

# EFFECT OF CALABAR EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE ON THE ECONOMY OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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## **Abstract:**

*Given the role of export promotion in promoting foreign direct investments, hence economic growth and development, this study examined the effect of the activities of Calabar export processing zone on the economy of Cross River State. The study adopted the descriptive and analytical designs. The data for the study were obtained from the Cross River State planning commission and the Calabar export processing zone. The data were analyzed using the one way analysis of variance statistics technique (ANOVA) and the findings from the study revealed that there is a significant relationships between activities of Calabar export processing zone and generation of economic activities in Cross River State and there is a significant relationship between activities of Calabar export processing zone and employment generation in Cross River State. The study recommended promoting of entrepreneurial activities within the free trade zone, provision of infrastructural facilities, the dredging of Calabar sea port, among others.*

**Keywords:** *Export processing Zone; Employment generation; Economic activities*

## **Introduction**

Export processing zones (EPZ) have been identified as one of the key components of export promotion strategies in emerging economies since the period of 1960s (Fu & Gao, 2007). EPZ not only contributed to export promotion and expansion in developing economies, but it also acts as a veritable means of employment, skills and technology acquisition, increased in income, infrastructural development as well as contribute to increase in output of the host country. In fact, the role of export processing zone in the economic growth and development processes in developing countries motivated this study.

UNIDO (1980) defined an EPZ as “a rather, small, geographically alienated area within a country, the reason of which is to the attract industries that manufactures goods for export, by giving them particularly investment and trade conditions that are encouraging as compared to other part of the country.

An Export processing zone (EPZ) is one of several instruments of trade policy that can be employed to draw foreign direct investment (FDI) to a host country. FDI may be beneficial to the host country by means of rising earnings from foreign exchange, growth in employment, transfer of technology as well as skills of modern management.

According, in an effort to promote export growth and the diversification of the economy, the Federal Government of Nigeria introduced the idea of free zone as a means of attracting investments and promotes industrialization.

The Nigerian export processing zones authority (NEPZA) was set up in 1992 by Act No.63 and the pioneer free zone in Nigeria was establish in Calabar, Cross River State in the year 1992 and commission in 2001. The federal government provided the required infrastructures to aid the smooth operation of businesses in Calabar export processing zone.

Basically, the positive effects of export processing zone on the economy of cross river state are quite visible and enormous and this has enhanced a lot of public and private buy into the scheme throughout the country. Till date, NEPZA has given license a total of 24 free zones across the country, a few of which are fully operational with outstanding on –site infrastructure and others at

diverse stage of infrastructural development. Indeed, many free zones in Nigeria possess unique infrastructure and facilities that matches the standards in the rest of the world.

Despite the benefits of export processing zone to the host communities, the activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone is still at its infancy stage and the activities in the zone are not very encouraging. There are also problems of infrastructural inadequacies like bad road networks to the site of EPZ, epileptic power supply among others, and all these have great consequences on the socio-economic development of Cross River State.

Furthermore, the bad state of the Calabar Sea Port has been a cause for concern. The delay in dredging the seaport to serves as an evacuation route from the Calabar EPZ to other places has to a large extent undermine the growth of Calabar EPZ and also contribute to loss of government revenue from Calabar EPZ. This study is aimed at examining the effect of Calabar Export Processing Zone on the economy of Cross River State.

## Literature Review

### Calabar Free Trade Zone

Calabar free trade zone (CFTZ) was formerly known as Calabar Export Processing Zone. The Calabar Free Trade Zone is located in an area north of the port of Calabar, Cross River State. The enabling act for the approval of the zone came into effect in 1992. The Calabar Free Trade Zone was fully completed by 1999 and commenced operational after official commissioning in November 2001. The CFTZ is owned by the Federal government of Nigeria. Accordingly there are companies operating in CFTZ who are involved in manufacturing, trading, provision of services and oil and gas associated activities. These companies' benefits from tax incentives as well as duty free import. The CFTZ has been facing some challenges such as poor power supply, the lack of dredging of the Calabar River Channels which force companies to rely on Port Harcourt or Lagos for import as well as export of goods, other challenges like poor quality roads, inadequate raw materials, environmental problems, absence of basic facilities, poor patronage, among others have been hindering the progress of Calabar free trade zone (CFTZ).

The federal government has generated N282 million from the CFTZ as customs duties from January to November 2003, (CITN, 2008). The federal government has spent about \$500million as investible funds in the zone which has provided employment for 4,700 persons since its inception. (CITN, 2008).

### Enterprise and Employment details in Calabar Free trade zone (CFTZ) as at 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015.

