

## KATSINA STATE



**Geopolitical Profile:** Katsina was one of the pre-jihad Hausa city states which was conquered and annexed into the Sokoto caliphate by Mallam Urnmarun Dallaji in the early part of the 19th Century. After the British colonial conquest in 1903, the erstwhile Katsina and Daura emirates became Katsina Province of the former Northern region of Nigeria. Later, Katsina and Zaria Provinces together formed the North Central State under Gowon's regime of twelve state structures.

North Central State was left intact in 1976 when the number of states was increased to nineteen under the new name of Kaduna State. Katsina State came into existence on the 23rd of September, 1987 covering the same area of the former Katsina Province of the defunct Northern Region. Its creation along with Akwa Ibom State, raised the number of states from nineteen to twenty one under the then Babangida military administration. The state borders Niger Republic to the north, Zamfara State to the west, Kaduna to the South; Kano and Jigawa States to the east. It has the land area of 24,000 square kilometres. According to the 2006 census figures, the state has the population of more than 6 million people. Over 60% of the population is living in the rural areas where mainstay is farming and animal husbandry. Katsina consists largely of scrub vegetation with some wooded savanna in the south. There are 34 local government areas in the state. The indigenes are Hausas and Fulanis with pockets of other ethnic groups such as the Igbos and Yorubas.

**Economic Climate and Potentials:** Agriculture is the backbone of the state's economy as 75 percent of its people are farmers. Katsina State is blessed with abundant agricultural land and a wide range of crops. These include guinea corn, millet, maize, cow pea, cotton and groundnut, to mention but a few. In addition, the state possesses a large livestock population mainly comprising cattle, goats and sheep. The government encourages agro-livestock production by providing extension services, pesticide sprays, subsidized chemical fertilizer and veterinary services to curtail both plant and animal diseases and promote abundant agro-livestock production.

Both public and private forestry abound in Katsina State. These include: established plantations, orchards, woodlots, shelter belts and trees on farmlands. Supported by the EEC and the Federal Government, trees planted amongst others include Acacia species, Eucalyptus and *Azadirachta Indica* (Neem). Moreover, seedlings, cattle wire fencing and extension services are provided free to

farmers in the northern, more arid part of the state. Runka forest reserve in the north western part of the state is the largest reserve. People utilise the forest in various ways as sources of fuel wood, wild fruits/vegetables, pasture for livestock, and herbs for treatment of diseases and for hunting.

Livestock include cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. Apart from providing food and meat for human consumption, these agro-livestock products have the potentials for providing raw materials that could serve a wide range of industries including food processing, animal and poultry food, textile, pharmaceutical, building and construction, as well as hides and skin industries. It's noteworthy that Katsina State is blessed with abundant mineral resources, both metallic and nonmetallic, which could be tapped for industrial growth. They include kaolin, asbestos, manganese, gold, uranium, nickel, chromite, silica sand, laterite clay, etc. These minerals can serve as raw materials to a wide range of industries including chemical, pharmaceutical, cement, glassware, ceramics, building and construction. Others are metallurgical, paint, electronics, cosmetics, drilling bits and weaponry, etc.

**Investment Policies and Climate/Institutions:** The state's industrial policy objectives include improving living standard, provision of regular employment, balanced industrial growth through establishment of industries in rural areas. Katsina state has large deposit of kaolin and asbestos and other needed minerals for good industrial take off. Katsina is one of the few states in the country where crops are grown all the year round. Apart from farming during the rainy season, dry season farming is done along river banks and along the numerous dams built by the State and Federal Governments.

## FINDINGS

### **Public Access to budget documents**

Katsina state scores 8 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. Only the budget formulation and approval documents (State Budget Call Circular, State Draft Estimates, and State Budget Law) are produced but not a single budget document is publicly available. Meanwhile, the remaining budget documents not produced at all.

### **Public participation in the budget**

Citizens and CSOs in Katsina state have limited space to be involved in the budget process with a score of 8 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the public is essentially closed off from providing inputs. The Katsina 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 Katsina. While no formal regulations on the procurement process in Katsina state, the financial instructions of Katsina State (1984 revised version) and the stores regulations (1968) regulate contracting and procurement procedures.

## **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 Katsina state by timely publishing online the following documents that are already produced:

- Call Circular for Budget Preparation and Submission
- Proposed Estimates of Katsina State Government
- Approved Estimates of Katsina State Government

The Katsina State Department of Budget & Economic Planning 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, Auditor General's Reports on time.

### **Public Participation**

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the Katsina state government 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 Katsina 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 introduce a bill regulating the procurement process; establish a 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. Domesticate the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.
2. Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state