



**Joycee Awojoodu- Miss Enugu 2008
Assignment # 1**

“Take a journey with me through Enugu”

Sit back, relax and let me take you on a journey through the land of Enugu State. Derived from its capitals' name, Enugu literally means the “top of the hill.” Geographically Enugu borders Imo and Abia states, and is located in the southeastern region of Nigeria. Enugu is primarily home to the Igbo people and has a population of approximately 2.5 million. Although the Igbo's are the majority, about 95% of the population, the Igala's also reside in Enugu. Similar to other states in Nigeria, at one point there was substantial British influence in Enugu. Enugu being the starting point for business development, the British then ventured to other states in the southeastern region. Even now, the mark of colonialism still exists in Enugu; apparent by the Georgian buildings, narrow roads and Government reserved area's. The state was created on August, although the capital City Enugu was established in 1912 as a small coal-mining town, but later grew to become the capital of the former Eastern Region of Nigeria. Enugu (the capital) is often referred to as the “coal city.”

It is evident that education is very important to the population. Enugu is known for having at least one primary and secondary school in every community, thus it is deemed the education capital of Nigeria. The people of Enugu take pride in the fact that their state is the birthplace of Nigeria's first indigenous university, University of Nigeria



Nsukka (UNN) In addition; Enugu is home to the Enugu State University of science & Technology and several others. The government system is comprised of seventeen local governments' areas and leaders are determined by popular vote. In Enugu, government is enforced on the local and state level. The current governor is Sullivan Chime who previously was the commissioner of justice when Chimaroke Nnamani was governor.

Economically, a large number of the population is engaged in farming activities. Enugu is predominantly rural, but trading and services are also important to the community. Trading is the leading occupation outside of the rural regions. In addition to farming, trading and services, a small proportion of the population takes up manufacturing as a form of employment. Working in the energy industry and knowing the importance of stability in this industry I must note that The Oji River Power Station (which used to supply electricity to all of Eastern Nigeria) is located in Enugu State. Deregulation is a major concept that allows for competition in this industry. With the deregulation of electricity generation in Nigeria, the State Government would assist private investors to negotiate the take over and reactivation of the Oji Power Station. This is substantial to the economy Enugu due to the proximity of the Enugu coal mines and their ability to generate power

If you have ever eaten kola nut, casava, or mangoes, you can thank Enugu state. If you value education you can thank Enugu state. If you value a rich culture and a strong political government, once again you can thank this state. Although, Enugu may not be

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the biggest, wealthiest or the capital of Nigeria, Enugu definitely contributes to the betterment of our home. This impressive country should not be overlooked; you never know what you will find until you dig deeper.