# ZAMFARA STATE

Zamfara State is a state in North-western Nigeria. Its capital is Gusau and its Governor (as at 2017) is Abdul'aziz Abubakar Yari, a member of the All Progressive Congress (APC). Until 1996, the area was part of Sokoto State. Nickname: Farming is our pride.

Zamfara is populated with the Hausa and Fulani peoples. The people of Zamfara have over the years struggled for autonomy, it was not until 1966 that the then military administration of the Late General Sani Abacha detached the Zamfara State from Sokoto State.

With an area of 38,418 square kilometres, it is bordered in the north by Niger Republic, to the south by Kaduna State. In the east, it is bordered by Katsina State and to the west by Sokoto State and Niger State.

Zamfara State consists of fourteen (14) local government areal. They are: Anka, Bakura, Birnin Magagi/Kiyaw, Bukkuyum, Bungudu, Tsafe, Gummi, Gusau, Kaura, Namoda, Maradun, Maru, Shinkafi, Talata, Mafara and Zurmi.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the state and the central source of income, hence its slogan, "farming is our pride." And also Home of Sharia.

In 2009, gold mining became a greater source of income in Zamfara State as worldwide gold prices rose dramatically. High concentrations lead in the ore from which gold was being extracted led to a lead poisoning epidemic in the state, requiring national and international intervention to remediate affected areas and provide medical care to children with severe lead poisoning.

Islam is the principal and major religion of the state. Zamfara was the first state in Nigeria to introduce Sharia Law during the regime of Admad Sani Yerima.