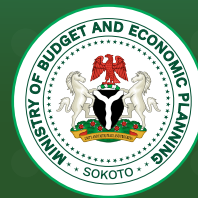


**SOKOTO STATE  
GOVERNMENT**



# 9 POINT SMART AGENDA

**DR. AHMAD ALIYU SOKOTO FCNA**





HIS EXCELLENCY  
**AHMED ALIYU SOKOTO** PhD, ACIT, FCNA  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF SOKOTO STATE



# 9-Point Smart Agenda

DR. AHMAD ALIYU SOKOTO (FCNA)



## Security

Sokoto will be among the safest state in northwest Nigeria and among the top 5 safest states in Nigeria by 2030.



## Religious Affairs

To promote the integration, development, and strengthening of Islamic religious values and practices in Sokoto State, fostering unity, social cohesion, and sustainable community development.



## Education

By 2030, Sokoto State will be among the top 10 states in the country with the highest literacy level, skilled, innovative and employable workforce.



## Healthcare

Improving overall healthcare service delivery outcomes and becoming a top 5 health tourism destination in Nigeria by 2030.



## Economic Development

Sokoto state will be among the top 10 largest economies in Nigeria by 2030.



## Agriculture

To transform Sokoto State's agricultural sector into a modern, sustainable, and economically viable system that ensures food security for the state by 2030.



## Water Supply

To ensure sustainable access to clean and safe water for all residents of Sokoto State by 2030.



## Youth Empowerment

To enhance the socio-economic status of the youth in Sokoto State and attain 90% indigene youth employment by 2030.



## Local Government Autonomy

This administration will ensure effective and comprehensive implementation of local government autonomy by 2030.

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# Preamble

In the heart of Nigeria lies Sokoto State, a State rich in culture, history, and potential. As we embark on a transformative journey, we recognize the pressing need to address the challenges faced by our people and harness the vast resources at our disposal. The agenda embodies our commitment to fostering sustainable development, enhancing social welfare, and promoting peace and prosperity for all citizens of Sokoto State.

The present administration contextualizes the needs and aspirations of the people of Sokoto state and puts them into a framework considering diverse interests in various sectors that drive economic prosperity and development. This led to the development of 9-Point Smart Agenda.

The vision in the 9-point smart agenda is rooted in the principles of good governance, inclusivity, and accountability. They are Security, Religious Affairs, Economic Development, Education, Healthcare, Agriculture, Water Supply, Youth Empowerment, and Local

Government Autonomy. This agenda creates a robust framework that empowers communities and uplifts the standard of living for every resident of Sokoto State. Through investing in human capital and ensuring that our youth are equipped with the skills and opportunities necessary to thrive, we will create a vibrant future where socio-economic growth and development is not just a dream, but a reality.

As we move forward, we invite all stakeholders — citizens, community leaders, and partners — to join us in this ambitious endeavour. Together, we will cultivate an environment of collaboration and innovation, where every voice is heard, and every effort counts.

With unwavering determination and a clear roadmap outlined in this manifesto, we are poised to transform Sokoto State into a beacon of progress and a model for others to follow, where the aspirations of our people are realized and their dignity upheld.



The present administration contextualizes the needs and aspirations of the people of Sokoto State and puts them into a framework considering diverse interests in various sectors that drive economic prosperity and development.

1

# Security





The Sokoto State Government defines security as establishing a safe and secure environment, ensuring the protection of lives and property, fostering peace as well as, enhancing public confidence in the security apparatus.

## OVERVIEW

Like some other states in the Northern part of this country, Sokoto State faces significant challenges due to rampant insecurity, which undermines economic growth and development. Insecurity has disrupted livelihoods, exacerbated poverty and hindered progress toward achieving the Development Goals of the state. The Security challenges including Armed Banditry, Kidnapping, Cattle Rustling, Armed Robbery, Lakurawa terrorist group and senseless killings perviously uncommon are rampant especially in rural boarder communities.

These challenges have disrupted citizen's livelihood and halted socio-economic activities in the affected areas. This is why, Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto FCNA, identified security as first on his agenda to bring peace, security and economic development to Sokoto State.

Addressing these issues requires robust security preparedness and response plans aligned with national and international frameworks. Such measures are critical to safeguarding citizens' lives and property, stabilizing the economy, and breaking the poverty-insecurity cycle through

sustainable development and peace building efforts.

Thus, we intend to establish sustainable structures at the state and community levels that would guarantee the long-term safety and security of our dear State and citizens. This effort must be and will be a collective one and will ensure that all citizens, resident and indigenes of Sokoto State will live free of fear of crime or harassment under our leadership.

## GOAL

Sokoto to be the safest state in North-West Nigeria, and among the top 5 safest states in the country by 2030.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To establish a safe and secure environment.
2. To enhance the protection of lives and properties of the citizenry
3. To foster peace and stability.

## STRATEGIES

1. To establish a safe, secure and peaceful environment.

**Community Engagement and Awareness:** Promote community involvement in security matters to build trust and collaboration between citizens and security agencies.

This will be achieved through establishment of community watch programme and regular townhall meetings.



## 2. To enhance the protection of lives and property:

**Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies:** Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies through training, resource allocation, and community policing initiatives. This means supporting regular training programs for security personnel on modern policing techniques, conflict resolution, and community engagement.

**Intelligence Gathering and Sharing:** Implement a robust intelligence gathering and sharing system among security agencies and community leaders to proactively address security threats by developing platforms for information exchange that allow citizens to report suspicious activities anonymously and safely.

