

GOMBE STATE:

Findings

Public Access to budget documents

Gombe state scores 27 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Draft Estimates is publicly available on request. The State Budget Call Circular, State Budget Appropriation Law, Accountant General's Report and Auditor General's Report are produced for internal use only. The Quarterly Reports are not produced.

Public participation in the budget

Citizens and CSOs in Gombe state have no space to be involved in the budget process with a score of 0 out of 100.

Public access to procurement information

With a score of 30 out of 100, citizens have minimal access to procurement information in Gombe. The Due Process Office of Gombe regulates the procurement process. Tenders are publicly opened 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 Gombe state by timely publishing, online, the following documents:

- Request for Submission of Budget Estimates to MDAs
- Gombe State Appropriation Law
- Report of the Accountant General
- Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Government of Gombe State

The Ministry of Budget & Planning of Gombe state should do the following:

- partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish the Quarterly Reports and Mid-Year Review.

Public Participation

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Gombe 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 Gombe State House of Assembly should do the following:

- open 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 Due Process Guideline is enacted into law.
- the government should give the Due Process Office the authority to regulate all the procurement process in the state the resources necessary to fulfill its duty and establish a procurement complaint board that manages an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.
- the 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.

Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state