#### Category A -Manufacturing

S/N	Name	Activities	Products	Status	Staff strength
1	FZE Combination industries	Manufacturing	Extruded snack (cheese balls)	Operational	68
2	Baoyao iron & steel group FZE	Manufacturing	Iron rods, billets	Operational	345
3	Mark sino internal FZE	Manufacturing	Medical & pvc prod	Operational	9
4	M-saleh engineering	Assembling	Gens, concrete mixer, s/prof	Operational	68
5	Golden Giant industries FZE	Manufacturing	Textiles/garment	Partially operational	12
6	Stone craft FZE	Manufacturing	Granite & Marble Tiles	Not operational	3
7	First medical &	Manufacturing	Disposable	Partially operation	18
8	Sky run international FZE	Assembling	ACs and Home	Operational	59
9	Regan renaissance	Repackaging	Cement	Operational	14
10	Danelec FZE	G	Appliances		
11	Jackson Devos FZE	Manufacturing	Carpet	Operational	44
12	Union forest industries FZE	Wood production	Furniture	Not operational	2

13	Southern foods & beverages FZE	Manufacturing	Bottle water	Operational	37
14	Trax technical FZE	Manufacturing	Garments	Skeletal options due	1
15	Xinxing Nig. Garment	Manufacturing	Garments	Under	-
16	Rock power cement FZE	Manufacturing		Construction	
17	General electric	Manufacturing	Heavy industrial multi modal	Site operation	6
18	Sky run international electricity meter FZE	Manufacturing	Assembling	Under construction	-
19	Sosega Nigeria FZE	Processing	Processing of cashew nut	Partially operation	3
20	Calabar rubber company FZE	Processing	Rubber wood lumber	Not operational	-

**Source : Calabar Free Trade Zone , 2015.**

### Category B: Service Provider

	Name	Activities	Products	Status	Staff strength
1	First bank PLC	Service provider	Banking services	Operational	18
2	Union Bank Pls FZE	Service provider	Banking services	Operational	12
3	Nexim Bank Pls FZS	Service Provider	Banking services	Operational	5
4	Genesis Electricity FZE	Service	Power supply/management	Operational	8
5	African petroleum PLC	Service	Retail of petroleum products	Operational	3
6	Cakasa Nig. FZE	Service provider	Engr. Procurement, installation construction co.	Operational	2
7	Road master & Signae FZE	Service provider	Road signage	Not on site	-
8	Bummedle FZE	Service provider	Servicing, logistics & procurement	Not on site	-
9	Dozzy marine	Service provider	Marine services	Operational	8
10	North-west jetty FZE	Jetty operators	Receipt of vessels with petroleum products	Operational	8
11	Energy Nigeria FZE	Service provider (engineering)	Mechanical structural and electrical	Not on site	-
12	Julius Berger Nigeria Calabar FZE	Service Provider	Construction	Operational	18

**Source: Calabar Free Trade Zone, 2015**

### Category C: Trading

s/n	Name	Activities	Products	Status	Staff Strength
1.	Skyrun Trading FZE	Trading	Cocoa	Operational	4
2.	Grey Jane International FZE	Trading	Food beverages, electrical & Home appliances	Abandoned	-
3.	Nimoco Distribution FZE	Trading	Auto-mobile	Operational	1

4.	Global beverage and supply FZE	Trading	Non-alcoholic beverages	Operational	1
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**Source: Calabar Free Trade Zone, 2015.**

**Category D : Oil and Gas**

**Source: Calabar Free Trade Zone, 2015.**

s/n	Name	Activities	Products	Status	Staff Strength
1.	Dozzy oil and gas FZE	Oil and Gas	Petroleum	Operational	16
2.	North West Petroleum	Oil and Gas	Petroleum	Operational	18
3.	Ibafon Oil FZE	Oil and Gas	Petroleum Products	Operational	28
4.	Oryz FZE	Oil and Gas	Vessels/Off Shoring servicing maintenance		
5.	Kaztec Engineering FZE	Oil field and Logistics services			
6.	Samon Petroleum	Oil and Gas	Petroleum products	Operational	21
7.	Ontario FZE	Oil and Gas	Petroleum products	Operational	22
8.	Fynefield Petroleum FZE	Oil and Gas	Petroleum products	Operational	18
9.	Rosa Mystical Energy FZE	Oil and Gas	Petroleum Products	Operational	15
10.	East Cross Energy FZE	Oil and Gas	Petroleum Products	Operational	8
11.	Vine Oil and Gas	Oil and Gas	Petroleum Products	Operational	14
12.	Line Nigeria Oil FZE	Oil and Gas	Petroleum Products	Operational	22

### **Export Processing Zone and Economic Growth**

Indeed the role of export processing zones in the economic growth and development of nations has been well recognized. According to GTN (2008), the CFTZ and other free zones in Nigeria has been contributing significantly to federal government revenue, job creation, socio-economic development of the host community, attraction of foreign direct investment into the country among others.

