

Dangote, Niger State \$450m sugar production MoU to revolutionise Nigerian agriculture

LAGOS, Nigeria - Dangote Group, in another move for self-sufficiency in sugar production through the government's backward integration policy, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Niger State government to establish a \$450m state-of-art and fully integrated sugar complex.



L-R Ag. Group Managing Director, Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc, Engr. Abdullahi Sule; Chairman, Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc, Aliko Dangote; Niger State Governor, Abubakar Sani Bello; Niger State Deputy Governor, Ahmed Muhammad Kesto, at the MoU signing ceremony between Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc and Niger State Government on Sugar Project in Niger State. (Source: Dangote Group)

According to the president of the group, Aliko Dangote, the project will generate over 15,000 jobs in the state and bring about a complete economic turn-around for the state on completion.

The \$450m pact, which was signed in the government house, will see the company producing raw sugar cane on 16,000 hectares of land at Lavun Local Government through an out-grower scheme. The company, which is currently operating the out-grower scheme in rice production in a number of states, has Africa's largest sugar refinery in Lagos and a sugar cane plantation in Numan, Adamawa State.

Dangote said his investment was informed by his company's firm belief in the potential of the Nigerian economy, adding that the new outlay will add value and create jobs for Nigerians.

He commended the state Governor, Alh. Abubakar Sani Bello for his foresight and efforts to woo investors to Niger State noting "the Dangote's Integrated Sugar Project in Niger State will also include the establishment of integrated sugar mills, generate power, produce molasses, ethanol fuel, biomass and produce animal feeds."

MoU a game changer for Niger State Nigerian economy

In his remarks, Bello said the deal will revolutionise agriculture in his state and Nigeria. Expressing joy that the MoU was signed during his own administration, he described Dangote as the liberator of the Nigerian economy and a dependable partner. The governor then urged Dangote Group to explore other investment opportunities available in the state, just as he announced that the state was opened for multi-sectoral investments.

The representative of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Alhaji Aminu Bisala said Dangote is the biggest private sector supporter of the Nigerian economy and Federal Government policies. He said the Federal Government was comfortable with the numerous investments efforts of the Dangote Group.

Group Managing Director of Dangote Sugar Plc, Engr. Abdullahi Sule stated that the MoU would be a game changer for Niger State economy and Nigeria as a whole. He said the integrated sugar mills will have the capacity to produce 160,000MT of raw sugar, pointing out that it has been in the forefront of support for government industrialisation programmes through backward integration policy in agriculture.

According to him, the Dangote Sugar Refinery is developing a sugar backward integration plan through the production of 1.5MT per annum in ten years in: Nasarawa, Adamawa, Kogi, Kwara, Taraba and Niger states respectively.

Group to invest \$1bn in agri-sector

The Group's Executive Director Stakeholders' Management and Corporate Communication Ahmed Mansur had also announced that the Group was investing over \$1bn in the agricultural sector in the country, specifically in rice, sugar, tomato and dairy productions.

Niger State Commissioner for Investment, Commerce, and Industry, Rahmatu Muhammad Yar'Adua said that the deal with Dangote Group will help grow the agricultural sector and create direct and indirect jobs in the state.

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