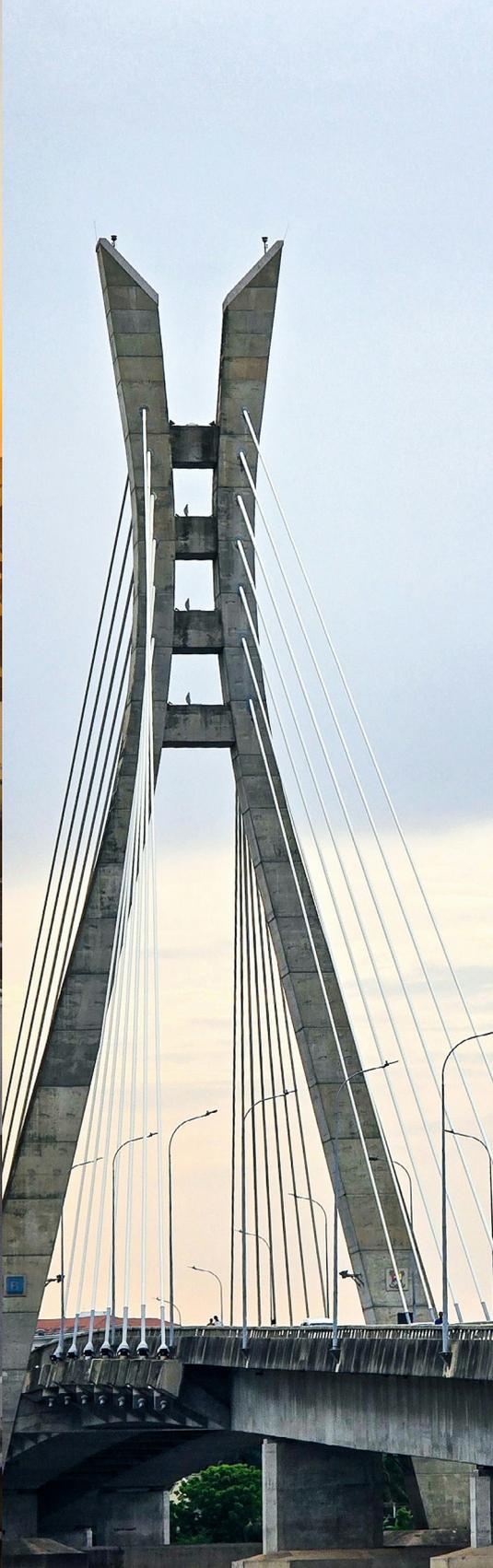




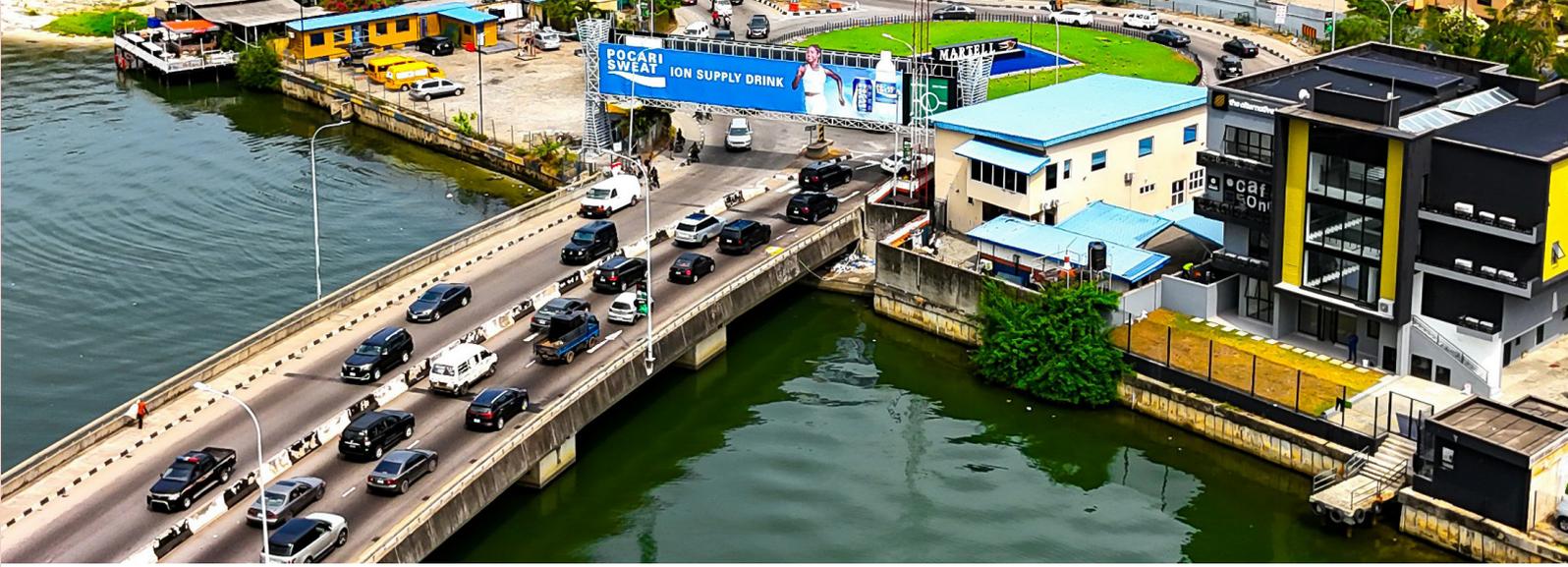
CITIZENS' GUIDE **TO DEMANDING BETTER** **INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA**

