BENUE STATE

Benue State is a state in the mid-belt region of Nigeria with a population of about 5 million people. It is inhabited predominantly by the Tiv and Idoma people. The Tivs comprises the Etulos while the Idomas comprises the Ufias (Utonkons), the Igedes and the Agatus. There are other ethnic groups, including the Abakwa, Jukun, Hausa, Igbo, Akweya and Nyifon. The capital of the state is Makurdi. The state is rich in agricultural products like: potatoes, casaba, soya bean, guinea corn, flax, yams, sesame, rice and groundnut. Nickname: food basket of the nation.

The state was formed from the former Benue-Plateau State in 3 February, 1976, along with Igala and some part of Kwara State. In 1991, some areas of Benue State (mostly Igala), along with areas in Kwara State, were carved out to become part of new Kogi State. Igbos are found in the boundary areas of Ebonyi and Enugu States in the local government areas like Oju, Obi, etc.

Benue State lies within the lower River Benue trough, in the middle belt of Nigeria. Its geographic coordinates are longitudes 7°47′E and 10°0′E and latitudes 6°25′N and 8°8′N; and shares boundaries with five other states: Nasarawa (north), Taraba (east), Cross-River (south), Enugu (southeast) and Kogi State (west). The state also shares a common boundary with the Republic of Cameroon on the south east. Benue occupies a land mass of 34,059 square kilometre.

Benue State consists of twenty three (23) Local Government Areas. They are Ado, Agatu, Apa, Buruku, Gboko, Guma, Gwer-East, Gwer West, Katsina Ala, Konshisha, Kwande, Logo, Makurdi, Obi, Ogbadibo, Ohimini, Oju, Okpokwu, Otukpo, Tarka, Ukum Ushongo, and Vandeikya.