.

**Business Philosophy**

Acquire Eligible Bank Assets (EBAs), including NPLs, from Eligible Financial Institutions (EFIs) at a fair value and put these assets to economic use in a profitable manner. In addition, AMCON's acquisition will help to free up banks' resources for more profitable activities and improve their capital positions.

**The AMCON Model**

Unlike other national resolution vehicles in other parts of the world, AMCON's function was not only to acquire and resolve EBAs but to capitalise deficient banks as well. In contrast with many other similar models, AMCON is funded with no recourse to the treasury of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The sources of cash flow are from recoveries made from EBAs, proceeds from sales of assets and shares in intervened banks, cash income reinvestment and the sinking fund contribution.

The sinking fund which is a contribution of 30 basis points of total asset on a yearly basis by banks into a pool is in the custody of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Remotely, the
sinking fund will only be deployed if there is any gap in the repaying of the AMCON bonds on maturity to the bond holders. All these arrangements are to ensure that no tax payers’ money is expended in resolving the banking industry crisis.

Impact of AMCON

Following the establishment of AMCON, the following progress has been made:

- AMCON has restructured loans valued at about N500bn and recovered over N83bn to date.
- At the end of 2011, most banks were within the 5% NPL ratio requirement of the CBN after AMCON purchased over 80% of the NPLs.
- 35% growth in total assets between 2009 and 2011.
- 26% growth in total deposits base between 2009 and 2011.
- 60% growth in liquidity between 2009 and 2011. Thereby enabling banks to focus on their core business of lending.
- All banks in Nigeria now have positive capital adequacy ratio (CAR).
- Increased confidence in Nigeria’s financial industry.
- Restructured NPLs with loans performing and recoveries ongoing.
- Prevented impending loss of thousands of jobs that could have resulted from the collapse of the banking industry post world economic/Nigerian banking crisis of 2008/9.
- Created new jobs for qualified citizens through the recapitalisation of ailing banks and creation of mega banks from mergers and acquisitions.
- Created investment opportunities for institutional investors such as pension funds locally as well as international investors in AMCON bonds and assets, e.g. foreign investment in UBN.
- Banks are further able to expand lending and provide further support to the economy using the liquidity provided by AMCON bonds.

Outlook for the Nigerian Banking Industry

AMCON embarked on a series of roadshows in Nigeria, UK and US. With the increased security and performance of Nigerian banks, confidence is being restored as greater interest is received especially from international investors and stakeholders.

Outlook for AMCON

Recently, the CBN issued a policy restricting money deposit banks from availing further credit to recalcitrant obligors of AMCON who owe N5bn and above. This policy has been yielding fruit as many of the obligors have come forward to resolve or restructure their loans.

Since its inception in 2010, AMCON has implemented world-class technology systems (most notably ERP; Electronic Document Management; and Credit Management and Administration Systems) to render its services in an effective and most efficient manner.

With confidence restored in the Nigerian banking industry and the series of successes recorded so far, AMCON is on course to revive and stabilise the Nigerian banking industry sooner than expected.
Elens Konsult was established as a wholly indigenous engineering consultancy firm in January 1975 and has over the years increased its scope of services, capacity and performance in virtually all the engineering sectors of the Nigerian economy.

We have engineered many projects for the Federal Government of Nigeria, state governments, industrial companies, investors, developers and funding agencies. The Firm has three offices in Nigeria located in Lagos, Abuja and Benin City with field offices scattered across the country on project sites.

**Electrical Engineering**

**Power Generation, transmission and distribution**

The Firm has executed a variety of urban and rural electrical engineering projects from 330 kV transmission lines to 11/0.415 kV distribution networks. Power distribution planning studies for the Power Holding Company of Nigeria associated with the transmission lines, are various capacities of substations ranging from 330 kV to 132 kV with transformer capacities up to 150 MVA, 330/132/33 kV.

**Mechanical Engineering**

Elens Konsult has been active in the provision of mechanical engineering services for the governments and private agencies ranging from hotels, hospitals, universities, banks, offices, factories and commercial malls and centres.

**Water Supply**

The Firm has engineered many urban and semi-urban water supply schemes around the country.

**Oil and Gas Services**

The Firm has previously put in a bid for the consultancy services related to the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas by the Nigeria Gas Company to the Shell Petroleum Company yard in Warri; and to the residential quarters of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation also in Warri.

**Civil Engineering**

**Civil Works/Infrastructure**

The Firm has engineered many roads projects for the governments, funding agencies and private organisations. Some of these roads are in challenging terrains that necessitated the inclusion of bridges and the blasting of rock formations on road alignments.

For the utilities boards and higher institutions, the designs of elevated water storage tanks for urban and small community water distribution were undertaken.

**Project Management**

In addition to our traditional role as engineering designers, we offer services in the management of the inter-relations between designers, suppliers and erectors in a construction project.

