RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

About

Rivers State is one of the 36 states of Nigeria. Its capital is Port Harcourt. It is bounded on the South by the Atlantic Ocean, to the North by the Anambra, Imo and Abia States, to the East by Akwa Ibom State and to the West by the Bayelsa and Delta States.

The inland part of Rivers state consists of tropical rainforest; towards the coast the typical river delta environment features many mangrove swamps. Rivers state was part of the Oil Rivers Protectorate from 1885 till 1893, when it became part of the Niger Coast Protectorate. In 1900 the region was merged with the chartered territories of the Royal Niger Company to form the colony of Southern Nigeria.

The state was formed in 1967 with the split of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. It gained Ughelli from Bendel State, and Opobo from the Cross-River State in 1976. Until 1996 the state contained the area which is now in the Bayelsa State.

The capital, Port Harcourt, is the nerve centre of the famous Nigerian Oil industry and over ninety industrial concerns, including the Shell Petroleum Development Company of (Nigeria) Limited, AGIP, Texaco, Elf, NPRC, Michelin, West African Glass Industry, Alcan Aluminium, Metaloplastica, Risonpalm, NAFCON, Pabod Breweries, to mention a few.

Due to its beautiful layout and peculiar topography, Port Harcourt, christened "Garden City", is accessible by road, rail, air and sea. Apart from being a railway terminus and having one of the busiest airports in Nigeria, Port Harcourt has the unique natural advantage of being the nation's second largest sea port with another sea port, the Ocean Terinal at Onne, a stone's throw from it.

History

River State was created on May 27, 1967 and constituted one of the earliest states which came into being upon the dissolution of the old regional structure

People

Rivers State with a population of about three million people occupies an area of 21,850 sq. km. With two thirds of it in the Niger Delta geographical terrain. The dominant ethnic groups are Ijwa, Ikwere, Etche, Ogoni, and Ogba/Egbema. Ijaw and Ikwerre are the most spoken languages although pidgin English is widely used in radio and television broadcasts.

Local Government Areas

Rivers State is currently made up of 23 local government areas. These are Ogba/Egbema, Ndoni, Ahoada, Ikwerre, Etche, Andoni/Opobo, Bonny, Okrika, Iyigbo, Ehana, Gokana Tai/Eleme, Obio/Akpor, Emohua, Degema, Aseri Toru, Akuku, Abua/Odial, Omumma, Opobo/Nkoro, Ogu/ BolRo, Ahaoda West, Ahoada East and Eleme.

Education

The State has over 2,805 primary schools and 243 secondary schools. The secondary schools are concentrated mainly in LGA headquarter towns and in Port Harcourt. The Tertiary institutions include the University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Port Harcourt established by the federal government in 1975, the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, founded in 1980 by the state government, the School of Health Technology, Port Harcourt, established by the state government, the federally owned polytechnic at Omoku and the state-owned Rivers State Polytechnic at Bori, the Rivers State University of Education (Ignatius Ajulu University) at Rumuolumeni, Nkpolu Oroworukwo and Ndele and the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Rumueme, Port Harcourt. The Rivers State College of Arts and Science in Port Harcourt gained polytechnic status in 2006.

Business Opportunities

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Rivers State and the agricultural policy of the state government is anchored on food production. This provides employement for young school leavers and university graduates. These agricultural activities are grouped' under Community Block Farming Scheme, Community Fishing Scheme, Livestock Scheme and Rabbitry.

However, it is the production of oil and gas that Rivers State is most famous. With enormous reserves of crude oil and natural gas, Rivers State account for more than 40% of Nigeria crude oil production. Apart from this, there are many petrochemical related industries in the state which also harbour the first petroleum refinery in Nigeria. Nigeria's gigantic liquified natural gas project is located in Bonny in the state

Tourism

Isaac Boro Park, Port Harcourt Man-made * Monument of King Jaja of Opobo Monument * Okrika Aquatic Stadium Man-made * Ifoko Beach, Ifoko Physical * Port Harcourt Tourist Beach Physical