

BORNO STATE



Geopolitical Profile: Borno state is located within latitude 10 N and 14 N and longitude 11 30 E and 14 45 E. The State which has an area of 61,435sq km shares borders with Republic of Niger to the north, Republic of Chad to the northeast and Cameroon Republic to the east. It also shares borders with Adamawa State to the south, Gombe State to the southwest and Yobe State to the west. It comprised 27 local Government Areas.

Borno state is located in the North East Geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The state is presently ruled by the All Peoples' congress (APC). All the seats in State House of Assembly with 29 nine members are occupied by the ruling APC. Equally, all the Members of the Federal House of representative and three Senators belong to the ruling party-APC.

According to the 2006 census, the state has a population of 4,171,104 (2,163,358 males and 2,007,746 females). The state has a population density of approximately 60 inhabitants per square kilometer. Borno State is quite heterogeneous with the dominant ethnic group, Kanuri inhabiting Abadam, Mobbar, Gubio, Guzamala, Kukawa, Nganzai, Monguno, Marte, Ngala, Kaka-Balga, Dikwa, Bama, Konduga, Mafa, Kaga, Magumeri, Damboa and Maiduguri LGAs.

The Shuwa ethnic group inhabits Mafa, Jere, Marte, Monguno, Dikwa, Ngala, Kala-Balge, Bama and Koguda LGAs), others are Hausas (Askira, Maiduguri LGAs), Babur-Bura (Biu, Hawul, Kwaya-Kusar, Bayo and Shani LGAs), Mandara (Gwoza LGA), Chibok (Chibok LGA). Most inhabitants of the state are farmers producing crops such as millet, rice, cassava, date palms, beans, cows, sheep goats, fish, fruits, vegetables, sorghum, wheat, sweet potato, sugarcane, groundnut, cotton, and sweet pepper popularly called "tatashe" etc.

Economic Potentials and Investment Policies: Borno state shares borders with three countries i.e. Chad, Niger and Cameroon. Within the country, the state shares borders with Adamawa State to the south, Gombe State to the southwest and Yobe State to the west. This makes it the hub of

the regional market that serves the Central and infrequently East African sub regions as well as the North East sub Region. Most of the trade between these regions is in Made in Nigeria goods and a few imported goods. The trade is also organized through unofficial and therefore undocumented manner. The major products / commodities traded on include refined petroleum products, ground nuts, sesame seeds, cotton, cows and fish. Manufactured products include cement, sugar, detergents, plastic products, flour products like wheat flour, pastas and semovita.

Even though the state has few known mineral resources presently being exploited, deposits of important minerals like crude oil and Gas as well as potash have been explored though with little success in the Chad Basin region that is shared by Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon. Already, Chad and Niger republics have discovered oil in economic quantities on their portion of the lake.

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Borno state scores 13 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. While most documents are produced in the state, not a single document is publicly available.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Borno state have no space for to be involved in the budget process with a score of 0 out of 100.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 17 out of 100, citizens have minimal access to procurement information in Borno. Tenders in Borno state are publicly opened with significant delays 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 Borno state by timely publishing, online, the following documents that are already produced:

Budget Estimates from Ministries, Departments and Agencies

State Draft Estimates

State Budget Appropriation Law

Borno State Quarterly Reports

Borno State Mid Year Review

The Ministry of Budget and Planning of Borno state should do the following:

partner with CSOs, in the state, to develop a Citizen's Budget.

produce and publish the Quarterly Reports, 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 Borno 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 Borno State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open committee hearings on the budget to the public where citizens and CSOs can testify.
- 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 government should introduce a law in the SHoA establishing a tenders board that oversees the whole procurement process; procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.

- the government 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:

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