No assignment is too large or too small for the Firm. Whatever the requirements, we work closely with the client to deliver an environmentally friendly, cost-effective product on time and to budget.
State University of Science and Technology, was founded in 1979 and the first private universities, in 1999. Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 72% (2010).

**Media:** There are more than 100 national and regional newspapers, some state-owned, as well as Sunday papers, business weeklies and news magazines. Established titles with national distribution include *Daily Independent* (Lagos), *Daily Sun* (Lagos), *Daily Trust* (Abuja), *Leadership* (Abuja), *New Nigerian* (government-owned with Lagos and Kaduna editions), *Newswatch* (weekly), *Tell* (weekly), *The Champion* (Lagos), *The Daily Times* (Lagos), *The Guardian*, *The Punch*, *This Day* (Lagos) and *Vanguard* (Lagos).

The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria and Nigerian Television Authority provide national and regional public radio and TV services respectively. The state governments in all 36 states provide radio services and most, TV services, too. A number of private TV and radio stations are operating, mainly in the urban areas.

Some 39% of households have TV sets (2008). There are 9 personal computers per 1,000 people (2005).

**Communications:** Country code 234; internet domain ‘.ng’. Mobile phone coverage is expanding. There are internet cafes in Lagos.

There are 4 main telephone lines, 586 mobile phone subscriptions and 284 internet users per 1,000 people (2011).

**Public holidays:** New Year’s Day, Workers’ Day (1 May), National Day (1 October), Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Religious festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Mouloud (Prophet’s Birthday), Good Friday, Easter Monday, Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan, three days) and Eid al-Kabir (Feast of the Sacrifice).

**Economy**

**KEY FACTS 2011**

GNI: US$207.3bn

GNI p.c.: US$1,280

GDP growth: 6.9% p.a. 2007–11

Inflation: 10.6% p.a. 2007–11

Nigeria is very vulnerable to fluctuations in international prices and demand for oil and gas, which accounts for more than 90% of export earnings and the greater part of federal revenue. During many years of military rule, economic management was generally weak. When oil prices were high, the revenues flowed into increased public spending and conspicuous consumption, and imports soared. GDP grew by 1.6% p.a. 1980–90.

Some public investment went into prestige industrial projects which were generally a burden on the economy, failing to generate profits, depending on imported components or materials and increasing external debt. But the development of non-oil industries that relied on local raw materials and would generate employment and exports was not encouraged and the consistently overvalued currency deterred exports.

By 1997–98 the economy was in a critical condition. Once self-sufficient in food, the country had become a major food importer. Development aid and foreign loans and investment had decreased dramatically. From May 1999, with the support of the IMF, the World Bank and the international community, the civilian government committed itself to reforming policies, including privatisation of state enterprises and modernisation of agriculture, with the public sector concentrating on infrastructure and education and the private sector leading economic growth.

But reversing the many years of weak and corrupt economic management was a daunting challenge and progress was slow. Nevertheless, in a climate of stronger international oil prices GDP growth picked up in 2000 and from 2003 was generally more than 6% p.a. for the rest of the decade, and at least 7% p.a. 2010–12, despite the world economic downturn of 2008–09.

**Oil and gas**

Nigerian oil has a low sulphur content and proven reserves of oil were estimated in January 2012 to be 37 billion barrels. Production over 2011 was at the rate of about 2.5 million barrels a day.

Proven reserves of gas were estimated in January 2012 to be 5.1 trillion cubic metres. Exports of liquefied natural gas began in 1999 and grew rapidly. The establishment of the West African Gas Pipeline is set to provide a secure basis for future gas exports.
Background
Nigeria's quest for space exploration started in 1976 when Nigeria declared its space ambition to members of the Economic Commission for Africa and Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) during an inter-governmental meeting in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

It was not until 1999 that the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) was established to co-ordinate the development and applications of space technology in Nigeria. The establishment of NASRDA was followed by the approval of the National Space Policy in 2001. The policy established the National Space Council, chaired by the President and a Technical Advisory Committee. Finally, the National Space Research and Development Agency Bill was signed as an Act of Parliament on 27 August 2010 by the President. The Act founded the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education, Ile-Ife; Centre for Remote Sensing, Jos; Centre for Satellite Technology Development, Abuja; Centre for Geodesy and Geodynamics, Toro; Centre for Space Transport and Propulsion, Epe; and Centre for Basic Space Science and Astronomy, Nsukka.

Mission
To use space technology capabilities as a tool for the:
• Development and management of agricultural and forestry resources.
• Assessment and management of national resources.
• Development of an effective and efficient communication system.
• Enhancement of transportation and tourism enterprises.
• Development of education and health care delivery systems (both rural and urban).
• Development and management of energy resources.
• Enhancement of human safety and mitigation of disasters.

