MIYETTI ALLAH CATTLE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (MACBAN) INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PASTORAL SECTOR

- The Pastoral sector is concerned with the raising and herding of farm animals and animal husbandry practices of domestic animals such as Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Camels, Donkeys, Horses as well as Poultry. It is often characterized by seasonal movement of people with their animals in search of grazing and water to new pastures which may be quite distant.
- Therefore, the potential investment opportunities for the pastoral sector are enormous. The Pastoral resources in Nigeria are being managed and owned by pastoral-transhumance-nomads and some sedentary farmers. Pastoralists are the breeders and producers of Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Camels, Donkeys, Horses and Poultry. They have the control of over 95% of the animal resources.
- And considering the low protein intake per capital in most African countries like Nigeria, hence the need for harnessing of the enormous potentials and abundant economic resources maned by the Pastoralists families across the nation. What they require mostly are land, water and pasture.
- The current population of livestock in Nigeria are approximately 30 million Cattle, 53 million Sheep, 99.8 million Goats and 2.1 million camels that are mostly owned and managed by Pastoralists in Nigeria.

The population of Pastoralist in Nigeria is approximated to be over 30 million. They provide services using the wealth of livestock under their custody, they depend solely on the animals for everything. Culture and tradition is therefore attached to their trade as such pastoralism is their complete way of life.

Pastoral sector is the most viable economic sector as it is a well-known fact that every part of a

cow from the hoop to the horn are useful raw materials.

The following are some of the contributory potentials of pastoral sector:

- Provision of Employment: Pastoralist youth are self-employed as they are fully engaged with different local operations from morning to evening.
- Provision of Milk and Meat: Pastoralist are the major producers of local Milk and Meat for daily consumption; though millions of liters of milk are being wasted daily because of lack of storage and processing mechanisms.
- Livestock Marketing: Several people are into livestock marketing system and are doing very well in the business especially buying and selling as well as transportation of trade animals. Livestock markets are the major economic centers for each locality in Nigeria.
- Hides and Skin Marketing: Though pastoralist do not engage directly in butchering of animals but they feed this area with required animal in each abattoir, slaughter house and slaughter slabs across Nigeria. Pastoralist are also the major producers and owners of the famous breed of goats known as Sokoto red Goats (Maradi) that provide the best quality Leather in the world.
- Provision of Manure and farm fertility: Pastoralist contribute immensely to the fertility of various local farms belonging to the peasant farmers as most of the crop farming communities may have no access to the commercial fertilizers due to its high cost.

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