

CHAPTER ONE



General Overview



ABOUT NIGERIA

<https://www.worldometers.info/> accessed on the 15th of June, 2020.

Nigeria is a Federation made up of 774 Local Government Areas, 36 States, and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The official name of the country is the Federal Republic of Nigeria, because she operates a Federal system of Government in which the President; who is both the Head of State and Head of Government, is elected for a tenure of four-years and can be elected for a maximum of two terms.

According to the World Bank Group, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and 'worldometer' estimates the population of Nigeria to be about 206 million people, which makes Nigeria the seventh largest nation in the world. The area now known as Nigeria is a product of the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates of the British colonialist in 1914, and on the 1st of October, 1960, Nigeria was formally declared as an independent state. In 1963 however, Nigeria became a Republic. From Independence Day up until 1999, there have been series of military intervention and coups. However, from 1999 till now, Nigeria has enjoyed 21 years of uninterrupted democracy.

Glossary

Currency	NGN (₦)
Dialing Code	+234
Capital City	Abuja
Most Populous City and Economic Center	Lagos
Country Group	Developing Nation (IMF)
Economy	Lower-Middle Income Economy
International Policy	Non-Alignment
Trade Organizations	ECOWAS, AU, AfCFTA, and WTO

* CIA Facebook via https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/percent_of.html accessed on the 15th of June, 2020.

* See the CIA Facebook about Nigeria.

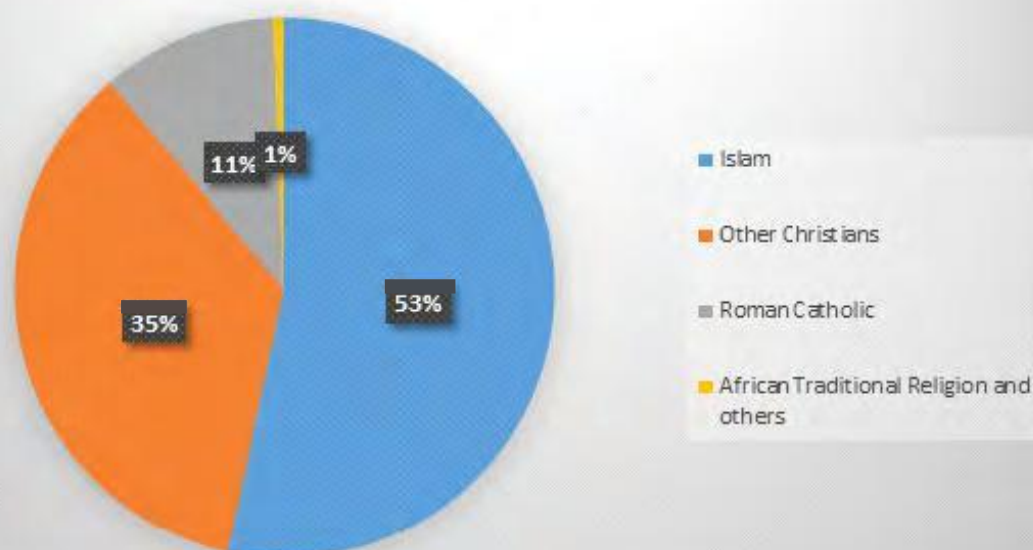
1.2 Geography

Nigeria is in the continent of Africa and is located specifically in West Africa, occupying a total land area of 923, 768 km². Nigeria shares borders with Niger and Chad in the North, Republic of Benin in the West, and Cameroon in the South. According to the fact note on Nigeria by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), agricultural land and arable land areas are about 78% and 37.3% respectively.

1.3 Socio-Cultural Overview

Nigeria is a heterogeneous society which comprises of about 250 ethnic groups and numerous languages spoken across the ethnic groups. However, the official language of Nigeria is the English Language because of the colonial ties with the British. The three main ethnic groups are; Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba. These groups are predominantly in the North, East and West respectively. The South-South is dominated by the Ijaws, Itshekiris, Efiks, and Urhobos. Again, Nigeria has diverse religions, with Islam and Christianity being the most popular. A handful of Nigerians practice the Traditional African Religion as well as other religions.

Religion Statistics



1.4 Economic Overview

Nigeria is often referred to as the “giant of Africa”; this is so because of the two major indices, which are that: Nigeria is the most populous Nation in Africa, and has the largest and biggest economy in Africa. According to the World Bank Data on Nigeria, Nigeria is the 27th largest economy in the world per nominal GDP, and 24th largest per Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). Nigeria is a mixed economy, and the major revenue of the state is from crude oil contributing to about 70% of revenue of the Nigerian government. As a member of OPEC, Nigeria is the 7th largest producer of crude oil, with the USA being the biggest customer of her Brent crude oil. Nevertheless, the oil sector contributes a little percentage to the GDP of the nation. According to the report released by the National Bureau of Statistics, in Q1 of 2019, non-oil sectors comprising of agriculture, industries and services contributed 90.86% to the GDP of Nigeria, while the oil sector contributed a meager 9.14% to the GDP.

1.5 The Nigerian Legal System

The Nigerian Legal system is divided into three categories, which are; the Common Law (or the received English law), the customary law (which is derived from the customs and practices of the indigenous people), and the Sharia law (principally the Islamic law in some parts of the Northern region).

Again, there are three principal arms of government, which are the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary. The Executive powers are vested in the President, who is also the Grand Commander of the Armed forces. On the other hand, Nigeria operates a bicameral legislative system. The upper house is called the Senate, headed by the Senate President, while the lower house is called the House of Representatives, headed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In Nigeria, there is a hierarchy of courts and the lowest court is the Magistrate Court. There are also Customary Courts of Appeal and Sharia Courts of Appeal. In each of the states of the federation, there are State High Courts and the High Court of the FCT, Abuja. The National Industrial Court was established to try labour-related matters, and the Federal High Court for matters under the Exclusive Jurisdiction List in the Constitution.⁶ The Court of Appeal is also set up in various regions within the country. The highest court in Nigeria is the Supreme Court, which is headed by the Chief Justice of Nigeria.

⁴ "Nigeria | Data". data.worldbank.org. Retrieved 15th of June, 2020.
⁵ See the GDP Report Q1 Year 2019 of the NBS.

⁶ Note, the Federal High Court, State High Court and the NIC are courts of Coordinate jurisdiction.