BAYELSA STATE

Bayelsa is a state in southern Nigeria in the core Niger Delta region between Delta and Rivers States. Its capital is Yenagoa. The main language spoken is Ijaw with dialects such as Kolukuma, Mein, Bonnu, Nembe, Epie-Atisa and Obia. Like the rest of Nigeria, English is the official language. The state was formed in 1996 from part of Rivers State and is thus one of the newest states of the Nigerian Federation. Nickname: Glory of all Lands.

Bayelsa State has one of the largest crude oil and natural gas deposits in Nigeria. As a result, petroleum production is extensive in the state. However, the majority of Bayelsans live in poverty.

They are main rural dwellers due to the terrain and lack of adequate transportation, health, education, or other infrastructure due to decades of neglect. The local dwellers engage in fishing on a subsistence level. The Bayelsa State government is otherwise the main employer in the state.

Bayelsa has a riverine and estuarine setting. Many communities are (in some cases) completely surrounded by water, making them inaccessible by road. The state is home to the Edmanom Forest Reserve, in June 2008, the last known site for chimpanzees in the Niger Delta. Important cities besides Yenagoa include Akassa, Lobia, Amassoma, Ekeremor, Aliebiri, Peretoru, Twon-Brass, Kaiama, Nembe, Odi, Ogbia, Okpoama Brass, Oporoma, Otuan, Sagbama, Olugbobiri, Peremabiri and Swali.

Bayelsa State consist of eight (8) local government areas: Brass, Ekeremor, Kolokuma/Opokuma, Nembe, Ogbia, Sagbama, Southern Ijaw, and Yenagoa.