A PRACTICAL GUIDE EMPOWERING CITIZENS TO ADVOCATE
FOR IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE WHILE HOLDING
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE





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About InfraSpotlight

InfraSpotlight is a youth-led, non-governmental organisation and the knowledge hub for infrastructure development in Africa. Our theory of change is that awareness is the starting point for meaningful advocacy, engagement and change. We are on a journey to raising awareness of the state and trend of infrastructure in Africa, empowering people and communities with the right information to take local actions that will drive change and sustainable development. Our mission is to bridge the infrastructure knowledge gap by being the one-stop hub for accurate, reliable and up-to-date information on infrastructure issues and trends in Africa. InfraSpotlight is building the capacity of citizens, communities, development actors and key stakeholders in evidence-based advocacy, policy making and planning across the continent by increasing their knowledge of infrastructure development.

About the Citizens' Guide

This Citizens' Guide empowers Nigerians with the knowledge and practical tools needed to understand how infrastructure is planned and delivered, track projects in their communities, and demand transparency, accountability, and inclusive development from the government. It is a simple, accessible resource designed to help every citizen to play an active role in ensuring better, more equitable infrastructure for all.

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List of Abbreviations

AMMC - Abuja Metropolitan Management Council

BPP - Bureau of Public Procurement

CDA - Community Development Association

CISLAC - Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre

CSOs - Civil Society Organisations

EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment Act

FAAN - Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria

FERMA - Federal Road Maintenance Agency

FESTAC - African Festival of Arts and Culture

FOI - Freedom of Information

FRA - Fiscal Responsibility Act

HR - Human Resources

ICT - Information and Communication Technology

LASBCA - Lagos State Building Control Agency

LGA - Local Government Area

MTEF - Medium-Term Expenditure Framework

NEPA - National Electric Power Authority

NERC - Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission

NGOs - Non-Governmental Organisations

NIIMP - The National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan

NOCOPO - National Open Contracting Portal

PHCs - Primary healthcare centres

PPA - Public Procurement Act

SERAP - Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project

TCN - Transmission Company of Nigeria



1.

UNDERSTANDING INFRASTRUCTURE AS A CITIZEN

What is Infrastructure?

The term 'infrastructure' generally refers to the public services, facilities, and assets needed for society to develop. It drives industrial development and is the foundation for sustainable development.

According to the World Bank, infrastructure is classified into two: social and economic infrastructure. Social infrastructure enhances the wellbeing of communities and quality of life. This includes healthcare facilities, educational institutions, parks and recreational centres, public libraries, civic centres, etc.

On the other hand, economic infrastructure makes economic activities possible. They enable trade, enhance productivity, and foster growth. When we think about economic infrastructure, we think of railways, factories, mines, electricity, gas, and telecommunication. It also includes the drainage system, dams and irrigation, as well as everything relating to water ways, seaports, airports, and the urban transport network.

From the above, it is evident that infrastructure shapes our daily lives, community, environment, and the economy at large.

Why Infrastructure Matters in Your Daily Life

Think about this scenario - On a Monday morning, Ade woke up at his usual time of 5:00 AM. He reached for the switch, but the room remained dark. 'NEPA' had taken the light again. This was the fourth time in the year the national grid had collapsed. He went to the bathroom and turned the tap; only a trickle of water came out. With no electricity, it means the pump could not fill the water tank. His generator had just a little fuel, reserved for critical needs like charging his phone and powering his small room. He could not afford to waste it on pumping water. Frustrated, Ade reached for the emergency bag of "pure water" he kept for situations like this. It was never enough, but it would have to do.

With no electricity to iron his clothes, he put on a wrinkled shirt and hurried outside, trusting his blazer jacket to cover most of the wrinkle. By 6:00 AM, he was on the main road hustling for a bus to Obalende, clutching his bag to his chest to prevent missing items in the hustle. The crowd at the bus stop was a mix of traders as well as corporate men and women like him, all trying to squeeze into the limited number of buses. Because it was raining, the bus fare had increased by 50% and the drivers said the bad roads were harder on their vehicles.

The trip to work was very rough, filled with bumps and potholes. Unfortunately,

there was heavy traffic on Third Mainland Bridge. Typing quickly on his phone, Ade sent the Human Resource (HR) Manager a message: "Good morning, ma. I'm in a serious hold-up on the Third Mainland Bridge. I will be late to the office today." He finally arrived at his desk at 10:30 AM, one and a half hours late, tired and already exhausted before the day's work had even begun.

