

KADUNA STATE



Geopolitical Profile: Kaduna State is a state in the North West zone of Nigeria. Its capital is Kaduna. Kaduna was taken-up by Lord Frederick Lugard and his colonial colleagues when they moved the capital of the then Northern Region from Zungeru to Kaduna in 1916. This move of the colonial office to Kaduna started 1912-1918/20 with the initial effort having been made in 1902 from Jebba to Zungeru. Kaduna commemorated its centenary as an administrative centre in 2012.

At the start of British colonial rule in northern Nigeria the people groups who live in the area became 'Northern Nigerians'- a construct which continues even till date. By 1967, these people groups again were carved into 'North Central State' and this was the case until 1975 that 'Kaduna State' was formerly created by the then military leader, Gen. Murtala Mohammed, with all distinct identities amalgamated into one state without a referendum. The state hence is the successor of the old Northern Region of Nigeria, which had its capital at Kaduna that is now the state capital to about 6.3 million people (Nigerian census figure, 2006).

It was the old Northern Region, in the year 1967, that gave birth to six states in the north, leaving Kaduna as the capital of North-Central State, whose name was changed to Kaduna State in 1976. Meanwhile, Kaduna was further divided in 1987, creating Katsina State. Under the governance of Kaduna is the ancient city of Zaria, Kafanchan and Nok, the area one of Africa's earliest civilizations is recorded to have been excavated. The most intriguing aspect of this area is that the colonial construction and its post-colonial successor call 'Nigeria' hardly documented the history or the method of how Kaduna state's people groups encompassed in these constructs define and identify themselves as such the people groups who populate the area have lived in near oblivion or obscurity as they often are thought of as Hausa people.

The current ruling political party in Kaduna State is the All Progressive Congress (APC), the present Government came into power on May 29, 2015, after a successful handover by a People's Democratic Party (PDP) led Government to Mallam Nasir Ahmad El-Rufa'I as the new Governor. The State House of Assembly (SHoA) is comprised of 34 members representing the 23 local government areas of the state. As at the 2015 inauguration of the 8th Kaduna State Assembly, the SHoA is made up of 27 APC members and 7 members from PDP.

Economy, Climate and Potential: Kaduna State is endowed with a wide range of natural resources which are awaiting development/investment on large commercial scale. The natural resource potentials are grouped into agriculture/forestry and livestock, and minerals. Kaduna State experiences a typical tropical continental climate with distinct seasonal regimes, oscillating between cool to hot dry and humid to wet. These two seasons reflect the influences of tropical continental and equatorial maritime air masses which sweep over the entire country. Kaduna State has instituted agencies to cater for the interests of local, national and foreign entrepreneurs/ industrialists. Mainly, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry arm of the State Government is now charged with the responsibility of maintaining a good economic climate. In order to promote industrial/commercial enterprises, the State Government has put in place several infrastructural facilities.

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Kaduna state scores 11 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. While most documents are produced in the state, not a single budget document is published. Only the Citizen's Budget is not produced.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Kaduna state have a limited space to be involved in the budget process with a score of 7 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the public is essentially closed off from providing inputs. The Kaduna House of Assembly opens some committee hearings on **budget approval** process. The **budget execution** and **auditing** process have no open space for public scrutiny.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 3 out of 100, citizens have almost no access to procurement information in Kaduna. The Bureau of Budget Implementation, Monitoring and Price Intelligence issued the Manual on Government Procurement Policy in Kaduna State.

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

- Call Circular on Proposed Indicative Envelopes
- Kaduna State Government Breakdown of Approved Capital and Recurrent Expenditure
- Kaduna State Appropriation Law
- Quarterly Reports
- Mid-Year Review
- Detailed Report of the Accountant General Kaduna State with Financial Statements
- Detailed Report of the Auditor General Kaduna State with Financial Statements

The Kaduna State Ministry of 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 Kaduna 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 Kaduna State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open all committee hearings on the budget to the 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 introduce a bill regulating the procurement process; establish a new Due Process Office with the authority to regulate 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.
- this new Due Process Office 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. Domesticated the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.
2. Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state