According to World Bank (1999), there have been mixed experience with export processing zone and free trade zones in Africa where many governments funded EPZs/FTZs in Senegal, Liberia, Zaire, Botswana as well as Cameroon but became unsuccessful due to several factors. Nevertheless, stories of achievement were recorded in Mauritius, Madagascar as well as Kenya. Madagascar started in 1990 and by middle of 1994, 90 free trade zones (FTZS) were approved, with half of these number functional, offering employment for 5% of its citizens and accounting for 15% of total export.

A comparative analysis of economic benefits of free zones reveal that these benefits are most important for developing countries in Asia, Eastern Europe and to a smaller extent for Latin America, where free zones have contributed to economic growth and development, especially in the areas of exports promotion and job creation, (WAC, 2011).

On the other hand, the slightest conclusive result globally is evident in the developing countries with the exemption of Madagascar and Bangladesh. Whereas the West Africa's free zones have only recorded modest results, they have contributed to the economic growth of the sub-region

through job creation and exports. With their fairly modest ambitions, the West Africa free zones won't be helpful to the global economy. Nevertheless, they could contribute significantly in the long run in supplying the large regional market (as clearly proved by the ZES project in Senegal or the Lekki FTZ in Nigeria). Presently, the market is still characterized by the poor regionally-sourced trade flows (averaging 10%). In fact, free zones can contribute efficiently to the economic growth and development of West Africa if countries in the sub-region can embark on development policies that centers on industrialization and generate an import substitutions strategy at the regional level (WAC, 2011).

In Asia, countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, Hongkong and Singapore were among the first to set up free trade zones. Free trade zones in Singapore was critical to the country's prominence in global logistics industry, hence contributing 8% (\$12.7billion) to the Singapore's, GDP in 2000. (CITN, 2008).

In Latin America, Nicaragua free trade zones have been critical to the country's economic growth and development. In 1976, Nicaragua had a single industrial park, with firms manufacturing mostly cloths for market in the US. But by 2000, the free trade zones in the country contributed 32% of total exports in Nicaragua. In Costa Rica, almost 50% of foreign direct investment to Costa Rica came in through free trade zones program. Free Trade zones in Costa Rica contributed 8%. It accounted for 53.7% of exports in Costa Rica in 2003 compared to 6.5% in 1990. Workers employed by multinational companies in free trade zones were 7,000 in 1990 and 35,000 in 2002.

In Europe, the Shannon free zone was mainly accountable for Ireland's position as Europe's fastest growing economy. It was safe place for US foreign investment for Europe and the world.

The economy of Ireland apparently tripled the entire Europe and doubled the US average in the 1990s. In the Arab-world, Jebel Ali free zone was the basis for the United Arab Emirates successful diversification from an oil dependent economy to business. (CITN, 2008).

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **The Staple Theory of Growth**

The staple theory is the recent version of export-led model of growth put forward by Harold Innis in 1930 and expanded by M.H. Watkins (1963). The staple theory of growth is among the macro-dynamic models of how growth in an economy can be achieved through growth of export. The theory recognizes primary agricultural raw materials as the unused resources that can be sold to other countries as exports, since they occupy a leading place in a nation's export.

Thus, creating a vent for surplus and generating returns to those resources is the hall mark of this theory. It is similar structurally with the vent-for-surplus theory to the point that resources originally exist and are later sold to other countries. It has a few similarities with Lewis theory of economic development with limitless suppliers of labour to be vented through trade.

### **Corden's Supply-Driven Model**

A more comprehensive analysis of the effect of trade on economic growth and development was undertaken by Corden (1971). He replaced the demand driven model of the staple theory of growth with supply-driven model of growth emphasizing growth in factor supplies and productivity.

He identified five beneficial effects of trade namely the impact effect or static benefits of trade leading to a rise in income, the capital accumulation effect due to the investment of the benefits from trade, the substitution effect from probable reduction in relative price of investment goods to consumption goods if investment goods are import-intensive, the income distribution effect which leads to movement in income in the direction of the factors employed intensively in manufacturing of exports, and finally the factors-weight effect which considers the relative productivity of inputs (Labour and capital) noting that the pace of exports will increase quickly and faster if it employs the more rapidly growing factor inputs.

