

KEBBI STATE



Geopolitical Profile: Kebbi State was carved out of former Sokoto State, in August 1991. It covers a land area of 36,229 sqkms, consisting of twenty one Local Government Areas. It borders Niger and Benin Republics in the west and north, while it borders Niger and Sokoto States in the east and south respectively. According to 1991 census, the state has a population of 2.06 million people, comprising mainly, Hausa, Fulani, Zabarmawa, Dakarkari, Gungawa, Kambari and Fakkawa tribes. The rainy season lasts from April to October in the south and from May to September in the north. Mean annual rainfall is about 800mm in the north and 1000mm in the south. Majority of the inhabitants are peasant farmers and rural-based whose major occupation is farming, which is generally of subsistence type, largely due to high level of poverty. The crops cultivated are mainly, grains, legumes, and cereals. Fishing, poultry, and animal husbandry are also practiced. Other trades of the people include blacksmithing, weaving, knitting, woodcarving, dyeing, and tannery, which are practiced as commercial ventures, all year round. The people also practiced fadama farming, cultivating crops like onion, tomatoes, potatoes, and pepper.

Out of the 36,229 square kilometres of land mass, 13,209 square kilometres is currently used for cultivation. While about 200,000 hectares of fertile land is fadama land, mainly situated along the flood plains of the rivers Rima and Niger. Agriculture is the main stay of the economy of Kebbi state, employing more than eighty percent (80%) of its population. The natural vegetation of the state consists of Northern Guinea Savannah in the South and South-east and Sudan Savannah in the North. However, the natural vegetation has been altered in many areas by intensive cultivation, grazing, fuel wood harvesting and bush burning. The temperature is generally high with mean annual temperature of about

26 degree centigrade in all locations. During Harmattan, however, the temperature can go down to 21 degree centigrade and up to 40 degree centigrade during hot season. One of the major ecological problems afflicting the state is desertification. Other ecological problems include flooding, pest infestation and gully erosion. Politically, Kebbi State is presently dominated by PDP, as the current Governor, the three Senators and all members of House of Representative are PDP flag bearers. The state House of Assembly is also dominated by PDP, in addition to the 21 LGA Chairmen who are also PDP flag bearers.

Economic and Investment Potentials: The state was created not very long ago, however the Kebbi Investment Company is established by the state soon after its creation. The Kebbi state Chambers of Commerce, Mines, Industry and Agriculture has also been in place. Never the less, not much has been achieved by these establishments, as there is yet no functional industry that's operating in the state from their efforts. But they have a number of plans on the ground awaiting implementation, such as cement company, rice processing company, cassava processing company, groundnut oil processing.

- a. Animal Resources:** Kebbi state has abundant livestock which include cattle, sheep, goats, camels, horses, donkeys, pigs and poultry. The state ranks among the five states with the highest number of livestock, it even sells quite a substantial number to other states in Nigeria. It is estimated that about 110,000 cattle; 152,000 sheep; and 211,000 goats are slaughtered annually in the state. As such hides and skin is an important livestock subsector. The major areas known for their higher number of livestock include Bagudo, Bunza and Yauri in that order.
- b. Forest Resources:** There are nine existing forest reserve areas in Kebbi state, while a number of natural forest exist in South and South-eastern parts of the state, which yield forest resources like wood, thatches, fruits as well as being sanctuaries for wild life. Already the forest in the riverine areas are being exploited for wood, used in boat making at Yauri while in the other parts of the state (around Zuru) the local populace utilize the wood in carving mortars, pestles and various handles of implement like hoes and knife. The existing forest resources in the state are however, under severe threats by animal grazing, bush burning and sourcing for fuel-wood. The state government has on its part reacted to this menace by introducing Kebbi State Afforestation Programme (KSAP) and the Kebbi State Environmental Protection Agency (KSEPA). These agencies have pushed through various edicts to curtail the wanton destruction of forest resources.

Furthermore, they have undertaken campaigns to improve the quality and number of forest reserves in the state.

- c. **Minerals Resources:** Existing mineral resources in the state include quartz, which is found in Zuru area, Kaolin in the sedimentary areas of Kaoje in Bagudo local government, pisolithic bauxite and clay in Dakingari, clay with alumina in Giro area, potassium in Bunza and Suru Areas and Silica Sand in Bagudo, Yauri , Zuru and Ngaski as well as Salt deposit in Bunza and Arewa Dandi local governments. In spite of the existence of these mineral resources in various parts of the state, no serious exploitation for commercial and industrial purposes has commenced. Thus, the mineral resources remained untapped.

Water Resources: The state has relatively abundant surface water resources in the form of rivers such as the Niger, Rima and Ka. These rivers are sources of water for irrigation, domestic use, fishing and transportation. It is estimated that about 60 to 70 percent of the arable land in the state is irrigable. This explains why a number of irrigation projects have been located in the state such as the Zauro Polder Project with an estimated land area of 10,672 ha. Other projects include Niger Valley Project at Yauri with estimated land area of 4, 023 and the Middle Rima Project at Argungu with an estimated land area of 6,405ha.

Situational Analysis of Kebbi State: The state has no security challenge as is found in some states in the North particularly, North-east. The only security challenge noticeable in the state is that of farmers and Fulani cattle rearers, which the state has been able to put under control. The state is one of the states in the North-west that has produced national technocrats and senior military officers. Likewise it has a well educated and experienced civil service, in fact, before its creation, people of Kebbi have dominated the Sokoto state civil service. The bureaucratic arrangement and mechanism is such that allows for smooth and speedy dispensation of administration. However, this could not be materialized because of the political interference from the political class, which is known for Nigeria.

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Kebbi state scores 27 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Budget Call Circular, Accountant General's and Auditor General's Reports are all publicly available on request. Citizens have access to some budget formulation and execution documents that can serve as a basis to monitor how the government spends public funds. The remaining reports are produced for internal use only while only the Citizen's Budget is not produced.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Kebbi state have limited spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 22 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the Kebbi State Ministry of Women Affairs holds few consultations to solicit inputs for the State Draft Estimates. The Kebbi House of Assembly opens few committee hearings on **budget approval** process to citizens. Both the **budget execution** and **auditing** process have no open space for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 20 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Kebbi state. The Procurement of Construction, Goods and Services Law of 2008 regulates the procurement process and established the State Tenders Board.

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

- Kebbi State of Nigeria Proposed Budget Estimates

- Kebbi State Budget Appropriation Law
- Quarterly Reports
- Kebbi State Mid-Year Review

The Kebbi State Ministry of Budget & 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 government in Kebbi state should do the following:

- open the budget formulation process to all constituencies; ensure that all citizens use 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.
- expand on the practical mechanisms for the public to provide inputs on how the budget is being implemented.

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

- open all committee hearings on the budget to public where citizens and CSOs can testify and publish reports on these hearings.
- 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 ensure that the Procurement of Construction, Goods and Services Law of 2008 is published; give the State Tenders Board the authority to regulate all the procurement process in the state and the necessary resources to fulfill its duty and 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.
- Empower the Fiscal Responsibility Commission.

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