

ANAMBRA STATE



Geopolitical Profile: Anambra State was carved out from the old Anambra State on 27th August, 1991 but possesses a history that stretches back to the 9th century AD, as revealed by archaeological excavations at Oraukwu and Ezira. It has a land area of 4,887sq km with an estimated population of over 5 million in 2014. It has 21 local government areas (LGAs), consisting of 177 autonomous communities. The Capital and the seat of Government is Awka. The indigenous ethnic group in Anambra state is the Igbos which is about 98% of population and a small population of Igala about 2% of the population who live in the Northwestern part of the state.

The current ruling political party in Anambra State is the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) through which the present Government came into power on March 17, 2014, after a successful handover by an APGA led Government. The State House of Assembly (SHoA) comprised 30 members representing the 21 local government areas of the state. As at 2014, the SHoA is made up of 18 APGA members, 2 members from CAN, 1 Accord party member and 9 PDP members.

Economic Climate and Potentials: Major economic activities include agriculture, manufacturing and commerce. Agriculture dominates the rural economy. Agricultural activities in the state include farming, livestock and forestry. The state has relatively high concentration of trade/commercial activities, artisans and small-scale manufacturing. Almost all the urban centres

possess very busy and virile markets. Onitsha, for instance, has strong trade links with many parts of the country and with many overseas countries. Its market is described as the largest in West Africa. Nnewi, which is the second most economically vibrant centre after Onitsha, has virtually become the automobile spare parts market for the nation and a fast growing industrial centre. The state's economic potentials lie in its industrial clusters at Onitsha and Nnewi. The state is richly endowed with mineral deposits such as kaolin and clay, lignite, pyrite, coal, ironstone, sandstone, bentonite, etc.

Investment Policies and Climate/Institutions: Before now, the state government's economic vision as reflected in the Anambra State Integrated Development Strategy (ANIDS) with the aim of robustly achieving the seven MDG goals by 2015. However, with the inception of the current administration, a new vision is born which is making the state the 1st choice investment destination and most preferred location to site new industries" with a mission to create a socially stable, business-friendly environment that will attract both indigenes and foreigners to seek wealth creation opportunities in Anambra State. The present government referred to the ANIDS platform as "Enablers" that has succeeded in creating a pre-condition for takeoff upon which a more direct specific vision is born. Hence, the establishment of an Agency called Anambra State Investment, Promotion and Protection Agency (ANSIPPA).

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Anambra state scores 20 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. Only the State Budget Call Circular was published on the notice boards of ministries in the state. The Citizen's Budget and Quarterly Reports are the only documents that are not produced at all. The remaining documents are produced for internal use only.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Anambra state have limited spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 39 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the Anambra State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budgeting hold annual participatory budgeting hearings to provide inputs on the State Draft Estimates. The Guidelines for Participatory Budgeting in Anambra State dictates what mechanisms the government develops to solicit inputs and publishes report on how these inputs were used. The **budget approval** process is open to the public, but no committees publish reports. The Anambra governor publishes a list of some beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and other targeted spending from MDAs throughout the **budget execution** process. In the **auditing** process, citizens have no open spaces for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 37 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Anambra. The Anambra State Public Procurement Law 2011 regulates the entire procurement process and established the State Council on Public Procurement.

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 easily increase budget transparency in Anambra state by timely publishing online the following documents that are already produced:

- ☐ Anambra State Draft Recurrent & Capital Estimates
- ☐ Anambra State of Nigeria Appropriation Law
- ☐ Anambra State of Nigeria, Mid-Year Review of Capital Implementation
- ☐ Anambra State Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements
- ☐ Report of the State Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Anambra State of Nigeria

In addition to publishing these documents, the Anambra State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budgeting should partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.

Public Participation

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

- ☐ publish a report on how the inputs during the participatory budgeting spaces were taken into account to formulate the State Draft Estimates.
- ☐ 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 Anambra State House of Assembly should do the following:

- ☐ open committee hearings on the specific sectors to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify and publish committee reports.
- ☐ open the 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 processes, the following should be done:

- ☐ the State Council on Public Procurement should establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- ☐ the State Council on Public Procurement 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