

## KOGI STATE



Location of Kogi State in Nigeria

**Geopolitical:** Kogi State is located in North central Nigeria. It is one of the 6 states that make up the North Central zone. The state was created in 27 August 1991 from parts of Kwara State and Benue State. The state as presently constituted, comprises the people of the Kabba Province of Northern Nigeria. The major ethnic languages are Igala (dominant in the East senatorial district), Okun (dominant in the West Senatorial District), and Ebira (dominant in the Central Senatorial District). However there are minority ethnic groups such as Bassa Nge and Bassa Komu in the East, Kakanda, Nupe, Egbura Koto in the West and Ogori in the Central.

With its capital as Lokoja, the state is known as the The Confluence State and lies on coordinates  $7^{\circ}30'N$   $6^{\circ}42'E$  . It covers a total land area of  $29,833 \text{ km}^2$  (11,519 sq mi) and is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of the 36 states by land mass. Kogi state is the only state in Nigeria which shares a boundary with 9 other states: FCT to the North, Nasarawa state to the north east, Benue state to the east, Enugu state to the south east, Anambra state to the south, Edo State to the south west, Ondo State to the west, Ekiti State to the west, Kwara State to the north west and Niger State to the north

According to the 2006 National Population Council census figures, the state has a total population of 3,278,487 (male=1,691,737 , females= 1 ,586,750 ) with an estimated projected population of over 5 million for 2014, ranking it 20th out of the 36 states in the country by population. This gives it a population density of 110 persons / $\text{km}^2$  (285 persons/sq mi). The state has 21 Local Government Areas and is divided into 25 state constituencies with

Since 2003, the state has been ruled by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), which controlled majority of the State House of Assembly and virtually all the Federal seats in the state. However with the emergence of the All Progressive Congress (APC), there has been a shift in the control as the APC controls all the Senate seats, and about a third of the Federal House of representative seats. Though the PDP still has a majority in the state house of Assembly and still controls the Government House.

**Economic Climate and Potentials:** The state is ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in terms of GDP (US\$4.642BN). Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. There are many Farm produce from the state notably coffee, cocoa, palm oil, cashews, groundnuts, maize, cassava, yam, rice and melon. Mineral resources include coal, limestone, iron, petroleum and tin. The state is home to the largest iron and steel industry in Nigeria known as Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and one of the largest cement factories in Africa, the Obajana Cement Factory.

**Investment Policies and Climate/Institutions:** The state has several policies aimed at attracting foreign direct investment and local investors to the state. The Kogi State Economic Empowerment and development Strategy (KOSEEDS) is one of such policies that was produced in 2004. Other policies include Tax concessions, counter-part funding agreements, etc.

## **FINDINGS**

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

Kogi state scores 8 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. While the majority of documents are produced, not a single document is publicly available. Only the Citizen's Budget is not produced.

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

Citizens and CSOs in Kogi state have little or no space to be involved in the budget process with a score of 6 out of 100. Only the Kogi State House of Assembly opens few committee hearings to the public during the **budget approval** process.

## **Public access to procurement information**

With a score of 30 out of 100, citizens have minimal access to procurement information in Kogi state. The State Tenders Board publishes requests for proposals in newspapers and opens the proposal documents immediately after the bidding process is closed.

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

- ☐ Request For Submission of Budget Estimates From MDAs
- ☐ Kogi State Draft Budget Estimates along with Kogi State Medium Term Expenditure Plan and Kogi State 2014 Draft Budget Volumes and Votes
- ☐ Kogi State Appropriation Act
- ☐ Kogi State Quarterly Budget Review
- ☐ Kogi State Mid-Year Review
- ☐ Kogi State Accountant-General's Report on the Implementation of Appropriation Act
- ☐ Audited Reports of Kogi State for the period ending December

The Kogi State Ministry of Budget & Planning of should partner with CSOs in to develop a Citizen's Budget.

### **Public Participation**

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Kogi 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 along with reports on how these inputs are used.

Similarly, the Kogi 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 ensure that the procurement law is published; give the State Tenders Board 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.
- ☐ the State Tenders Board 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