**Investing in Technology and Infrastructure:** Leverage technology

to enhance security measures, including surveillance systems, communication tools, and data analysis by Investing in modern security infrastructure, such as CCTV cameras in strategic locations and a centralized communication system for law enforcement, provision of modern security operational vehicles and other hardware security equipment.

## 3. To foster peace and stability:

**Conflict Resolution and Mediation:** Establish mechanisms for conflict resolution and mediation to address disputes before they escalate into violence by creating community mediation committees that include community leaders and youth representatives to facilitate dialogue and resolve conflicts peacefully especially at volatile local government areas.



**Insecurity has disrupted livelihoods, exacerbated poverty and hindered progress toward achieving the Development Goals of the state.**



# 2

## Religious Affairs





**T**his means integrating religious values, beliefs, and institutions into broader efforts to promote social cohesion and economic development within Islamic jurisprudence.

## OVERVIEW

Sokoto State being the seat of the caliphate and spiritual home of the Islamic Faith in Nigeria is saddled with the responsibility of leading the rest of the country in matters concerning Islamic religious affairs. In view of this responsibility, the institutionalization of Religious Affairs was initiated in the State by establishing the Department for Religious Affairs under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Special Duties in the year 2000.

It became a full-fledged Ministry in 2008 under the leadership of His Excellency Alh. Dr. Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, tasked with the responsibility of overseeing religious activities in the state, formulating policies to promote religious harmony among the citizens and collaborating with religious institutions to implement government policies related to religious matters, all for the overall development of the state.

Previously, the Ministry for Religious Affairs was largely inactive, with abandoned projects and suspended allowances to Imams and grassroots preachers. This leads to a decline in social cohesion and discipline, as well as a rise in misguided preachers and youths who misrepresent/misinterpret religious teachings for personal or malicious intent.

Religious Affairs is thus, selected as Agenda number 2 due to the critical but often underestimated role religion plays in building and sustaining the social fabric of the State. This agenda intends to initiate and execute projects/programs that revitalize socio-Islamic activities.

Particularly, the agenda plans to strengthen religious institutions and values - it involves constructions/renovations of mosques and Islamiyah schools, reinstating monthly allowances for religious leaders, and providing essential preaching tools.

## GOAL

To fully revitalize Sokoto State's religious institutions by 2030.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To promote and integrate Islamic Education and practices.
2. To promote, integrate and coordinate Islamic Social Welfare projects and programs into the existing State protocols.
3. To improve the infrastructure of Islamic worship centres.
4. To promote Social Cohesion through Islamic Dialogue.

## STRATEGIES

1. To promote and integrate Islamic Education and Practices:
  - Training of Religious Preachers.
  - Construction of Jumu'ah Mosques.
  - Supporting existing institutions



and Islamiyyah schools in developing a curriculum that integrates religious teachings with modern education.

- Integrating Islamic teachings into the state's social welfare programs.

**2. To promote, integrate, and coordinate Islamic Social Welfare programs and projects into the existing State protocols:**

- Payment of Allowances to the Imams and other religious leaders.
- Supporting vulnerable populations by strengthening and enhancing initiatives that align with Islamic values, such as zakat (charitable giving), to address poverty, health, and education.
- Provision of support to the Imams and other religious leaders/Malam's (Teachers).

**3. To improve the infrastructure of Islamic worship centres:**

- Renovation of Jumu'ah Mosques across LGAs.
- Procurement of vehicles, motorcycles, public address system, and books for preachers.
- Construction and Rehabilitation of Islamic Schools across the LGAs.
- Provision of Da'awa tools.

**4. To improve social cohesion through Islamic Dialogues:**

- Organizing seminars, workshops, and inter-ethnic dialogues that address social issues, promote peace, and strengthen community ties.



**Sokoto State being the seat of the caliphate and spiritual home of the Islamic Faith in Nigeria is saddled with the responsibility of leading the rest of the country in matters concerning Islamic religious affairs.**

# 3

## Education





This administration defines education as qualities and structures that promote high-quality learning, equitable access, and the development of well-rounded individuals, and the development of knowledgeable, skilled, and responsible citizens within Sokoto State's religious and social norms and principles.

## OVERVIEW

Sokoto State, historically (in the 1800s through the 1900s - 1960s), has been a centre of learning for the Sokoto caliphate and Northern Nigeria. Boasting the best minds and thinkers of its time, and producing leaders such as Sir Ahmadu Bello (First Premier of the Northern Region) and President Shehu Shagari (First Executive President of Nigeria).

These leaders saw to it that Sokoto State would sustain its leadership in education by facilitating and establishing schools at all levels, such as the Usman Dan Fodiyo University, Shehu Shagari College of Education, Ahmadu Bello Academy, among others.

Unfortunately, during the immediate

past administration, educational quality declined in Sokoto partly due to a lack of maintenance, overcrowding of classrooms, decline in quality and quantity of teachers, and instructional materials as well as lack of funding, leading to deficiencies and severe fall in standard and quality of education in the State.

Over time, the education sector was turned into a poverty alleviation program where people of low IQ, low ability and capacity were engaged simply to earn a salary. Despite decades of substantial investments in human and material resources, progress remained limited, underscoring persistent challenges in meeting educational needs and addressing developmental gaps.

Central to these efforts is ensuring compliance with international frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which mandates free, compulsory primary education (Article 28.1a), access to free secondary and vocational training (Article 1b-c), and holistic development of children's talents and abilities (Article 29).

