

KATSINA STATE

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