### **Variety Hypothesis**

The variety hypothesis provides another explanation for exported growth. It states that as real income rises purchasers have a tendency to buy many different commodities. Because much of

these extra commodity come from other countries than from the domestic economy, the proportion of demand of imported goods is likely to rise, the imports volume tend to increase more than proportionately with per capita-income,(Nyong, 2005).

## **DATA AND METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

Both descriptive and analytical approaches were used in the study of the effect of Calabar export processing zone on the economy of cross River State. These approaches assisted in the gathering of data as well as the analysis of data.

### **Area of Study**

The study area was Calabar since Calabar is the location of export processing zone.

### **Population of the Study**

The population of this study is comprised of staff of the manufacturing, service provider, trading as well as oil and Gas enterprises operating in Calabar export processing zone.

### **Source of Data**

The data for this study were obtained from Cross River State planning commission and Calabar export processing zone.

### **Method of Analysis**

The secondary data were analyzed using the analysis of variance (ANOVA). Analysis of variance is the corresponding test for detecting differences of means of a measurement made on three or more groups. The ANOVA technique was introduced by R.A. Fisher, (Udofia, 2002).

## **EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **PRESENTATION OF RESULTS**

One way ANOVA Regression Results For Hypothesis one(There is no significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and generation of economic activities in Cross River State

#### **Oneway**

#### **ANOVA**

#### **EconActivity**

Sig.	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	
Between Groups	156248678436.636	5	31249735687.327	13.208	.000
Within Groups	170345788143.133	72	2365913724.210		
Total	326594466579.769	77			

One way ANOVA Regression Results For Hypothesis two (There is no significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and employment generation in Cross River State.

#### **OnewayANOVA**

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	21088.429	3	7029.476	3.575	.020

Within Groups	102244.429	52	1966.239		
Total	123332.857	55			

Probability value is the very competent test of significance (Awoniyi, Aderanti & Tayo, 2011). If the probability value is greater than 0.05 ( $p > 0.05$ ), it depicts that the relationship is not significant. The decision is then to reject alternative hypothesis and accept null hypothesis. If otherwise, less than 0.05 ( $p < 0.05$ ) it depicts statistical significance. The decision is to reject null hypothesis and accept alternative hypothesis.

**Test of Hypothesis one:**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and generation of economic activities in Cross River State.

H1: There is a significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and generation of economic activities in Cross River State.

The result of Hypothesis 1 tested disclose that the probability of the significant level is 0.000 which was less than 0.05 ( $p < 0.05$ ). This means that the p-value is statistical significant and thus the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and generation of economic activities in Cross River State should be rejected and the alternative hypothesis be accepted. We therefore concluded that there is a significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and generation of economic activities in Cross River State. This outcome may be as a result of the high patronage of the firms operating in Calabar EPZ by members of the public. However, this finding is in line with that of WAC (2011) which states that free zones can contribute efficiently to the economic growth in West African countries.

The study confirms that the relationship between the variables of interest was significant. It showed that the relationship was significantly different from zero. It reveals that there is a significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and generation of economic activities in Cross River State and the researcher is 95 % confident that the right decision has been made.

**Test of Hypothesis two:**

Ho: There is no significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and employment generation in Cross River State.

H1: There is a significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and employment generation in Cross River State.

The probability value of Hypothesis 2 shows 0.020 which is less than 0.05 ( $p < 0.05$ ). Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected meaning that Calabar Export Processing Zones activities have influence on employment generation in Cross River State. The implication of the result is that there is a significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and employment generation in Cross River State.

This outcome could be due to the fact that Calabar export processing Zone has contributed in creating employment to the unemployed graduates as well as assists in nurturing entrepreneurial skills in Cross River State. This finding conforms to that of CITN (2008) whose argument was that that the Calabar Free trade Zone has been contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of the host community by means of employment generation.

The study also confirms that the relationship between the variables of interest was significant. It indicates that there is a significant relationship between activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone and employment generation in Cross River State and the researcher is 95 % confident that the right decision has been made.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Export processing zones (EPZ) have been identified as one of the most important components of export promotion strategies in developing countries EPZ not only contributed to export promotion and expansion in developing economies, but it also acts as a veritable means of employment, skills and technology acquisition, increased in income, infrastructural development as well as contribute to increase in output of the host country.

Basically, the activities of the Calabar export processing zone have to a large extent improved the gross domestic products in the host community. The study found that activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone have promoted the generation of economic activities in Cross River State. This outcome depicts that new enterprises have been established thus leading to increased in production of goods and services which has positive effects on the economy of Cross River State.