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Dr. Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto FCNA fully understands the huge challenge facing the education sector and the debilitating effect it has on the economy and social cohesion in the State; thus, Education is adopted into this agenda. Education reform will be the cornerstone of our reform agenda, as we move to increase the quantity and quality of skilled labour, enhance entrepreneurship capabilities and leadership standards in the State.

This administration will also align with local and global frameworks reflecting its resolve to bridge educational disparities, empower marginalized groups, and fast-track sustainable socio-economic progress in line with its developmental aspirations.

## **GOAL**

By 2030, Sokoto State to be among the top 10 states in the country with a fully inclusive and digitised education system, highest literacy of level, skilled, vibrant and productive population.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To expand Access and Equity in Education.
2. To enhance Quality and Relevance.
3. To enhance STEAM Development.
4. To strengthen Institutions.
5. To strengthen Data and Monitoring Mechanisms.

## **STRATEGIES**

1. To expand Access and Equity in Education:

- Expand inclusive basic education infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved communities, by reviewing building codes and regulations for educational infrastructures to take into account the structural needs of girls and people with disability, among other initiatives.
- Improve school feeding programs, review and strengthen scholarship schemes to reduce dropout rates.
- Implement gender and social inclusion policies within the context of Islamic and cultural beliefs of Sokoto State, so as to close the education gap for girls and people living with disability.

## **2. To enhance Quality and Relevance:**

- Comprehensive review and modernization of education curricula across all levels to align with 21st-century Labour market (managerial, professional, industrial, etc.) skills requirements.
- Teacher development through continuous professional training and licensing in collaboration with TRCN and NTI, while adopting innovative techniques in teaching and communication.
- Establish a “Sokoto State Centre for Teaching Excellence” to promote contextual innovation in teaching practices.
- Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities through vocational education, adult education programs, and continuing education.



### **3 To enhance STEAM Development:**

- Establish and upgrade science and technology laboratories in all secondary schools.
- Equip and expand vocational schools with digital tools and practical equipment that directly align to job and entrepreneurship opportunities available in the digital economy and business environment. In line with FGN TVET initiative
- Introduce robotics, coding, and artificial intelligence curricula and clubs in schools, with competitions and mentorship.

### **4. To strengthen institutions:**

- Improve teacher welfare through review of salary structure, ensure timely promotions, postings will strongly consider cost of living and mobility for teachers and provide incentives.
- Strengthen school governance through community participation and transparent resource management.
- Integrate special education and support services, including counselling, inclusive education, and remedial learning.

- Mainstream sign language and braille writing into education curricula of all education and health sciences courses in the State to ensure inclusion of PWDs, reducing the need for segregated classes while removing barriers to accessing healthcare.

### **5. To strengthen data and monitoring mechanisms:**

- Establish an integrated Education Data and Analytics Unit within the Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education and State Bureau of Statistics.
- Conduct periodic educational needs assessment and learning achievement surveys.
- Train education officials on data generation, analysis, and evidence-based policy formulation in collaboration with the State Bureau of Statistics.
- Integrate parents and community structures into the monitoring system by establishing a complaint mechanism for parents and community members to relay their concerns anonymously to the authorities, as well as track implementation of agreed-upon projects and programs.

# 4

## Healthcare





This administration defines healthcare as a comprehensive and well-organized structure that ensures the delivery of high-quality health care services to the people of Sokoto State.

## OVERVIEW

Health, as the age-old adage says, is wealth. A healthy society is therefore a wealthy one. This belief explains the commitment of Governor Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto FCNA in providing health services to Sokoto citizens. Given the fact that Primary Health Care (PHC) has been adopted since 1988 in Nigeria as the central function and main focus of health delivery, the overall performance of the health system in Nigeria and federating units like Sokoto State can be seen as a direct consequence of PHC performance.

The pre-eminence of the primary health care system suggests that the health needs of the population are largely dependent on the overall effectiveness and performance of the PHC System at the LGA level.

Sokoto State, according to the NPC report 2022, has a population of 6.3

million people, with 60% of the population living in rural areas which historically have inadequate healthcare facilities. The consequence of this is that there are always emerging illnesses, diseases and other significant health challenges, including high maternal, infant, and child mortality rates. Maternal mortality rate by residence, Urban/rural, as reflected in the Sokoto State 2023 MDG Report, shows that the rural LGAs and communities in the state recorded over twice as high as the state capital.

Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto FCNA, thus adopted health as agenda 5 of this document. This agenda will initiate reforms in the health sector, which would actively work towards improving the health system through various initiatives, including strengthening primary healthcare, addressing infrastructure gaps, and improving the availability of medical supplies at both urban and rural areas.

## GOALS

Improving overall healthcare service delivery outcomes and become among the top 10 health tourism destinations in Nigeria by 2030.

→ **6.3 million**



Sokoto State, according to the NPC report 2022, has a population of 6.3 million people, with 60% of the population living in rural areas which historically have inadequate healthcare facilities.



## OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance healthcare infrastructure.
  2. To increase accessibility to essential services and quality care for all.
  3. To improve healthcare financing.
  4. To provide adequate and qualified human resources for health.
  5. To improve disease prevention and control.
2. **To increase accessibility to essential services, and quality care for all:**
    - Procurement of ambulances for 244 ward level PHCs for referral.
    - Demand creation for health services.
  3. **To improve healthcare financing:**
    - Promotion of Health Insurance scheme.