The Nigerian Satellite Technology Development Programme
Nigeria currently has three earth observation satellites, as well as one communication satellite that were launched in the period between 2003 and 2011. The earth observation satellites include: NigeriaSat-1 (32m MS), NigeriaSat-2 (2.5m Pan, 5m MS, 32m MS) and NigeriaSat-X (22m MS). The communication satellite called NigcomSat-1R has 40 transponder payloads.

Nigeria plans to complement its optical satellite programme with the commencement of the development of a non-optical (Radar) satellite. This non-optical satellite will provide the much needed data for the southern parts of the country which are predominantly covered by clouds throughout the year.

Vision
To make Nigeria build indigenous competence in developing, designing and building appropriate hardware and software in space technology as an essential tool for its socio-economic development and enhancement of the quality of life of its people.

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www.nasrda.gov.ng
Constitution

Status: Republic with executive president
Legislature: National Assembly
Independence: 1 October 1960

The May 1999 constitution, like those of 1979 and 1989, and the draft constitution of 1995, provided for a federal republic with an executive president on the US model. Six new states were created in October 1996, bringing the total to 36. The president is elected every four years by universal adult suffrage and is required to include at least one representative of each of the 36 states in the cabinet. There is a bicameral National Assembly made up of a House of Representatives (with 360 seats) and a Senate (with 109 seats), each elected for four-year terms. The state governors and assemblies are also elected every four years.

The constitution also guarantees personal freedom and permits the exercise of Sharia law for consenting Muslims.

Politics

Last elections: April 2011 (legislative and presidential)
Next elections: April 2015
Head of state: President Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan
Head of government: the president
Ruling party: People’s Democratic Party

In the first elections to be held under a civilian government in twenty years, in April 2003 President Olusegun Obasanjo and the ruling People’s Democratic Party (PDP) comfortably won presidential and National Assembly elections and did well in the governorship elections. Obasanjo was emphatically returned as president with 61.9% of the votes, his main rival, another former military leader, Muhammadu Buhari of the All Nigeria People’s Party, polling 32.2%. Commonwealth observers concluded that in most states most electors were able to vote freely and the results of the elections reflected the wishes of the people. However, in certain places ‘proper electoral processes appear to have broken down’ and, in Rivers State in particular, ‘there were widespread and serious irregularities and vote-rigging’.

The ruling PDP’s candidate, Umaru Musa Yar’Adua, won the April 2007 presidential election with 70% of the votes, defeating Muhammadu Buhari of the All Nigeria People’s Party (18%) and Atiku Abubakar of Action Congress (7%). Turnout was low and the many national and international observers reported serious and widespread deficiencies in the election process, including late opening of polls. Commonwealth observers concluded there were impediments to the full, free and fair expression of the will of voters and that an opportunity to build on the elections of 1999 and 2003 had been missed.

After a period of illness, three months of which he spent receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia, Yar’Adua died on 5 May 2010. Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan, who had been empowered by the National Assembly to act as president since February 2010, was sworn in as president on 6 May.

In April 2011 PDP candidate Jonathan won the presidential election in the first round, taking 59% of the votes cast and securing more than 25% of votes in at least 24 states. His main challenger, Buhari (now of the Congress for Progressive Change), took 32% of the votes cast. Voting was widely reported as peaceful and the Commonwealth observer group present, led by former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, declared that the presidential and National Assembly elections were both credible and creditable, and reflected the will of the Nigerian people. However, as it became apparent that Jonathan had won the presidential contest, violent demonstrations erupted in northern Nigeria.

International relations

Nigeria is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, United Nations and World Trade Organization.

Nigeria hosts the headquarters of the Economic Community of West African States in Abuja.

The country is also a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Traveller information

Immigration and customs: Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of departure. Visas are required by all Commonwealth nationals. If you are travelling on from Nigeria, many countries will require you to have a yellow fever vaccination certificate (see Travel Health below). Prohibited imports include fruit, vegetables, cereals and eggs; beer, mineral water, soft drinks and sparkling wine; and jewellery and textiles, including mosquito netting.

Travel within the country: Traffic drives on the right. To hire a car an international driving permit is required, together with two passport-size photos.

Scheduled flights link the main towns. Trains are generally slow. Daily services run on the two main lines, between Lagos and Kano and Port Harcourt and Maiduguri. Sleeping cars are available but must be booked in advance.

Travel health: Prevalent diseases where appropriate precautionary measures are recommended include cholera, dengue fever, diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, malaria, meningococcal meningitis, polio, rabies, schistosomiasis (bilharzia), typhoid and yellow fever. The World Health Organization has recommended vaccination against yellow fever.

There were 1,555,000 tourist arrivals in 2010.

Further information

Office of the President: www.nigeriafirst.org
Independent National Electoral Commission: www.inecnigeria.org
National Assembly: www.nassnig.org
Central Bank of Nigeria: www.cenbank.org
Guide to Nigeria: www.cometonghana.com
Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org
Commonwealth of Nations: www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/nigeria