RIV – THE GOVERNMENT OF RIVERS STATE

The Rivers State government consists of elected representatives and appointed officials. The State government has executive and legislative arms with an independent judiciary. At the local level, elected officials are responsible for Local Government Areas.

The Executive

The executive arm is headed by the Governor, assisted by the Deputy Government, both elected for a term of 4 years (maximum of 2 terms). The governor appoints commissioners responsible for each of the ministries, and appoints the head of parastatals, and the state-owned bodies with specific regulatory or administrative duties. In some cases, a governor maybe replaced or removed for example, through death, impeachment or if an election is annulled by a competent court of law or by a two-third majority of the House of Assembly.

The Legislature

The legislative authority in Rivers State is held by the State House of Assembly, which is made up of elected representatives from all constituencies of the state. Its functions at the state level are relative to those of the National Assembly at the Federal level; creating laws for the good governance of the state, as well as acting as a check and balance on the powers and actions of the State's Chief Executive. The House of Assembly consists three times the total number of seats which the state has in the House of Representatives.

The Judiciary

The Judiciary branch of the State government has sole authority and responsibility for the interpretation and application of the state's laws as well as the adjudication of disputes or controversies. It consists of eight courts: the High Court of Justice, the Magistrate Courts, the Customary Courts, the Juvenile Courts, the Revenue Courts, the Sanitation Courts, the Mobile Courts and Ports Related Offences Courts. It is governed mainly by the Chief Judge of the High Court of Justice. There are about 26 serving judges in the high Court of Justice, which comprises 10 Judicial Divisions including Port-Harcourt, Ahoada, Degema, Nchia, Bori, Omoku, Isiokpo, Okrika, Okehi, and Oyigbo.

Local Governments in Rivers State

Rivers State is currently consisted of 23 Local Government Areas, all of which handle administration, under an elected chairman. Each of the local government areas, has its own administrative capital. They are: Abua/Odual, Ahoada-East, Ahoada-West, Akuku-toru, Andoni, Asari-toru, Bonny, Degema, Etche, Eleme, Emohua, Gokana, Ikwerri, Khana, Obia/Akpor, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, Ogu/Bolo, Okrika, Omumma, Opobo/Nkoro, Oyigbo, Port-Harcourt, and Tai.

The capitals of the local government areas above is below and respectively: Abua, Ahoada, Akinima, Abonema, Ngo, Buguma, Bonny, Degema, Okehi, Ogale, Emohua, Kpor, Isiokpo, Bori, Rumuodumanya, Omoku, Ogu, Okrika, Eberi, Opobo, Afam, Port-Harcourt, and Sakpenwa.