## STRATEGIES

1. To enhance healthcare infrastructure:
  - Rehabilitation of 244 ward level Health Facilities.
  - Procurement and installation of medical equipment to 244 ward PHCs.
  - Rehabilitation of Secondary Health and Tertiary Health facilities.
  - Completion of ongoing and New State Health related Projects (Teaching hospital and Zonal Premier Hospitals among others).
4. **To provide adequate and qualified human resources for health:**
  - Training and re-training of health Personnel.
  - Recruitment of Qualified health personnel.
5. **To improve disease prevention and control:**
  - Provision of Basic medical drugs at the Health Facilities.
  - Procurement of cold chain equipment for preservation of vaccines.
  - Reduction of overcrowding and concentration of Health workers.



# 5

## Economic Development





**S**okoto State boasts of significant mineral wealth, including kaolin, gypsum, and limestone, with Kalambaina alone housing an estimated 100 million Tonnes of limestone (according to the State Ministry of Solid Minerals). Over 20 commercially viable minerals have been identified, attracting exploration licenses for resources like gold, copper, and uranium. The state's agrarian landscape also offers biomass potential, while recent discoveries of oil and gas reserves and existing Agro-allied industries such as leather processing and cement production highlight opportunities for diversification.

Additionally, the State has immense renewable energy potential, with solar, hydro, wind, and nuclear (via uranium deposits) resources positioning it as a hub for sustainable energy projects. The government is prioritizing off-grid and renewable solutions to improve electricity access, aiming to spur socio-economic development and enhance living standards.

In 2021, the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was recorded at NGN 2.85tr significantly lower than the Lagos and Kano figures of 61.17tr and

4.20tr respectively. Economic challenges are further reflected in rising inflation, which climbed from 17.17% in 2022 compared to 17.9% in 2021 and the unemployment rate of 1.2% in 2023 (NBS CPI and Inflation report 2021, 2022 and 2023). Sokoto's local economies rely heavily on daily and weekly markets, which generates a modest household income and tax revenues for the state.

Financial institutions, including banks and microfinance organizations, offer services to support small enterprises, though many entrepreneurs struggle to meet collateral requirements for loans. Furthermore, inadequate power supply hampers small and medium-scale industries, exacerbating economic constraints.

Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto FCNA, identified economic development as the third priority in his reform agenda.

To address these challenges through:

- Improved access to credit.
- Development of economic infrastructure.
- Provision of strategic-reliable energy to unlock the state's full economic potential.



Over **20**

commercially viable minerals have been identified, attracting exploration licenses for resources like gold, copper, and uranium.



Thereby optimizing the state's abundant resources to ensure prosperity for citizens.

## **GOAL**

Sokoto State to be among the top 10 largest economies in Nigeria by 2030.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To enhance human capital development.
2. To provide economic infrastructure.
3. To strengthen the State's governance structure.
4. To increase economic diversification.
5. To promote Innovation, entrepreneurship & technological development.
6. To increase Access to Capital.
7. To strengthen and enhance trade relationships and partnerships with border countries and States.

## **STRATEGIES**

### **1. To enhance human capital development:**

To update education and vocational training curricula to align with economic opportunities and labour market needs of modern economies, with specific attention to local economic needs of entrepreneurship, IT specialization, industrial requirements and local natural resource value change development skills requirements.

### **2. To provide economic Infrastructure:**

To provide adequate economic infrastructure, including but not limited to transportation (roads), utilities (electricity, water), housing, digital connectivity and security infrastructure.

### **3. To strengthen the State's governance structure:**

To provide policies that improve the business environment, provide infrastructure policy, such as tax incentives, a regulatory framework and support for entrepreneurship.

### **4. To increasing economic diversification:**

Actively expanding the range of economic activities and sectors within the state (such as industrial development in mineral resources extraction and refinement) to reduce dependence on a single source of income or commodity for our citizens. Specific focus on efforts to expedite exploration of mineral resources and invest in value chain development in the mineral sector for global marketing and employment generation.

### **5. To promote Innovation, entrepreneurship & technological development:**

Investment in research and development (R&D) and fostering an environment conducive to innovation for



economic growth, as well as leveraging existing research.

**6. To increase access to capital:**

Ensuring the availability of financial resources at all levels including interest free loans, grants and venture capital to enable businesses to take-off and long-term growth for small, medium and large-scale enterprises especially those that utilize local resources.

**7. To strengthen and enhance trade relationship and partnership with boarder countries and State:**

Optimizing our economic trade rela-

tions with the neighbouring countries and subnational states. This can be achieved through leveraging the state's unique geographic location, promoting exports, developing trade partnerships, strengthening trade and investment promotion agency, improving transportation and logistics infrastructure, as well as engaging with regional economic communities.

Sokoto State can create a more dynamic and interconnected economy thereby enhance economic growth and improve the livelihoods of its residents.



Financial institutions, including banks and microfinance organizations, offer services to support small enterprises, though many entrepreneurs struggle to meet collateral requirements for loans.



# KEY FIGURES

**N2.85 TRILLION**

IN 2021, THE STATE'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) WAS RECORDED AT NGN 2.85TR SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE LAGOS AND KANO FIGURES OF 61.17TR AND 4.20TR RESPECTIVELY.



SOKOTO'S LOCAL ECONOMIES RELY HEAVILY ON DAILY AND WEEKLY MARKETS, WHICH GENERATE MODEST HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND TAX REVENUES FOR THE STATE.

**11.17%**

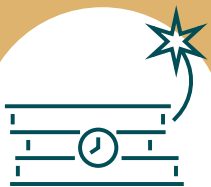
ECONOMIC CHALLENGES ARE FURTHER REFLECTED IN RISING INFLATION, WHICH CLIMBED UP FROM 17.17% IN 2022 COMPARED TO 17.9% IN 2021 AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 1.2% IN 2023 (NBS CPI AND INFLATION REPORT 2021, 2022 AND 2023).



