

Thirty Five Years of Land Administration in The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria

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SUMMARY

Forty years ago the Federal Government of Nigeria took the bold decision to move the seat of government from the coastal area of Lagos to a more central location of Abuja. In doing so an area of about 8,000 square kilometer was carved out of the neighboring north central states of Kwara (now Kogi), Plateau (now Nasarawa) and Niger to be the new Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and placed under the control of the Federal Government. By the year 1980 effective development activities towards the building of the new City of Abuja and the entire territory commenced in earnest. It is now thirty five years since construction work started in the city of Abuja and the FCT. The seat of the Federal Government effectively moved from Lagos to Abuja about twenty four years ago.

This paper looked at the implementation of the Abuja Master Plan from the Land administration perspective and the various challenges faced by Land administrators and land Managers. It also examined resettlement issues, squatter settlements and various policy changes during this period of thirty five years. It is based on my personal experiences as a land officer who has being involved in land management and administration within the FCT in the last thirty years of my carrier.

Some of the major challenges are highlighted and possible solutions offered.