

OGUN STATE



Geographical Profile: The state's nickname is "Gateway to Nigeria". It was created on 3rd February 1976 from the former Western State with Abeokuta as its capital. It comprises the old Abeokuta and Ijebu provinces. It was one of the nineteen states created out of the former twelve state structures of 1967. The state shares an international boundary with the Republic of Benin to the West and interstate boundaries with Oyo State in the north, Lagos State in the south and Ondo State in the east. The 1991 census recorded a total population of 2,338,570 residents with the estimated population of 4,054,270 in 2005. The state governor is His Excellency (Senator) Ibikunle Amosun, CON, FCA. He became the governor on the platform of All Progressive Congress (APC). The state has the highest numbers of universities in the country. Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Covenant University, Ota, Bell University of Technology, Ota, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Redeemer's University, Babcock University, Ilisan Remo, Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu Ode, Crawford University, Igbesa, Adetokunbo University, Sagamu, Crescent University, Abeokuta, Hallmark University, Ijebu-Itele, South-Western University, Iperu, Catholic Church University under construction in Ogbere

Administrative Structure: Ogun State has three senators at the national assembly of which one is a member of Peoples Democratic Party and two from All Progressive Congress. It has nine federal house of representative members with two members from People Democratic Party and seven from All Progressive Congress. There are twenty-six State House Constituencies.

Economic Potentials: Agriculture and Forestry- There are four government agencies which facilitate the extension of modern agricultural techniques and practices to all the rural areas of the state, namely: Agricultural Development Agency (ADA), Agro Services Corporation (ASC), Ogun State Agricultural Development Project (OGADEP) and Ogun State Forestry Plantation. **Mineral Resources:** Ogun State has mostly non-metalliferous or industrial minerals. These include limestone, gypsum, kaolin, feldspar, phosphate, mica, glass sand, clay granite, tar sand, kaolin, clay and phosphate. **Local Sourcing of Raw Materials:** Forest, agricultural and mineral resources in the state provide the much needed local sources of raw materials for industries.

Industrial Potentials and Development: Availability of forest, agricultural and mineral resources, access to a large pool of skilled manpower, the presence of water and electric power supply, incentives by successive governments and the location is an advantage of the state, all make it a favored location for several kinds of industrial establishments and investments.

Investment Opportunities and Institutions: A former governor of Ogun State once described Lagos State as being attached to the belly of Ogun State. This description is reasonably apt, considering that Ogun is geographically the only or closest neighbour to Lagos, with both states conjoined through a vast borderline. The closeness of the major metropolis of Lagos to Ogun State has rubbed off positively on the latter, which is fast becoming the country's new major industrial hub. However, while Lagos is undoubtedly ahead as the main station in terms of profusion of service industry establishments, where the headquarters of banks, major business concerns and also the Stock Exchange are located, Ogun has also been accelerating towards emerging as the centre of industrial activities. Presently, investors in the manufacturing sector actually consider Ogun State a more alluring and conducive site for their activities. These investors have been drifting into the state at an unprecedented rate in the last three years, from the Sango Ota axis to Agbara, Ewekoro, Ibese, Ifo, Ibafo, Magboro and Sagamu, where, altogether, not less than 70 major manufacturing firms have registered their presence.

Another attraction for investors is that Ogun State sits on a gas pipeline. "Although Lagos State also has gas pipelines in some parts, Ogun has pipelines in Agbara and Ota, which are two big industrial areas, and if you don't want to rely on privatised Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN's electricity, manufacturers in Ogun State, with plants situated close to the available independent power suppliers thriving on their proximity to gas pipelines, have the choice of being powered by such IPPs.

This alternative to the power supply from Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company for Ogun State translates to a more reliable source of electricity, and seamless manufacturing process, drawing more industrial firms to the state. Such off-grid power producers in Ogun State include Coronation Power and Gas Limited with a 20MW facility, situated in Sango Ota and Tower Power Utility Ltd., which also generates 20MW and operates at Sango Ota. Ewekoro Power Ltd, with an off-grid generation capacity of 12.5MW, is also cited in Ewekoro, Ogun State.

In May 2014, Honeywell Group revealed that the company has forged a partnership with the United States Trade Development Agency, USTDA, by signing a Grant Agreement for a feasibility study on Honeywell's N31 billion Sagamu Independent Power Plant project. The project, to be done in phases over the next five to seven years, has the potential of supplying about 140MW of power.

FINDINGS

Public Access to budget documents

Ogun state scores 18 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Draft Estimates are available online while the State Budget Call Circular and State Budget Appropriation Law are available on request. The majorities of the remaining documents are produced, but are not publicly available. Citizen's Budget is not produced.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Ogun state have limited spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 44 out of 100. Citizens and CSOs are invited to few town hall meetings during the **budget formulation** process. The Ogun State House of Assembly opens most committee hearings to the public during the **budget approval** process. The government publishes a very sparse report on how inputs were used during the **budget execution** process. Meanwhile, the **auditing** process is closed off to the public.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 17 out of 100, citizens have limited access to procurement information in Ogun state. Some MDAs publish information for potential bidders.

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 improve budget transparency in Ogun state by timely publishing online the following documents that are already produced:

- Ogun state Appropriation Law.
- Ogun State Quarterly Review of Budget Performance Report
- Ogun State Half Year Budget Review of the Budget Performance
- Report of the Accountant-General on the Accounts of the Government of Ogun State of Nigeria.
- Ogun State Annual Report of the State Auditor-General Accounts of the Government of Ogun State of Nigeria.

The Ogun State Ministry of Budget 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 of Ogun 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.
- improve the detail of the list of beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and other targeted spending from the MDAs.

- establish practical mechanisms for the public to provide inputs on how the budget is being implemented along with reports on how these inputs are used.

Similarly, the Ogun 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 governor should introduce a bill regulating the procurement process; establish a State Tenders Board 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.
- this State Tenders Board should open bidding documents in public immediately after the bidding process is closed.
- this State Tenders Board should publish all procurement decisions along with their justifications for all community projects.

Access to Information

To improve access to information in the state, the government should do the following:

1. Domesticating the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.
2. Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state