SOKOTO HAS IMMENSE RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL, WITH SOLAR, HYDRO, WIND, AND NUCLEAR (VIA URANIUM DEPOSITS) RESOURCES POSITIONING IT AS A HUB FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.



THE GOVERNMENT IS PRIORITIZING OFF-GRID AND RENEWABLE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ELECTRICITY ACCESS, AIMING TO SPUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCE LIVING STANDARDS.



# 6

## Agriculture





**T**his administration defines agricultural development as a comprehensive agricultural sector transformation that encompasses sustainable farming practices, technological advancement, and socio-economic improvement of farming communities, integrating environmental conservation, food security enhancement, and economic growth leading to low cost of production while ensuring high yield for agriculturalists.

## OVERVIEW

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Sokoto State's economy. Over 80% of its population engages in rain-fed and dry season farming as well as livestock production, processing, and marketing ( according to the Sokoto State Agricultural Master Plan 2009 - 2020). The major crops grown include millet, rice, cowpea (beans), groundnut, sorghum (guinea corn), maize, fruits, and vegetables. E.g Onion, garlic, tomatoes etc. Livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, camels, and poultry are reared in the state.

Sokoto State is a major livestock producer in Nigeria. The 'Red Sokoto' goat is a famous breed globally known and sought after for the quality of its leather and is known to also be a high milk producer. Fishing is another major economic activity in Sokoto State, especially around the Sokoto-Rima River basin.

Among the challenges Sokoto State faces in the agricultural sector are

poor soil fertility, erratic rainfall, pests/diseases, and outdated farming tools and techniques. High input costs, low adoption of technology, rural-urban migration, farmer-herder conflicts, weak governance structures due to lack of coordination among ministries, underfunded projects, political interference in input distribution, poor rural roads, inadequate storage/processing facilities, and limited irrigation coverage, to name a few.

In light of these challenges, Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto FCNA adopted agriculture as point 6 of this agenda to initiate reforms that will bring about desirable changes, create jobs in the sector, introduce modern techniques of crop and livestock farming that enhance productivity, economic viability and environmental sustainability while minimizing social conflict, reducing poverty and unemployment.

## GOAL

To transform Sokoto State's agricultural sector into a modern, sustainable and economically visible system that ensures food security for the State by 2030

## OBJECTIVES

1. To achieve food security.
2. To enhance the agricultural value chain mechanization.
3. To adopt environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.
4. To improve the commercial viability of the agricultural sector.



## STRATEGIES

### 1. To Achieve food security:

**Improved Inputs:** Distribute drought-resistant seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals as well as aerial spray to control quelea birds.

**Health Services:** Establish veterinary clinics and abattoirs; vaccinate against diseases

**Extension Services:** Train 1,000 extension workers to reduce the farmer-to-extension ratio (1:1000)

**Storage Facilities:** Build silos (10,000MT State-wide) and improve on-farm storage.

### 2. To Adopt environmentally sustainable agricultural Practices:

**Aquaculture:** Promote fish farming and restock natural water bodies.

**Grazing Reserves:** Revitalization and Gazetting of grazing lands to reduce conflicts.

**Rehabilitation and completion of Irrigation Schemes:** Rehabilitation and completion of irrigation schemes of Kalmalo, Shagari, Wurno, Tungar Tudu, Muza and Goronyo irrigation project.

**Expand Fadama:** Develop 2000ha annually through smallholder schemes by constructing tube wells

and provision of solar powered water pumps.

**Community Mobilization:** Train farmers in water-efficient practices

**Animal Traction:** Promote ox-plows and donkey carts for smallholders while providing tractors at a subsidized rate for medium to large scale farmers

**Alternative Energy:** Promote Jatropha plantations and biogas to reduce firewood dependency

### 3. To enhance the agricultural value chain mechanization:

**Microfinance:** Establish Agricultural Microfinance Banks in all LGAs.

**Farmer Cooperatives:** Strengthen groups for bulk input procurement and collective marketing.

### 4. To Improve Commercial Viability of Agricultural Sector:

**Zonal Prioritization:** Focus on crops with comparative advantages (e.g., onions in Eastern Zone)

**Rural Roads:** Construct 1000km of feeder roads to connect farms to markets.

**Tractor Hiring Units:** Provide subsidized access; establish zonal workshops.

# 80%



Agriculture is the mainstay of the Sokoto State's economy. Over 80% of its population engages in rain-fed and dry season farming as well as livestock production, processing, and marketing (according to the Sokoto State Agricultural Master Plan 2009 - 2020).

# 7

## Water Supply





**T**his administration defines water supply as systematic enhancement and management of water resources to ensure equitable access to safe and reliable water supply.

## OVERVIEW

Sokoto State's water supply had been adequate from the 1990s through to 2015. The administration of Governor Attahiru Bafarawa undertook massive reforms in the water sector, with a total overhaul of the State Water Board. Governor Aliyu Wammako sustained the reforms and conducted massive expansion of water pipes and construction of boreholes and water plans across the State.

However, under the immediate past administration, the water sector faced neglect, lack of funding and theft of generators, plant, machinery, lack of procurement of water treatment chemicals and lack of maintenance of boreholes. The importance of water for humans, livestock, plants and environmental survival cannot be overemphasized. Furthermore, water is essential for industrial development, while a lack of affordable water supply increases the cost of production thereby decreasing investment inflows to the State.

