

DELTA BEYOND OIL

By Ify Ezinwa



May 2007 under the umbrella of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Uduaghan got reelected in 2011 after the end of his first tenure and is now in the last phase of his second tenure.

Emmanuel Uduaghan

to rise above its present situation and begin to take conscious and definite steps towards development, Deltans all over, including those at home and in the Diaspora need to change direction and

Delta State is one of the states in the South South geo-political zone of Nigeria. The state was carved out of the former Bendel State on August 27, 1991. Creation of the state was the result of agitations for the creation of separate states by the Urhobos and Anio-ma people of Delta state. General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida (Rtd), the then Military President of Nigeria created the state in response to the agitations which many said was led by his late wife, Maryam Babangida, an indigene of Delta state.

Delta State is made up of several ethnic groups, including Urhobo, Itsekiri, Ijaw, Isoko, Ukwuani, Ndokwa, Ika, Enuani and several others. For administrative reasons, these ethnic groups are divided into three senatorial districts namely Delta South, Delta North and Delta Central.

Delta state is one of the major oil producing states in Nigeria and while a blessing, many feel it has negatively impacted the

development of this state referred to as the 'big heart'.

Like all other states in the South South region of Nigeria, strife emerged in the early 1990s as the people felt they were being exploited by foreign oil companies operating in the state. This led to several unrests and resulted into loss of lives, destruction of properties and eventually, the high spate of kidnap of foreigners, politicians, family members of politicians and the wealthy in this oil-rich state. Understandably, this has impeded the development of Delta state and has been a source of concern not only to Deltans and Nigerians but the world at large, considering the fact that Nigeria is one of the major oil-producing countries in the world.

Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan is the current governor of Delta state. Born October 22, 1954, Uduaghan, a medical doctor by profession came into office as the democratically elected governor of Delta State in



believes that for Delta state

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