



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
KADUNA STATE

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Government of Georgia

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Executive Vice President for Integrated Strategies
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Dear Co-Chairs,

Application to Join the OGP Local Program: Call for Expressions of Interest

On behalf of the Government of Kaduna State, a sub-national government in Nigeria with a projected population of over 8 million people, I write to join the Open Government Program. Since the inception of this administration in May 2015, we have made frantic effort to ensure that we are open to our citizens who hitherto were not considered when issues of governance, planning, budget and infrastructure are deliberated upon. A citizen perception survey about government was conducted in mid-2015 and the result clearly shows that the citizens were not satisfied with the way government was run. It was supported by our partner, the Department for International Development (DFID) and implemented by the Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Project (IMP).

2. In order to correct the anomalies in governance and ensure that the people who are the ultimate key stakeholders in determining how their resources is utilized, Kaduna State Government indicated interest to

join the Open Government Partnership. Kaduna State has already subscribed to the OGP under the Federal Government of Nigeria as the first state to join. We believe that Open Government Partnership will further entrench the commitment of Kaduna State Government in area of fiscal responsibility, access to information and citizens' engagement. In the development of our 2016 – 2020 Kaduna State Development Plan, which is anchored on Jobs, Social Justice and Prosperity, a wide range of consultation were made with the citizens, starting with our people in the villages to the private sector and civil society. The document was crowd sourced were over 700 inputs were received from individuals within Kaduna, Nigeria and outside the shores of Africa. The document reflect the desire of the people and it is implemented through our annual budget.

3. Starting from 2015, when this government produced its first budget, a town hall meeting was held and the draft budget was presented to the public for scrutiny and suggestions. At the end of the engagement, the budget increased with over N3billion. This ensured inclusiveness and openness. Our subsequent budgets were more engaging as CSOs were part of the process from call circular for budget inputs by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to passage of the budget bill by the Kaduna State House of Assembly. Our engagement with the citizens does not only end at the development of these policy documents, but the people are also engaged in implementation and monitoring. Our government has ensured that every project to be contracted is advertised and open to be bid for by anyone within and outside the state irrespective of political, social, religious and ethnic affiliation. We have received testimonies from people expressing their joy on our openness to contracting, since one does not need to know the Governor or any top government official before is awarded a contract in as much that the contractor is qualified and has satisfied all the necessary conditions.

4. Kaduna State has been leading reform efforts to improve fiscal sustainability. The Fiscal Sustainability Plan built on five key strategic objectives – namely, Accountability & Transparency; Increase in Public Revenue; Rationalization of Public Expenditure; Public Financial Management Reforms and Sustainable Debt. Kaduna State has already met several commitments under the plan (e.g. publication of audited annual financing statements within 6 months of financial year-end. Online publication of state budget, implementation of Treasury Single Account, database of Kaduna State Internal Revenue Services linked to Federal Joint Tax Board, approval of Tax Codification & Consolidation Law, biometric capture of all State's civil servants to eliminate payroll fraud, establishment of Efficiency Unit and full implementation of Treasury Single Account (TSA).


5. To ensure that our projects are open to citizens for monitoring and criticism, we have developed Kaduna Citizens Feedback App. The app does not only allow you to interact with us, but it directs you to the nearest project within your location to enable the citizens have a look at the quality of work being carried out. The app is flexible and it is embedded under our "Eyes and Ears Project". The project is technology driven where our Monitoring and Evaluation Officers carry out their M&E functions using android phones to capture projects and is transmitted to me on real time basis. In the comfort of my office I can see what project is doing well or not. This has not only ensured our projects to be delivered on time, but has also ensured that quality is not compromised.

6. As part of our openness, we conduct monthly media chat where we give report of our stewardship to the people and the people phone-in to express their mind on issues bothering them. The platform provide assurance to the citizen that their yearnings are listened to directly by their Government and on our part we ensure that all request, criticism and complaints made are addressed within shortest possible time.

7. Kaduna State subscribed to join the OGP at the local level by writing a letter of intent to the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Justice in Nigeria. Within two weeks we received a reply accepting our request and provided us with guidelines on the necessary things to do. One of the basic requirement was to nominate Kaduna State Focal Person who will serve as liaison between the State and the OGP National Secretariat. We thereafter formed the Kaduna OGP Steering Committee made up of seven (7) government officials and CSOs in equal proportion. The Steering Committee is co-chaired by a government official and a member of CSO. Also, each of the commitment area has a Technical Working Group (TWG) which is co-chaired by members of the Steering Committee. Our choice of seven (7) co-membership of the Steering Committee is to ensure that there is a solid linkage between the Steering Committee and the TWGs in order to ensure full implementation of the Kaduna Action Plan (KAP). Each TWG is made up of members from CSOs and government side who have technical expertise and can drive the process of their commitment areas. The seven commitment areas subscribed by Kaduna State are as follows;

- i. Ensure more effective citizens' participation across the entire budget cycle.
- ii. Full implementation of Open Contracting and adoption of Open Contracting Data Standards in the public sector.

- iii. Adopt common reporting standards and the Addis Tax initiative aimed at improving the fairness, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the tax system.
 - iv. Improve the ease of doing business and Kaduna's ranking on the World Bank Doing Business Index
 - v. Improved compliance of public institutions with the Freedom of Information Act in respect of the annual reporting obligations by public institutions and level of responses to requests
 - vi. Develop a Permanent Dialogue Mechanism on transparency, accountability and good governance between citizens and government to facilitate a culture of openness.
 - vii. Adopt a technology-based citizens' feedback on projects and programs across transparency and accountability.
8. Another task in forming our OGP team was the formation of the CSOs component. The Coalition of CSOs in Kaduna State was saddled with the responsibility of electing the CSOs to form the Steering Committee and the TWGs. We allowed the CSOs to elect their representatives in order to ensure the persons so nominated receive the full support of the people they represent and also be accountable to them. In order to develop the Kaduna Action Plan on OGP, a workshop was held where a plan was developed. The Action Plan contain key and specific activities that will be conducted between 2018 –2019 that will ensure our commitments are implemented. At present, a draft document has been developed, it is being edited and put in proper framework before validation and launching of the document for implementation.
9. We hope to join the global space of OGP in order to peer review our efforts with other governments in the world with a view to better serve our people in their best interest. I assure you of the Government of Kaduna State interest and the commitment in this process and I look forward to contribute our quota in making governance at the global space opened and accessible.
10. Thank you.



Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, OFR
Governor