The absence of provision of adequate and affordable water supply increases the cost of living and suffering of the rural dwellers, thereby increasing the prevalence of poverty.

Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto FCNA recog-

nizes the importance of water for the overall development of Sokoto citizens. This is why water supply was adopted as point 7 of this agenda.

The water supply activities will be carried out through several reforms, such as the construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure across the State, the timely procurement of water treatment chemicals and establishment of mechanisms for effective maintenance of boreholes and other water infrastructure.

## GOAL

To ensure sustainable access to clean and safe water for all residents of Sokoto State by 2030.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To increase the availability of potable water at all levels.
2. To promote partnerships and funding for water supply.
3. To improve the water management system at all levels.

## STRATEGIES

1. To increase the availability of potable water at all levels:
  - Construction and rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure, including boreholes, water treatment plants, and distribution networks.
  - Ensure sufficient power supply to the state water board by providing alternative power supply such as renewable energy.



- Mapping of water infrastructure to identify weaknesses in the deployment of pipes and addressing them.
- 2. To promote partnerships and funding for Water Supply:**
- Advocacy/Sensitization on increasing partnership and funding of water sub sector.
- 3. To Improve the water management system at all levels:**
- Establish a water management committee at all levels.
  - Strengthen supply management of water treatment chemicals in the State.

The water supply activities will be carried out through several reforms, such as the construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure across the State, the timely procurement of water treatment chemicals and establishing mechanisms for effective maintenance of boreholes and other water infrastructure.



# 8

## Youth Empowerment





This means the process of equipping young individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to enable them actively participate in their communities and contribute to socio-economic development.

## OVERVIEW

Sokoto State, like many states in Nigeria, has been blessed with a population that is optimum (predominantly working population). Back in 1960, the population of the State was estimated to be about 800,000. Over the decades, this number grew steadily. By the time of the 1991 census, the population had climbed up around 2.4 million.

The growth picked up in the following years. By 2006, the population had risen to an estimated 3.7 million. This trend continued, and by 2015, the population was approximately 5.1 million. During this time, the state experienced an average annual growth rate of about 3% (according to the National Population Commission).

Factors such as high birth rates and improvements in healthcare services contributed notably to this rapid increase.

In recent years, the population has continued to rise. By 2022, the state's population was estimated at 6.39 million, with an annual growth rate of 3.5% compared to the previous year. Projections indicate that in 2025, the population could grow up to around 7.1 million. (NPC 2022) with over half

of the state's residents are under the age of 15. However, this phenomenon presents both opportunities and challenges. On the positive side, a young population means a growing workforce, which can boost the state's economy if properly managed.

On the other hand, it also creates challenges we face today with a deficiency in education infrastructure and teachers to cater for this large population. Furthermore, the quality of graduates has been steadily declining, leading to an ill-equipped workforce and high youth unemployment.

This is why Dr Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto (FCNA) saw the need to prioritize youth empowerment and introduced it as a standalone agenda to achieve a better life, prosperity, growth and development of the state's youth by providing them with requisite skills, jobs and opportunities to participate in civic processes and leadership.

## GOAL

To enhance the Socio – Economic status of the youth in Sokoto State and attain 70% indigene youth employment by 2030.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To provide Sokoto youth with market-relevant skills.
2. To reduce youth unemployment by 2030.
3. To grow youth-led enterprises and innovation.



4. To Increase youth participation in civic processes and leadership.
5. To Improve wellbeing indicators among youth (lower substance abuse, increased access to mental health services).

## **STRATEGIES**

1. To provide Sokoto youth with market-relevant skills:

### **Skills Development and Innovation:**

- Establish the “Sokoto Youth Skills and Innovation Hubs” across zones with focus areas: ICT, green economy, agriculture, and creative industries.
- Integrate career services and mentorship programs into basic and secondary education (with support from Career Services Centers in Tertiary Institutions).
- Launch a “Learn and Earn” program: apprenticeship schemes linked to certified training pathways.

2. To reduce youth unemployment by 2030:

### **Employment and Entrepreneurship:**

- Implement a youth employment fund with access to startup capital and incubation support.
- Partner with private sector and development partners to launch Sokoto Job-Match Platform.
- Promote youth cooperatives in agribusiness, crafts, and manufacturing.

3. To grow youth-led enterprises and innovation:

## **Digital Empowerment:**

- Provide subsidized digital literacy and coding bootcamps in partnership with SICTDA and the Federal Ministry of Innovation & Digital Economy.
- Facilitate access to laptops/tablets for underserved youth.
- Promote freelance and rejjig economic opportunities through programs that provide access to international platforms.

4. To Increase youth participation in civic processes and leadership:

### **Youth Civic Engagement and Leadership:**

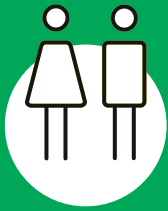
- Establish Local Government Youth Advisory Councils to encourage policy dialogue and foster leadership development.
- Organise the annual Sokoto Youth Summit to collaboratively develop youth development policies.

5. To Improve well-being indicators among youth (lower substance abuse, increased access to mental health services):

### **Health and Social Inclusion:**

- Comprehensive drug awareness and rehabilitation programs in partnership with NDLEA and local NGOs.
- Establish youth-friendly health centers providing mental health, reproductive health, and addiction support services.

# KEY FIGURES



## 6.56 MILLION



ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION, SOKOTO STATE HAD A POPULATION OF 3.7 MILLION IN THE 2006 NATIONAL CENSUS. WITH AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 3.01%, THE POPULATION WAS PROJECTED TO REACH APPROXIMATELY 5.16 MILLION BY 2015 AND ABOUT 6.56 MILLION BY 2025.



