

FOREWORD

Kogi State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (KOSEEDS) is a home grown bottom –top development agenda, carefully packaged to reverse the trend of underdevelopment in Kogi State. The government’s intention and focus are well captured and articulated in the document. Essentially, the focus is to address the critical problems of poverty, unemployment, value dislocation etc. The document provides the basis for self cleansing such that all activities that have impeded development over time are straightened to chart a clear road map for a sustainable growth and development. A situation in which the State is abundantly blessed with natural and human resources while the majority of the people still wallow in abject poverty is unacceptable. This is the situation at hand for which the State is set to radically move against. The document itself is well researched, representing a broad spectrum of development challenges and opportunities of the diverse stakeholders in the Kogi State project. It can, therefore, aptly be referred to as the people’s document.

In packaging the document, government recognized the need to free itself of direct production and play the role of an enabler, a regulator and a provider of security while the private sector serves as the engine of growth. Therefore, growing the private sector to fully take charge of the economy is central to the conception and articulation of the document. Let us all work together to ensure that the private sector rise to these challenges. The document placed great emphasis on development imperatives in education, health, agriculture, small and medium enterprises, infrastructure, culture and tourism, public service and finance as well as other areas. The intention is to purge these sectors of their threats and weaknesses while creating conditions for the attainment of their full potential. As expected, the big challenges of HIV/AIDS, gender and the environment have been mainstreamed in the document.

The UNDP deserves special mention for being very supportive from the preparation, production and popularization of this document. Other Development Partners that have been helpful are also very much appreciated.

The document is patterned after the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS). Great credit is due to the Federal Government for the foresight in conceiving the idea and encouraging States to follow suite. The journey to greatness has, no doubt, commenced with the production of KOSEEDS document. Therefore, we have a choice to either allow the status-quo to remain or jump-start our crawling economy by being part of the efforts to ensure the full realization of the aims and objectives contained in the document. I, therefore, encourage all and sundry to be committed to the course of our dear State. We must all be patriotic, honest, transparent, accountable, hard-working and, above all, God-fearing in order to realize our great dreams. Reform remains a continuous process so long as man dreams of a greater tomorrow. Therefore, this document is subject to periodic reviews and updates in line with the dictates of time and circumstances. Your suggestions on how to implement the policies and programmes contained in it will always be welcome.

To all the stakeholders and the Technical Committee members that have made invaluable contributions to the preparation of this document, I can only thank you and hope that you will not be found wanting in the crucial efforts to translate our lofty ideas into reality.

**ALHAJI IBRAHIM IDRIS
THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR
KOGI STATE**

VISIONS STATEMENT

- A peaceful, united, democratic and God-fearing State within a democratic Nigeria.
- Committed to making the basic life necessities available and affordable to all Kogites.
- Creating a solid foundation for the entire Stakeholders' participation in governance and socio-economic development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kogi State was created on 27th August, 1991 following long agitations for the re-unification of the old Kabba province that was partitioned between the then Benue and Kwara States in 1976. At inception in 1991, Kogi was an impoverished State as a result of long neglect and marginalization in Benue and Kwara. Despite the efforts of the previous administrations to reverse this trend, there was no visible improvement in the living standard of the people.

In its resolve to confront the development challenges facing the State, the present administration embarked on a reform path, similar to the national reform programme, NEEDS. Consequently, in 2004, His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, constituted a 26-member Committee, under the chairmanship of the Hon. Commissioner of Budget and Planning, to produce the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (KOSEEDS) document that would chart a new direction for sustained growth and development. The members of the Committee, drawn from both the public and private sectors, made extensive statewide consultations with the stakeholders in the three senatorial districts. The comments and contributions from the stakeholders, Ministries, Departments and Agencies provided insight into the development challenges and opportunities in the State.

The focus of the government is to develop key areas that would lead to which are the main thrusts of the reform. Therefore, the sectoral policy thrusts, targets employment generation, wealth creation, poverty reduction and value re-orientation and strategies have been carefully designed to achieve the broad objectives of:

- Access to quality primary, secondary and post secondary education.
- Improvement in primary and secondary health care delivery as well as reduction in HIV/AIDS prevalence rate from 5.7% to 2% by 2007.
- Tackling housing problems by strengthening mortgage-related institutions and encouraging private sector participation in housing development.
- Re-direct and empower the youths for optimal contribution to the State and National development efforts.
- Give adequate attention to the unique needs of children, women and other vulnerable groups to enhance their participation in the socio-economic and political development of the State.
- Tackle pollution and other environmental problems that will become more pronounced due to increased commercial and industrial activities in the State.

