



GOVERNMENT OF RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL NETWORK NEWSPAPER

ANSWERS TO INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. ***What do you intend to achieve as the Executive Director of the Rivers State Bureau for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)?***

The Bureau is set up by law with a list of functions. So my goal and objectives are to:

- Promote and facilitate proper planning and implementation of projects that will create jobs for the people of Rivers State and provide social and infrastructural amenities, enhance the growth of the economy and increase the tourism profile of the State.
- Create and operate an appropriate enabling environment to guide the public and private sectors, donor communities and other stakeholders in PPP's in the State.
- Create opportunities for the Private Sector to participate in the Infrastructural Development of the State.

Infrastructure plays a key role in economic growth by enhancing productivity, reducing poverty, linking people and improving competitiveness. It is the responsibility of the Bureau to identify and promote key sectors that the Government can partner; and support private investors to make substantial investments in such sectors, which include Health, Environment, Agriculture, Education and Commercial development.

Under our Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) policy, we are working assiduously to involve the private sector in performance of institutional functions on behalf of the government and concession of State property for commercial purposes. This would require the assumption or substantial financial, technical and operational risks in connection with the performance of the functions of government and /or use of State property. In return, the investors receive a benefit for performing the institutional function or from utilizing the State property, either by way of:

- consideration to be paid by institution which derives from a revenue fund or government business enterprise, from the revenues of such institution; or
- charges or fees to be collected by the private party from users or customers of a service provided to them; or
- a combination of such consideration and such charges or fees.

2. ***Are there ongoing Projects in the State under PPP?***

Yes, we have some ongoing Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) projects in the State especially in the housing development sectors. The objectives of the projects are to provide affordable modern housing estate primarily targeted at the increasing middle-class, which will be beneficial to the Rivers State government. These projects help meet government's social responsibilities to its citizens, revenue from legal and administrative charges, share in the profit and provide well planned communities for its citizens.

- **HOUSING (The Golf Estate)** - The Golf Estate development comprising of four (4) different housing projects namely: RivTaf Golf Estate, Reserve @ Golf Estate, Sterling Ridge Estate and Reef Court Estate within the Golf Estate and also the Garden City Villa-Harmony Estate at Nigeria Air Force, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The development, building and management comprising of One Thousand, One Hundred and Forty-one (1,141) Housing units of 2/3 bedroom and 4/5bedroom terrace houses as well as provision of basic infrastructure such as access road, power supply, shopping center, etc.

- **AGRICULTURE**

We have Rivers Adama Project (Agro-City Development) in Etche Local Government Area: The project is for the development, construction, operation, management and maintenance of three (3) new Farmers Villages with basic infrastructure, an Agro Industrial processing Centre, comprising of 100 household units of new built houses with basic amenities and its objectives are to:

- Generate income;
- Boost economic activity and economic growth;
- Improve livelihood and welfare of the settlers;
- Develop related agro-industry and services;
- Create direct and indirect job opportunities;
- Increase regional food security and welfare of the population etc

- **HOSPITALITY:**

RaddisonBlu Hotel, Port Harcourt (Redevelopment of Olympia Hotel): the project is to re-develop Olympia Hotel into upper mid-market Golf theme International Standard Four-Star Hotel. The Design and specification provides for letting rooms, and suits, restaurant, lobby bar, pool bar, meeting rooms, board room, conference room, outdoor swimming pool, functional fitness centre, shops and parking lot.

- **ENVIRONMENT - WASTE MANAGEMENT:**

RivMetal Recycling Plant – Metal Recycling Project at Kira, Tai Local Government Area: The project is to fabricate, install, manage and operate a metal recycling facility which includes the equipment, construction and installation of shredder processing plant with a capacity to process over 4,000 tons per month and operation capacity of 80 cars per hour.

3. ***How do you intend to attract investors into the state to be part of projects under PPP and how that will complement the success story of the governor?***

Well, in accordance with the NEW Rivers VISION of the State Government, the Bureau's agenda is driven by the need to create employment and impact the people. We get so many proposals but for each project we ask ourselves what:

- a. the State and the people stand to gain from the project and
- b. the wealth and opportunities it will create for the people, because government believes in wealth creation for the people.

The Rivers State PPP participation law provides the framework for the environment and offers different incentives to encourage private sector participation in employment generation opportunities. This includes:

Infrastructure Credit Guarantee

The State may, upon the recommendation of the IDFU (Infrastructure Development Finance Unit), guarantee the credit of a private party who intends to obtain a loan from a financial institution for the execution of a Public-Private Partnerships project for the purpose of stimulating private sector participation and encouraging the participation of companies and businesses indigenous to River State.

Provision of Viability

The State is committed to financing only commercially viable projects. Viable projects may also include those projects that will become viable after receiving viability gap funding upon approval of the State Executive Council, subject to the recommendation of IDFU.

Other Government Support and Incentives for PPP Projects

The PPP Law empowers the Government to provide appropriate financial incentives and support, as may be necessary, in the interest of the public, in order to attract private investment in infrastructure and essential services in the State. The incentives and support include:

- Equity participation as considered appropriate by the Government for investment in a Bureau Public Private Partnerships Project upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Finance;
- reduction in or exemption from payment of taxes and levies;
- subsidies with respect to any particular project and
- the grant of a loan by the Government.

4. ***Did the Wike's administration inherit any project under the PPP from the previous government?***

Yes, the present administration *inherited* the projects mentioned in No.2 above.

5. ***What does the Bureau have to offer?***

Government has approved some projects in different sectors of the economy under PPP initiatives and they have already been advertised.

6. ***Any PPP in Agriculture?***

Government has approved PPP in Agriculture; this includes concessions of government Farms including Fish Farms. This would allow for individuals, Small, medium and large scale farming on all existing government farms.

Hon. Nimi Walson-Jack

Executive Director

Rivers State Bureau for Public-Private Partnerships