## 90%

KEY ITEMS OF THE AGENDA IS TO ENHANCE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE YOUTH IN SOKOTO STATE AND ATTAIN 90% INDIGENOUS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BY 2030.



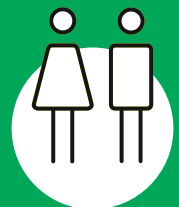
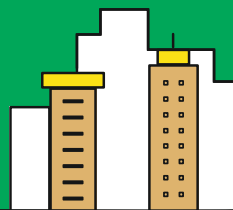
## 6.39 MILLION

BY 2022, SOKOTO STATE'S POPULATION WAS ESTIMATED AT 6.39 MILLION, WITH AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 3.5% COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR.



## 7.1 MILLION

PROJECTIONS INDICATE THAT IN 2025, THE POPULATION COULD GROW TO AROUND 7.1 MILLION. (NPC 2022) WITH OVER HALF OF THE STATE'S RESIDENTS ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 15. HOWEVER, THIS PRESENTS BOTH OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES.



# 9

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY





This refers to the degree of self-governance and independence that local government entities possess in making decisions, managing resources, and delivering services to their communities.

## OVERVIEW

Since 1999, the people of Sokoto State have yearned to see the impact of local governments at the grassroots level, with varying degrees of efforts and reforms instituted under the administration of Governor Aliyu Wammako, which yielded positive results across LGAs and wards in the State.

However, the immediate past administration failed to sustain these reforms, leading to a collapse in the governance structure at the LGA level, further leading to widespread poverty and insecurity across the State. As a result of this failure, the poverty level in Sokoto in 2022 as assessed by the National Bureau of Statistics was at 91%, which means that nine (9) out of every ten (10) of people living in Sokoto State were affected by multi-dimensional poverty.

It is against this background that Dr. Ahmed Aliyu FCNA, considers local government autonomy a key deliverable for his government. This will be attained by ensuring that a legal framework for local government autonomy is provided, as well as strengthening the capacity of local governments in the state to be able to provide needed and desired service delivery at the grassroots level.

## GOAL

Local Governments in Sokoto will attain full administrative and financial autonomy by 2030.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure effective and comprehensive implementation of local government autonomy.
2. To strengthen governance at the grassroots level.

## STRATEGIES

1. **To ensure effective and comprehensive implementation of local government autonomy:**

**Legal Framework:** Review of local government law to institutionalize local government autonomy in the State.

2. **To strengthen governance at the grassroots level:**

**Capacity Building:** Enhance capacity of local government officials and staff in executing their mandate.

**Participatory Governance:** Encourage public participation in local decision-making processes to empower communities and give them a stake in autonomous governance.

**Empower Local Governments to Revenue Generation:** Push for legislation that allows local governments to generate their own revenue through taxes, fees, or grants.

**Empower Local Councils:** Ensure that local councils have the authority and resources needed to make decisions that affect their communities.

**Feedback Mechanisms:** Create channels for community members to provide feedback on local governance and suggest improvements.



# Conclusion

The 9-Point Smart Agenda represents a visionary and actionable roadmap to propel inclusive, sustainable development by 2030, rooted in global standards like the SDGs, aligned with the AfDB's 10-Year Strategy for industrialization and human capital development, as well as harmonized with Nigeria's National Development Plan. The agenda prioritizes transformative investments in security, religious affairs, education, health, economic development, agriculture, water supply and youth empowerment.

By fostering innovation, digital transformation, and grassroots governance, it addresses systemic inequities while building resilience against insecurity, poverty, and climate vulnerabilities.

This strategy's emphasis is on partnerships, community engagement, and institutional accountability which ensure that growth is equitable and sustainable. By leveraging Sokoto's agricultural potential, mineral resources, and youthful population, the agenda not only aims to uplift the living standards but also positions the state as a catalyst for Nigeria's broader socio-economic aspirations.

Ultimately, the 9-Point Smart Agenda is a commitment to ensuring the policy translates into tangible progress—empowering communities, safeguarding futures, and laying the foundation for Sokoto State to emerge as a beacon of prosperity and stability in northern Nigeria and beyond.



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Ultimately, the 9-Point Smart Agenda is a commitment to ensuring policy translate into tangible progress—empowering communities, safeguarding futures, and laying the foundation for Sokoto to emerge as a beacon of prosperity and stability in northern Nigeria and beyond.



# QUOTES BY GOVERNOR AHMED ALIYU SOKOTO



## SECURITY

Without peace, there can be no progress. Our first priority is to secure Sokoto State, ensuring our people live without fear, so that development can thrive.

Date: June 12, 2024 | Event: Security Summit with Northern Governors & Military Commanders



## AGRICULTURE

Sokoto's agrarian potential is unmatched. By empowering our farmers with modern techniques and support, we will not only feed our state but also boost our economy

Date: Nov. 22, 2023 | Event: Flag-Off of the Sokoto State Agriculture Mechanization Program



## RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Religious harmony is the foundation of peace and progress in Sokoto State. Our administration is committed to upholding the values of Islam while ensuring that all citizens, irrespective of faith, live in unity. We believe that spiritual growth and good governance go hand in hand in achieving sustainable development.

Date: March 30, 2024 | Event: 2024 Ramadan Lecture



## WATER SUPPLY

Access to clean water is a basic right. Our water projects and environmental policies will protect our people and preserve Sokoto for generations to come.