- Create a dynamic and vibrant business environment by developing infrastructure conducive to private sector led economy.
- Boost agriculture production to ensure food security.
- Create the needed environment for the development of SMEs, solid minerals and tourism potential as well as encourage Public-Private partnership in these sectors.
- Face the challenge of public reform as well as promote fiscal responsibility, transparency and accountability through prudent financial management and adherence to due process.
- In partnership with the private sector and development partners, harness and deploy the rich human and natural resource endowments to implement the State development programmes.

KOSEEDS will be implemented through the annual budgets, the Due Process Office, the State Project monitoring Committee, Development Partners and the Legislature. Where necessary, appropriate laws, to back-up government policies and programmes, will be enacted. A good communication channel will be established with the people through radio, television, news-papers, press releases and consultative fora to disseminate government policies and programmes and receive feed-backs.

KOSEEDS is a development framework that is neither exhaustive nor final. As a living document, it is subject to periodic review and update. Therefore, suggestions on how to improve the document to meet the set objectives of the reforms ,will be welcome.

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND

History

Kogi State came into being as a result of the State creation exercise on 27th August, 1991 with its administrative headquarters in Lokoja.

The creation of the State was, indeed, a significant development for its citizens. This is because it brought about the re-union of a people who had shared historical roots and co-existed peacefully within the former Kabba Province in the defunct Northern Region, for more than 80 years.

The State which is structured into 21 LGAS, comprises 3 major ethnic groups i.e. Igala, Ebira and Okun (Yoruba). Other minor groups include Kankanda, Kupa, Ogori-Mangongo, Nupe, Bassa-Komo, Bassa-Nge and Gwari.

Geography

Kogi State has a total land mass of about 30,354.74 km and is the fifteenth largest State in the country in terms of land mass. The State is bordered by nine other States and is the most centrally located State in the country.

Demography

Based on the 1991 census, Kogi State population stood at 2, 147,756. If projected by 2.83% growth rate, approved by the National Population Commission (NPC) population figure stands at 3,087,044 in the 2004.

Climates

Kogi State has an average maximum temperature of 33.2c and average minimum of 22.8c. Lokoja, the State capital, is generally hot throughout the year. The State has two distinct weathers – dry season, which lasts from November to February and the raining season that lasts from March to October. Annual rainfall ranges from 1016mm to 1524mm.

Ethnic Groups

The three major ethnic groups in the State are I gala, Ebira and Okun (Yoruba). Together, they constitute about 95% of the total population of Kogi State. The minor ethnic groups, on the other hand, include Kankanda, Kupa, Ogori-Magongo, Nupe, Bassa-komo, Gwari

and Bassa-Nge. Both Christianity and Islam are widely practiced in the State, although some people are still practicing traditional religion.

POVERTY INDICATORS IN KOGI STATE

Poverty reduction remains the centre piece of the current government's reform drive. For life to be meaningful, every human being is entitled to a minimum level of basic needs such as shelter, education, health care, potable water, electricity, gainful employment, clean environment etc. The degree of access to these life necessities determines the level of well being and standard of living people.

Based on the Report of Nigeria Living Standard Survey 2003/2004, the performance of poverty indicators in Kogi State, as shown in the table above, is disturbing. However, the State Government has taken up the challenge through a number of programmes such as those in health, education, water supply, social and economic infrastructure, agriculture, youth employment and empowerment etc to address poverty and underdevelopment.

To reverse this ugly trend, the present administration embarked on a reform programme patterned along the National reform agenda christened the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The Kogi State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, acronymed KOSEEDS, was conceived to achieve the same goals as NEEDS, sharing common agenda for improving policy formulation, financial management, service delivery as well as transparency and accountability. The main thrust of the Reform is to reduce the poverty level in the State in line with the set targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS)

INDICATORS	STATUS		
Poverty incidence using Relative measures per capita	33.3 (1980)	87.3 (1996)	61.53 (2004)
Population distribution	46.8 (male)	53.2 (Female)	
Poverty indicators (Relative Poverty Line)	19.13 (core poor)	42.40 (moderate)	38.47% (non-poor)
Adult Literacy Rate who can read and write in English	62.09 (male)	37.92 (Female)	
% Distribution of household of Dwelling	58.40 (single room)	41.61 (duplex and others)	
Sources of light	69.2(kerosene)	29.1(electricity)	1.7(others)
% Distribution of the means of Excreta	98.1 (bush, uncovered pit & other means)	10.9 modern Facilities	
% Distribution of households by sources of fuel for cooking	85.6 (firewood)	13.7 (kerosene)	0.7 (modern Means)
% Distribution of Refuse Disposal	70.6 (unauthorized heap)	29.4 (other means)	
Sources of potable water	92.35 (unsafe)	7.65 (safe)	
Type of construction	59.0 (mud)	37.33 (cement)	3.67 (other Means)
Ownership of farmland	38.80 (yes)	61.20 (no)	
Age of 1 st pregnancy	43.3(10-19)	55.3 (20-29)	1.4 (30-39)
Attendance of pre-natal clinics by women	78.3 (yes)	21.7(no)	
% Distribution of those who have heard of HIV/AIDS	44.55 (male)	55.45 (female)	
%Distribution of those who protect themselves from AIDS/STD	45.09 (male)	54.91 (female)	

CHAPTER TWO

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS

His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, inaugurated a 26 – member Committee, under the chairmanship of the Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Planning, to produce the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (KOSEEDS) Document on the 10th of June, 2004.

