

# **The Emerging Dimensions and Challenges of Land Boundary Demarcation and Delineation in Nigeria; Bauchi State in Perspectives**

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## **SUMMARY**

Pressure on land due to social, economic, migration, insecurity and political reasons in Nigeria is instigating high demand for boundary demarcation and delineation. At the inception of Nigeria after independence in 1960, there were only three regions namely; Northern, Eastern and Western Nigeria. In 1976, twelve (12) states were created out of those regions. Subsequently the states in 1996 became 36. The challenges of maintaining the boundary and delineation issues became overwhelming in view of the high number of inter and intra states boundaries. In this paper therefore, the definitions of boundary, delineation, and demarcation in relation to land would be given. The types of boundaries and boundary markers would be described. Nigeria which is located in West Africa has a total population of about 197,106,679 million (UN:2018) making it the 7th most populous country in the world. It is endowed with a total land mass of 985,000km<sup>2</sup> making it the 6th largest country.

The above scenario and attributes have a far-reaching implication and specialties which would require special consideration as regards to the process and procedure in land demarcation and delineation. Further consideration would also be investigated in view of the international common borders Nigeria have with these four neighbouring countries, namely Cameroon, Benin, Chad and Niger. It has in addition, a boundary with coastal areas, that is, the Atlantic Ocean. The legal, technical, professional and well as human capacity requirements would be investigated as regards to national and international border demarcations. The total length which Nigeria has with each of these four countries would be given. Presently, out of the 36 states of Nigeria, 22 of them have common borders at various locations with the above-mentioned countries. The varying cultural, social, religious, political and economic sentiments held in land by border communities would therefore be

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presented.

The emerging issues relating to international border demarcation would be identified. Challenges which internal and international border demarcation and delineation posed would be enumerated. Further recommendation and suggestions would be offered.

Bauchi state is one of the 36 states in Nigeria. It has a population of about six million making it is the 6th populous state in Nigeria and has a land mass of 49,119km<sup>2</sup> that makes it the 7th largest state in Nigeria. It has common borders at varying locations with the following states; Gombe, Taraba, Plateau, Kaduna, Kano, Jigawa and Yobe. Bauchi state has 20 local government areas with internal boundaries between and among them which are required to be demarcated. Currently, the process of the internal boundary demarcation is sporadically done as the situation warrants and not as deliberate and on continuous bases. The cultural, social religious, economic, political, topographic as well as environmental factors which affect boundary demarcation among the local government areas of the state would be investigated and presented. In conclusion, recommendations and suggestions on legislative, technical and as well as other hindrances would be stated.

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