Date: July 10, 2024 | Event: Commissioning of the Sokoto Urban Water Expansion



## EDUCATION

Education is the foundation of a prosperous society. Through our investments in schools and vocational training, we are building a future where every child in Sokoto has the tools to succeed.

Date: Sept. 8, 2023 | Event: Launch of the Sokoto State Education Revitalisation Initiative



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The strength of Sokoto lies in its women and youth. By empowering them with skills, education, and opportunities, we are investing in a brighter tomorrow.

Date: Oct 1, 2023 | Event: International of the Girl Child & Women Empowerment



## HEALTHCARE

A healthy Sokoto is a productive Sokoto. We are committed to revitalizing healthcare infrastructure so that no citizen is left behind in accessing quality medical services.

Date: Mar. 3, 2024 | Event: Commissioning of the Sokoto Ultra-Modern Maternal & Child Health Centre.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY

Strengthening local government autonomy is key to effective service delivery and rural development. Our 9-Point Agenda prioritizes empowering LGAs with the necessary resources and authority to address the needs of our people directly. When local governments function independently and efficiently, we accelerate progress across Sokoto State

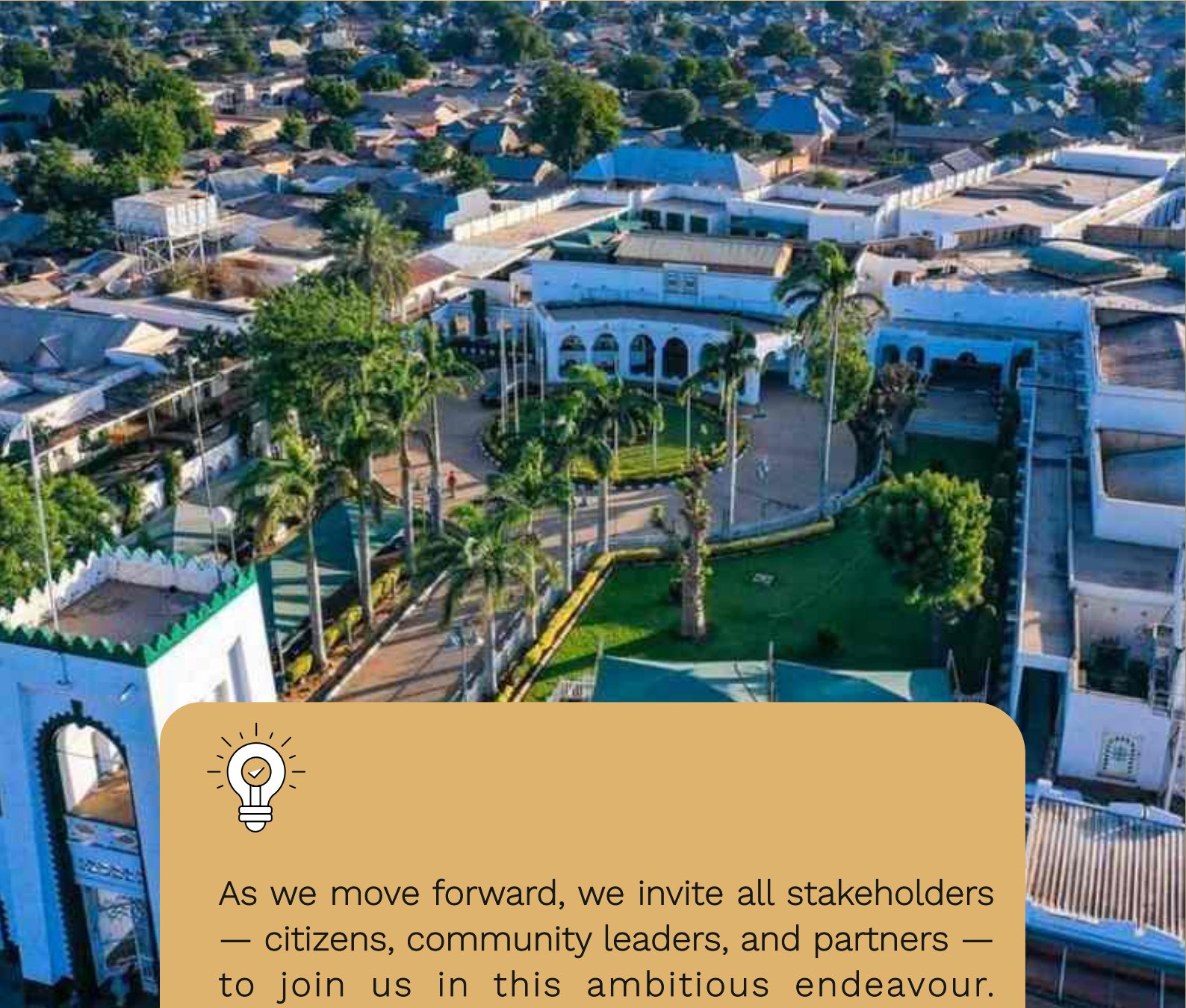
Date: Oct 12, 2023 | Event: Sokoto State Local Government Summit



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Unemployment is a threat to our youth's future. Through entrepreneurship programs and industrial growth, we are creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

Date: Aug 30, 2023 | Event: Launch of the Sokoto Youth Skills Acquisition & Empowerment Scheme



As we move forward, we invite all stakeholders — citizens, community leaders, and partners — to join us in this ambitious endeavour. Together, we will cultivate an environment of collaboration and innovation, where every voice is heard, and every effort counted.



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