



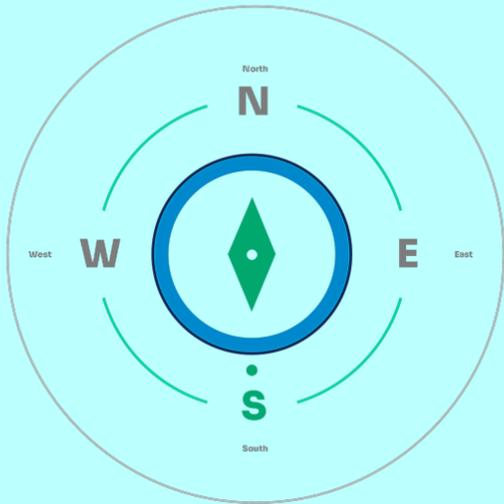
# Nigeria's Path to a **\$1 Trillion** GDP: Why the South-South and South-East Regions Are Indispensable

## *From the Heart of the Niger Delta – An Asaba Perspective*

As we kick off 2026, the buzz is real and resounding: Nigeria is shifting gears from economic stabilization to full-throttle growth acceleration. The Federal Government is laser-focused on scaling output, attracting massive investments, and charting a credible path to a \$1 trillion GDP (now eyed around 2036, building on bold reforms like forex unification, energy, and fiscal restructuring).

But here's the exciting truth many overlook: this trillion-dollar leap isn't happening without the South-South and South-East stepping up big time. These two regions aren't just participants, they're the driving pillars powering national momentum. Let's dive in and see why they're indispensable. They host Nigeria's present and future economy.

# The South-South: Our Energy & Global Gateway Engine



This region is Nigeria's energy backbone, the bloodline for industrialisation and trade. Beyond Crude, ports and maritime clusters like Warri, Port Harcourt and Onne handling regional trade, and the underutilized inland waterways for low cost of transportation. The blue economy, palm oil, cassava processing, and logistics are exploding with potential especially as we eye AfCFTA exports for a more integrated Africa.

## The South-East: Commerce, Innovation & Manufacturing Magic

A land of hustlers and unstoppable enterprise, the South-East is Nigeria's trade and SME powerhouse. Cities like Onitsha, Aba, and Nnewi anchor massive markets and informal-to-formal manufacturing in garments, footwear, metal works, and auto parts, with industrial champions like Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (IVM). With regional GDP estimated at ₦31.6 trillion and manufacturing contributing about 18 percent, the highest outside the Lagos–Ogun axis, this region is projected to rival major African urban economies by 2050.

This growing economic weight, combined with the resource strength of the South-South, naturally positions Asaba Waterfront City (AWC) as a strategic catalyst for Nigeria's next growth phase. Sitting at the geographic and economic crossroads of both regions and along a critical logistics corridor, AWC connects ports, markets, and production hubs, making it a natural platform for trade coordination, industrial supply chains, talent movement, and large-scale regional integration.

As Nigeria's growth accelerates, the resulting surge in population, commerce, and enterprise demands a new kind of city one that is smart, future-ready, and purpose-built to support modern economic expansion.



Asaba Waterfront City is conceived as that city: a tech-driven, master-planned urban environment designed to absorb and support this development drive and potential. Crucially, AWC is being developed with sustainability at its core, intentionally avoiding the planning failures that have produced congestion, flooding, informal sprawl, and infrastructure stress in cities like Lagos, Warri and Onitsha. Through integrated land-use planning, modern drainage and flood control systems, green spaces, smart mobility, and resilient infrastructure, the City is structured to grow without degenerating into urban disorder.



## Key advantages of Asaba Waterfront City include:



**Strategic Location:** Central access to South-South resources and South-East enterprise, enabling seamless trade and logistics.



**Economic Clustering:** Dedicated zones for finance, technology, hospitality, and mixed-use developments that drive job creation.



**Logistics & Connectivity:** Proximity to major road networks, waterways, and regional transport corridors that support commerce and exports.



**Quality of Life:** Waterfront living, green public spaces, modern housing, and social infrastructure that attract talent and investment.



**Smart City Infrastructure:** Digital governance, smart utilities, and technology-enabled services that enhance productivity and ease of doing business.

**Scalability:** Designed to expand in phases without losing efficiency, order, or livability.



**Sustainable Urban Design:** Climate-resilient planning, efficient drainage, environmental preservation, and controlled urban density.



# Nigeria's future lies in unlocking our existing strengths—positioning the South-South as a global gateway and the South-East as the nation's commercial and industrial engine.

As growth decentralizes and investment patterns shift, these regions are emerging as core drivers of the \$1 trillion economy. With smarter policies, private capital, and regional collaboration, Nigeria is no longer dreaming, we are building strategically.

Insights compiled from NBS Q3 2025 GDP data, IMF/World Bank January 2026 outlooks, CBN Macroeconomic Report, and government growth strategies.

# About Us

Asaba Waterfront City is a bold, future-focused urban development redefining what a modern world-class city can be. It sits on about 400 hectares of reclaimed land directly opposite the Delta State Government House, giving it one of the most strategic and prestigious locations in the entire South-South region. It is designed as a confluence of modern infrastructure, natural beauty, economic opportunity, and world-class liveability.

AWC is a collaborative partnership between the Delta State Government, the Asaba Community and the Private Sector.

Although ownership is shared, the execution, governance, and entire post-construction management will be driven 100% by the private sector, ensuring professionalism, world-class standards, and long-term sustainability.

The City is connected by a newly completed Six-Lane Access Road from Government House Road, the very first physical milestone of the project, already delivered. It is a new technology-driven City that will impact the future of Asaba, energize Delta State's economy, and set a benchmark for sustainable, integrated City design and development in Nigeria.

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