The study also revealed that activities of Calabar Export Processing Zone have contributed to improvements in the number of employment opportunities in Cross River State. This means that through the establishment of Calabar Export Processing many jobs have been created for the unemployed thus contributing to the curbing of poverty and reduction in the level of unemployment in Cross River State.

Based on the conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are offered.

- (i) The state government should encourage entrepreneurial activities within the Calabar free trade zone.
- (ii) Skills and technology oriented industries should be encouraged in the zone.
- (iii) Infrastructural facilities such as stable power and water supply as well as good road network should be provided in Calabar Free Trade Zone.
- (iv) Barriers to entry of new firms into Calabar free trade zone should be removed
- (v) The Calabar seaport should be dredge so as to enhance the movement of goods to and from the free trade zone. This will assists in boosting more economic activities in the state.

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## Appendices

ONEWAY EconActivity BY EPZActivity ANALYSIS  
/POSTHOC=LSD ALPHA(0.05).

### Oneway

#### ANOVA

EconActivity

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	156248678436.636	5	31249735687.327	13.208	.000
Within Groups	170345788143.133	72	2365913724.210		

Total	326594466579.769	77			
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**Multiple Comparisons**

Dependent Variable: EconActivity

LSD

(I) EPZActivity	(J) EPZActivity	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
AGRIC	HR	117638.1661538*	19078.4361729	.000	79605.998734	155670.333573
	MANUF	117748.7807692*	19078.4361729	.000	79716.613350	155780.948189
	GASPETR	56263.8415385*	19078.4361729	.004	18231.674119	94296.008958
	SMES	113517.6723077*	19078.4361729	.000	75485.504888	151549.839727
	MQ	117299.8769231*	19078.4361729	.000	79267.709504	155332.044343
HR	AGRIC	-117638.1661538*	19078.4361729	.000	-155670.333573	-79605.998734
	MANUF	110.6146154	19078.4361729	.995	-37921.552804	38142.782035
	GASPETR	-61374.3246154*	19078.4361729	.002	-99406.492035	-23342.157196
	SMES	-4120.4938462	19078.4361729	.830	-42152.661266	33911.673573
	MQ	-338.2892308	19078.4361729	.986	-38370.456650	37693.878189
MANUF	AGRIC	-117748.7807692*	19078.4361729	.000	-155780.948189	-79716.613350
	HR	-110.6146154	19078.4361729	.995	-38142.782035	37921.552804
	GASPETR	-61484.9392308*	19078.4361729	.002	-99517.106650	-23452.771811
	SMES	-4231.1084615	19078.4361729	.825	-42263.275881	33801.058958
	MQ	-448.9038462	19078.4361729	.981	-38481.071266	37583.263573
GASPETR	AGRIC	-56263.8415385*	19078.4361729	.004	-94296.008958	-18231.674119
	HR	61374.3246154*	19078.4361729	.002	23342.157196	99406.492035
	MANUF	61484.9392308*	19078.4361729	.002	23452.771811	99517.106650
	SMES	57253.8307692*	19078.4361729	.004	19221.663350	95285.998189
	MQ	61036.0353846*	19078.4361729	.002	23003.867965	99068.202804
SMES	AGRIC	-113517.6723077*	19078.4361729	.000	-151549.839727	-75485.504888
	HR	4120.4938462	19078.4361729	.830	-33911.673573	42152.661266
	MANUF	4231.1084615	19078.4361729	.825	-33801.058958	42263.275881
	GASPETR	-57253.8307692*	19078.4361729	.004	-95285.998189	-19221.663350
	MQ	3782.2046154	19078.4361729	.843	-34249.962804	41814.372035
MQ	AGRIC	-117299.8769231*	19078.4361729	.000	-155332.044343	-79267.709504
	HR	338.2892308	19078.4361729	.986	-37693.878189	38370.456650
	MANUF	448.9038462	19078.4361729	.981	-37583.263573	38481.071266
	GASPETR	-61036.0353846*	19078.4361729	.002	-99068.202804	-23003.867965
	SMES	-3782.2046154	19078.4361729	.843	-41814.372035	34249.962804

\*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

**Post Hoc Tests**

ONEWAY EMPLOYMENT BY EPZActivityANALYSIS  
POSTHOC=LSD ALPHA(0.05).

**Oneway**

ANOVA  
EMPLOYMENT

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	21088.429	3	7029.476	3.575	.020
Within Groups	102244.429	52	1966.239		

Total	123332.857	55			
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**Post Hoc Tests**