KWARA STATE

Kwara is a state in Western Nigeria. Its capital is Ilorin. Kwara is located within the north central geopolitical zone commonly referred to as middle belt. The primary ethnic group is Yoruba, with significant Nupe, Bariba, and Fulani minorities. Nickname: State of Harmony.

Kwara State was created on 27 May,1967, when the Federal Military Government of General Yakubu Gowon broke the four regions that then constituted the Federation of Nigeria into 12 states. At its creation, the state was made up of the former Ilorin and Kabba provinces of the then Northern Region and was initially named the West Central State but later changed to "Kwara," a local name for the River Niger.

Kwara State has since 1976 reduced considerably in size as a result of further state creation exercises in Nigeria. On 13 February, 1976, the Idah/Dekina part of the state was carved out and merged with a part of the Benue/Plateau State to form Benue State.

On 27 August, 1991, five local government areas, namely Oyi, Yagba, Okene, Okehi, and Kogi were also excised to form part of new Kogi State, while a sixth, Borgu local government area was merged with Niger State.

Kwara State consists of 16 local government areas namely: Asa, Baruten, Edu, Ekiti, Ifelodun, Ilorin East, Ilorin South, Ilorin West, Irepodun, Isin, Kaiama, Moro, Offa, Oke Ero, Oyun and Pategi.

Important tourist attractions in Kwara state inclue Esie Museum, Owu Falls, Imoleboja Rock Shelter, Ogunjokoro, Kainji Lake National Parks and Agbonna Hill Awon Mass Wedding in Shao. There are also Sobi Hills amongst others which is the largest landform in Ilorin, the state capital.

The state has a federal university, the University of Ilorin, a state university, Kwara State University, two polytechnics: Kwara State Polytechnic and Offa Polytechnic; three colleges of education, school of health technology and school of nursing. It also has a navy school and aviation college. It is also home for Landmark University and Al-Hikmah University, both private universities are located in Ome Aran and Ilorin respectively.

Agriculture is the main source of the economy and the principal cash crops are: cotton, cocoa, coffee, kolanut, tobacco, beniseed and palm produce. Mineral resources in the state are gold, limestone, marble, feldspar, clay, kaolin, quartz, and granite rocks.

Some of the industries in the state are Dangote Flour Mill, Lubcon Lubricant Company, Kam Industries Nig Ltd, Tuyil Pharmacy Nig Ltd, etc.