

BAUCHI STATE



Geopolitical Profile: Bauchi State was created in 1976 from the then Northeastern State of Nigeria. The state occupies a total land area of 49,119 km² representing about 5.3% of Nigeria's total land mass and is located between latitudes 9° 3' and 12° 3' north and longitudes 8° 50' and 11° east. The state is bordered by seven states, Kano and Jigawa to the north, Taraba and Plateau to the south, Gombe and Yobe to the east and Kaduna to the west.

According to the 2006 census, the state has a population of 4,653,066. The Ajawa language was spoken in Bauchi State, but became extinct between 1920 and 1940 as speakers switched to Hausa. With the creation of Bauchi state in 1976, then comprising present Bauchi and Gombe states, it included 16 Local Government Areas. The number of Local Government Areas in the then Bauchi state was increased to 20 and later to 23.

Bauchi state is one of the states in the northern part of Nigeria that span two distinctive vegetation zones, namely, the Sudan savannah and the Sahel savannah. The Sudan savannah type of vegetation covers the southern part of the state while the Sahel type of the savannah is also known as the semi-desert vegetation which becomes manifest from the middle of the state as one moves from the state's south to its north.

The state is divided into three senatorial zones viz: Northern zone, Central zone and Southern zone each with a senator representing it in the Senate, while in the House of Representatives, the state has twelve representatives, and in the state House of Assembly, there are thirty one members. The state political circle is dominated by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which occupies the seat of the governor and all the members of the House of Assembly excluding one. PDP also has two Senators out of the three and majority of the Members of the House of Representatives.

Economic Potentials and Investment Policies: Bauchi State has several mineral deposits. They include: gold, cassiterite (tin ore), columbite, gypsum, wolfram, coal, limestone, lignite and iron ore. However, only a few of these are as yet being mined, as some of them occur only in traces. Thus, for example, cassiterite is mined in places like Gamau and Maijuju. Quarrying of granite and other rocks for road and other construction goes on in the south-

western parts of the state within the basement complex and plateau area, especially in Toro LGA.

It is known that formal mining of tin within the Jos Plateau started in 1905 in Tilden Fulani, Toro LGA in Bauchi State. A monumental mining beacon has been erected at this first tin mining site. The various minerals in the state are in some cases viable basis for investments. It is estimated that the Darazo/Misau clay deposits could support an industry for up to eighty years. Similar clay deposits occur in Udubo and several other parts of the state, and the Nigerian Mining Corporation (NMC) has surveyed many of them, while the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria has carried out a geological survey and feasibility study of the silica sands in Jalam.

It is reported that samples of precious stones have been obtained from Dass, Tafawa Balewa and Toro LGAs. Gallena is available in Musel, Zungur District of Bauchi LGA. These are other minerals in the state which provide considerable development/investment potentials.

Bauchi State has already witnessed some industrial investments and developments. However, these are concentrating mainly in Bauchi town. The state is fast developing into an important economic and investment hub evident in the modern financial sector. This is shown by the existence of several commercial and financial institutions and insurance companies. Particularly significant is the existence of a branch of the central bank of Nigeria (CBN) which acts as a currency distribution center for banks in the north eastern zone of the country. So also is the presence of a branch of the peoples' bank in Bauchi town. There is indeed still room for expansion and viable investments in this sector

Situation Analysis of the State: It is no more news that the insurgency in the north east of Nigeria has gone for too long. Thousands have been killed. Millions of people have been displaced, living now in refugee camps within and outside the country in deplorable conditions. The humanitarian disaster is simply unimaginable. Economic activities have come to a standstill in Bornu and Yobe, and gradually engulfing Adamawa State. The impact of this economic and humanitarian crisis is felt not only throughout the north but also in the whole the country which is deeply integrated through trade and commerce among other paths. Many people have lost their lives as a result of human rights abuses by both the insurgents and the security forces fighting the insurgents. This collateral disaster has made it difficult for the security forces to effectively mobilize and rally round the communities in the fight against insurgents.

This insecurity has now turned Bauchi state—which has little security challenges than the other North East States—into a new home for many Internally Displaced (IDP) and also another hideout for some insurgents to prepare ground for another assault. This is evident in the many arrests of some insurgents in the state and recently the Bomb Blast that took place in Azare, Katagum Local Government of the state.

Politically, the state is now in a transition position in the sense that the incumbent Governor has now completed his two terms in offices and he's willing to hand over to somebody that

can be a good successor to him in all terms of his and his past's records of goodness. Therefore, it is a battle ground for the ruling party to maintain its position in the state and the oppositions who advocated for change of the ruling party. The state is also known for Political thuggery with the popularly Hausa name called 'Sara Suka'.

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Bauchi state scores 11 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. While most documents are produced in the state, not a single document is publicly available. Only the Citizen's Budget and Auditor-General's Report are not produced at all.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Bauchi state have limited spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 14 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the public is essentially closed out of this process. The **budget approval** process is open to the public to attend some committee hearings but no committees publish reports. Both the **budget execution** and **auditing** processes are closed off to public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 23 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Bauchi. The Bauchi State Public Procurement Law regulates the entire procurement process and established the Bauchi State Budget Monitoring, Price Intelligence and Public Procurement Unit. Tenders in Bauchi state are publicly opened with some delay after the bidding process is closed.

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 Bauchi state by timely publishing online the following documents that are already produced:

- Bauchi State Call Circular
- Bauchi State Draft Estimates along with Bauchi State Medium Term Sector Strategy
- Buachi State Budget Appropriation Law
- Quarterly Reports
- Mid-Year Review

- Accountant-General Report

In addition to publishing these documents, the Bauchi State Budget Monitoring Office should partner with CSOs, in the state, to develop a Citizen’s Budget. The Auditor-General should produce and publish an annual report on the budget.

Public Participation

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Bauchi 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 Bauchi State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open all committee hearings on the specific sectors to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify and publish committee reports.
- hold public hearings on the Auditor-General’s Report.

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 Bauchi State Budget Monitoring, Price Intelligence and Public Procurement Unit should establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- the Bauchi State Budget Monitoring, Price Intelligence and Public Procurement Unit should publish all procurement decisions along with their justifications and for all community projects, according to the state procurement law 2011.

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