The Committee, which worked in seven Sub-Committees, generated very rich data for the production of KOSEEDS through wide consultations with various stakeholders. Also, references were made to a good number of leading documents on the State in particular and Nigeria as a whole. Publicity and enlightenment programmes, through Radio, Television, Newspapers etc, were carried out. A 5 - Member team from the UNDP Headquarters, Abuja was sent to the State to provide technical assistance. The data generated through these sources were articulated to produce the KOSEEDS Zero Draft Document which was presented to a well attended Stakeholders meeting held on 17th August, 2004 for comments and suggestions.

Sensitization Seminars and Consultative workshops were also held in the Senatorial districts between 21st and 25th October, 2004. The inputs received from these consultations formed a considerable part of the processed data for the final document which was presented to His Excellency, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, on 22nd November, 2004.

CHAPTER THREE

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS (SWOT) ANALYSIS

The success of KOSEEDS requires a good understanding of the strengths and opportunities of the situation on ground as well as weaknesses and threats facing it. KOSEEDS has a bright chance of success, given the potentials and opportunities available in the State. These include:-

- i. Human resource factor:- The State is endowed with a vibrant and literate workforce capable of implementing a development strategy of this historic status;
- ii. the geographical location of the State puts it in a good position to reap economic benefits from its vantage proximity to the Federal Capital Territory;
- iii. the location of Ajaokuta Steel Company and Iron Mining Project, Itakpe in the State will spur rapid industrial growth;
- iv. A reservoir of rich solid mineral deposits abounds in the State;
- v. the rich and fertile land as well as rivers Niger and Benue, soon to be dredged, will stimulate rapid commercial and industrial activities, especially with the development of Lokoja and Idah land ports.

The developmental challenges facing Kogi State include:

- i. Environmental factor: the State is faced with serious environmental challenges such as soil erosion, flood, waste management, pollution, deforestation, land degradation through mining and bush burning etc.
- ii. Monoculture economy: About 80% of the people are peasant farmers. This, coupled with inadequate and poor infrastructural facilities, such as energy, roads, transportation and communication, is responsible for the state's low commercial and industrial base.
- iii. Inadequate social services:- problems of inadequate water supply, health and educational facilities persist.
- iv Unemployment is enormous and has been responsible for social vices associated with the youths.
- v. Gender Issues: As in the other parts of the Country, socio-cultural, political and other barriers have continued to constrain the attainment of gender balance in the State.
- vi. HIV/AIDS:- The impact of HIV/AIDS in reducing the workforce, increasing the number of orphans etc is alarming and must be addressed.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESOURCE PROFILE

A) NATURAL ENDOWMENT:

Major solid Minerals found in commercial quantities in Kogi State include Cassiterite (Tin Ore), Clay Coal, Columbite, Dolomite, Gemstones, Granite, Iron-ore, Kaolin, Limestone, Mica, Quartz, Silica, Talc, Tantalite etc.

B) FINANCIAL RESOURCES ENDOWMENT

The sources of finance available for executing government's projects/programmes are:-

- i. Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)
- ii. Statutory Allocation from Federation Account
- iii. Value Added Tax (VAT)
- iv. Internal Loans
- v. External Loans
- vi. Capital Grants

C. HUMAN RESOURCE ENDOWMENT

Kogi State is richly blessed with abundant and highly diverse human capital cutting across all fields of human development. The 1991 population census put the population of the State at 2,147,756. When projected, using the National Population Commission (NPC) annual growth rate of 2.83%, the population of the State stands at 3,087,044 in 2004. The State has a large active and vibrant population found in both the public and private sectors and are noted for their excellent performances in their chosen careers. Although the private sector is yet to take its seat as the driver of the economy, the people of the State are known to have acquired wonderful skills in areas such as tailoring, carpentry, plumbing, mechanic etc. The State public service has a workforce of over 24,000 as at 2004 out of which a reasonable percentage are holders of National Diploma and above.

The potentials of human capital in Kogi State manifests itself in the existence of a pool of highly trained but unemployed indigenes which can be converted to a power for transforming the economy to a vibrant one that would address poverty and ensure general well being of the people.

