

ADAMAWA STATE



Geographical Profile: Adamawa State of Nigeria is one of the nine states created on the 27th of August, 1991. It was carved out of the former Gongola State, with Yola as capital. In the days of provincial administration in Nigeria, a greater part of the land area now designated as Adamawa State used to be Adamawa Province with Yola as the headquarters. Historical records show that some of the disciples of Usman Dan Fodio like Modibbo Adama and Lamido Kabi founded some of the settlements that now make up the State as war camps and conquered many other settlements Adamawa is situated geographically 9.3333oN and 12.5000oE with an average area 36,917sqkm. A total population of 3,168,101 (2006, pop. census), with Yola as the state capital and 21 LGAs.

Adamawa have two climatic conditions long dry dusty season and short rainy season. With a diverse Vegetation of Sub-Sudan Vegetation at the North & Guinea Savannah Vegetation at South, major towns are Jimeta-Yola, Mubi, Numan & Michika. Adamawa State has 37 Development Areas with an Agro Based Economy; major agricultural products are Millet, Ground-Nuts, Maize, Rice, Beans, Sorghum, Sweet Potatoes, Yam and Fruits. It has abundant cattle, goat and sheep's. Stable food is Maize, Rice, Yam and Beans. Mineral Resources – Marble, Gypsum, Lead, Zinc, Iron ore, Abundant Limestone and Tin. Major Religion - Islam and Christianity.

Historical Development: The State derives its name from Madibbo Adama, a Fulani leader who led the 19th Century Jihad in Upper Benue Region. Modibbo Adama, the son of Ardo Hassan, was born at Wuro Chekke in Borno State around 1770. He had his early Islamic

studies under his father and later proceeded to Birnin Ngazargamu, then capital of Borno Empire, for further studies.

During the Islamic Jihad movement led by Shehu Usman Dan Fodio in the 19th Century, Modibbo Adama was recognised as a learned Moslem who could lead the crusade in the Upper Benue area. He thus became a flag - bearer undertaking successive conquests to establish the kingdom of "Fombina," referred to as Adamawa ruling family with the Palace of the Lamido, a first - class Chief, in the heart of the town. The Lamido is the chairman of the Adamawa Emirate Council. Probably the first European to visit the area was Heinrich Barth in 1849, shortly after Yola was founded. He travelled by the Sahara route, coming through Kukawa, at the time the capital of Bornu. The Royal Niger Company appeared on the scene in the 1880s and set up a trading post on the River Benue a few kilometres from Yola. John Holt opened warehouses there for exchange of imported goods with local products. This settlement gradually grew to form the nucleus of the new town of Jimeta, which is about 8 km from the old capital of Yola. The development of many communities in the State can be traced to the colonial era when the Germans ruled the Ganye area in the 19th century. These were however forfeited to the British at the end of the scramble for Africa at the Berlin.

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Adamawa state scores 56 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Budget Call Circular, State Draft Budget Estimates, and State Budget Appropriation Law are publicly available on request. Citizens have access to all documents in both the budget formulation and approval stage that can serve as a basis to monitor how the government is executing the budget; however, none of the budget execution documents are publicly available to the public. Quarterly Reports are only produced for internal uses while the Mid-Year Review, Accountant General's and Auditor General's Reports are not produced at all.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Adamawa state have limited spaces for to be involved in the budget process with a score of 14 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the government

provides no spaces for the public to provide inputs on the State Draft Estimates. While these ministries invite some constituencies the government, however, doesn't clearly articulate how these inputs will be used. Few committee hearings on budget are opened to the public with only some committees publishing reports during the **budget approval** process. In the **auditing** process, citizens have no open spaces for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 27 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Adamawa state. The Public Procurement Law 2013 regulates the entire procurement process and established the State Tenders Board. Tenders in Adamawa state are publicly opened with some delay after the bidding process is closed. Few procurement decisions are available to citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CIRDDOC recommends the following to improve budget transparency, public participation in the budget process, and transparency in the procurement process:

Budget Transparency

The government can increase budget transparency in Adamawa state by, timely, publishing online the following document that is already produced:

- Adamawa State Quarterly Reports

The Permanent Secretary Budget office of Adamawa state should do the following:

- partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish the Mid-Year Review, Accountant General's Report and Auditor General's Report.

Public Participation

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Adamawa state should do the following:

- open the budget formulation process to all constituencies; establish effective mechanisms to solicit the public's inputs on what should be included in the State Draft Estimates; and clearly articulate what the government expects to do with these inputs.
- publish a list of beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and other targeted spending from MDAs.
- establish practical mechanisms for the public to provide inputs on how the budget is being implemented and publish reports on how these inputs are used.

Similarly, the Adamawa State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open all committee hearings on the budget to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify.
- open hearings on the Auditor-General's Report to the public.

Lastly, the Auditor-General should do the following:

- establish practical mechanisms for the public to submit inputs on what should be audited.

Procurement Process

To improve the entire procurement process, the following should be done:

- the State Tenders Board should establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- the State Tenders Board should publish all procurement decisions along with their justifications and for all community projects.

Access to Information

To improve access to information in the state, the government should do the following:

1. Domesticate the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.
2. Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state