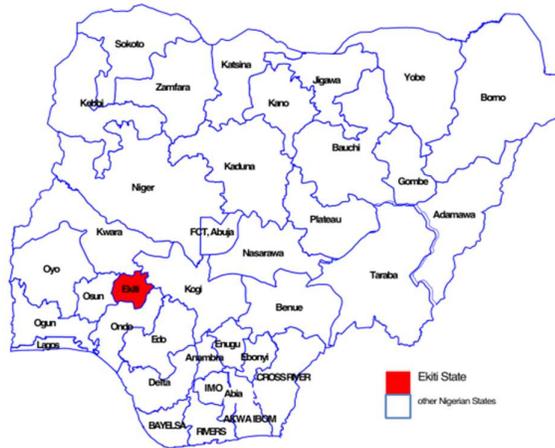


EKITI STATE

Map of Nigeria showing the Location of Ekiti State



Geopolitical Profile: Ekiti State is in the south-western region of the country. It has a population of 2,364,212 and covers a land area of 5,435 square kilometers. It has 16 Local Government Areas and lies between latitude $7^{\circ} 15'$ and $8^{\circ} 5'$ N and longitude $4^{\circ} 45'$ E. With a population growth rate of 3.1% per annum the state population is estimated at 2,754,100 in 2011.

Economic Potentials: The state is endowed with agricultural and mineral resources. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy. Some of the major commodities include cocoa, coffee, kola nut, cashew and oil palm, citrus fruits, coconut, mango, sugar-cane, guava and pineapple. Others include yam, cocoyam, cassava, maize, plantain/banana, rice, beans pepper, tomatoes, varieties of vegetables, as well as livestock and fisheries products.

The mineral deposits include cassiterite, columbite and tantalite which are found in Ijero, Ceramic (Ball) clays, kaolin, feldspa, bauxite, foundry quartzities, mica/moscovite. It has good commerce and tourism potentials. Some of the exciting tourist centres include Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort Centre, Ikogosi-Ekiti, Erinta Water Falls, Ipole-Iloro, Olosunta Hills, Ikere-Ekiti, Fajuyi Square, Ado-Ekiti, Ero Dam, Ikun-Ekiti, as well as Egbe Dam, Egbe-Ekiti.

Investment Climate/Polices and Institutions: The industrial policy hinges on the exploitation of the abundant and rich mineral and other industrial raw material resources for industrialization. Some of the strategies include reduction of government's equity participation to not more than 10%, provision of adequate and vital infrastructure, streamlining and improving the state's regulatory environment. More than 20 commercial banks with varying number of branches operate in the state.

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Ekiti state scores 75 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Budget Call Circular, State Draft Budget Estimates, State Budget Appropriation Law, Quarterly Reports, Accountant-General's Report and Auditor-General's Report are all publicly available on request. Citizens have access to all documents in all phases of the budget cycle that can serve as a basis to monitor how the government spends public funds throughout the budget process. The Citizen's Budget and Mid-Year Review are not produced at all.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Ekiti state have extensive spaces for to be involved in the budget process with a score of 78 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning of Ekiti state hold town hall meetings to solicit inputs for the State Draft Estimates. The Ekiti House of Assembly opens all committee hearings on **budget approval** process to citizens with committees publishing reports on these hearings. The Result-Based Budget Monitoring & Evaluation Procedure Manual establishes mechanism to solicit inputs during the **budget execution** process. In the **auditing** processes, citizens have no open spaces for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 100 out of 100, citizens have extensive access to procurement information in Ekiti state. The Ekiti State Bureau of Public Procurement Law of 2010 regulates the entire procurement process and established the Ekiti State Bureau of Public Procurement. Tenders in Ekiti state are publicly opened after the bidding process is closed. Procurement awards with their justification are published online. The Ekiti State Bureau of Public Procurement has a procurement complaint board with alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

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 Ekiti state by timely publishing online all the budget documents online.

In addition to publishing these documents, the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning 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 governor in Ekiti state should do the following:

- introduce a bill to ensure that participation in the budget formulation process is institutionalized.
- publish a report detailing how inputs were used in the State Draft Budget Estimates.

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

- 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.