Let us identify the relevant infrastructure in Ade's day:

- **Electricity:** to iron his clothes, pump water, and charge his gadgets.
- **Clean water:** to have his bath and brush his teeth.
- **Public road network:** to transport him from his house to work.
- **Telecommunication/mobile data:** to update the HR at work about his situation.

The above story is simple and highlights the visible and invisible facilities that make modern life possible. Infrastructure helps us thrive as individuals and communities. It is even more obvious that infrastructure has both a direct and indirect impact on our quality of life as citizens. For instance, the lack of a good road and transport network as well as power outage led to a frustrating morning for Ade.

In the long term, Ade's work performance and quality of life could be negatively impacted. This shows that funding infrastructure is an investment in the health, safety, and economic well-being of every citizen of Nigeria.

Who is Responsible for Building and Maintaining your Infrastructure?

Who do you call when the roads are bad, when there is a nationwide blackout, or when the primary health centre is crumbling?

As cities expand, policymakers and town planners have the task of solving problems that stem from population growth and increased demand on available public facilities. Look at it this way: people frequently move to cities in search of better opportunities and greener pastures. As time goes by, existing facilities in the cities become inadequate. This population growth places a lot of strain on essential facilities. For instance, as the population grows, more people need housing, water and sanitation facilities, electricity, and so on. The pressure on the economy often hits the healthcare system hardest. When hospitals are too busy, they cannot serve a growing community well. This leads to overcrowding, long wait times, and poor medical service. To fix this, the government needs to build new infrastructure and maintain current facilities at the same time. If we do not keep investing in our infrastructure, facilities will eventually break down and be unable to

serve the population.

Maintaining infrastructure is also very important and it requires adequate planning. Maintenance means regularly checking facilities to keep public utilities running well. Due to their capital-intensive nature, public infrastructure is usually provided by the government. Building infrastructure is extremely expensive, which is why the government has to adequately budget for it as well as secure investment from the private sector to complement public funding.

Nigeria has **three** tiers of government: the Federal, State, and Local government. Their functions are highlighted below:

1. The Federal Government

The Federal Government has the responsibility for building and maintaining Nigeria's largest infrastructure projects. To accomplish this, the government operates through a network of specialised ministries, departments, and agencies. This approach ensures that large scale, national infrastructure projects are centrally coordinated across the country.

In the road transportation sector, the Federal Ministry of Works takes the lead under the leadership of the Honourable Minister of Works. This ministry is the primary force behind the planning, construction, and major rehabilitation of the country's Federal Trunk A roads and bridges. Trunk A roads and bridges are major highways that are designed for long-distance travel and are managed at the national level, making them different from local roads. Working closely with the Ministry of Works is the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), which focuses on road maintenance.

For broader transport networks, the Federal Ministry of Transportation, led by its own Minister, oversees major national projects like the railway system through the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the development of airports and air travel infrastructure managed by agencies such as the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).

Beyond transportation, the Federal Government is responsible for power supply through the Federal Ministry of Power. The Minister of Power sets a direction for the sector by working with other key agencies. For instance, the Ministry works with the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), which manages the national electricity grid, while the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), regulates the market. This sector ensures that electricity generation and distribution keep pace with the country's growing power demands.

Similarly, water supply and agricultural development fall within the scope of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Their respective Ministers champion the construction of large dams and irrigation systems, which are essential for both clean water supply and boosting commercial farming.

The Federal Government's infrastructure role also extends to social services, where the Federal Ministry of Health is responsible for building, maintaining and equipping Federal teaching hospitals and specialist centres, providing critical healthcare services under the guidance of the Minister of Health. In education, the Federal Ministry of Education oversees the development of federal universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education, ensuring the provision of tertiary education infrastructure across the nation.

In general, the Federal Government acts as the central planner and funder for Nigeria's strategic infrastructure. By delegating execution to expert ministries and agencies led by their respective Ministers and Heads, it ensures that major projects are systematically developed and maintained, forming the backbone of the nation's economy and public welfare.

2. The State Government

At the State level, infrastructure planning and maintenance are the direct responsibility of each of Nigeria's thirty-six (36) State Governments. Their focus is on the development and maintenance of the infrastructure facilities that serve their respective States and residents on a daily basis.

The State Governor acts as the primary decision maker for all state infrastructure, setting priorities and approving budgets for various projects. The actual work is carried out by specialised State ministries and agencies. For instance, a State Ministry of Works builds and maintains the internal State roads and bridges that link local towns and villages within the State. In the critical sector of healthcare, the State Ministry of Health is responsible for constructing, staffing, and running primary and secondary healthcare facilities, including general hospitals and primary health centres across the State.

When it comes to electricity, State Governments are increasingly taking a more active role. On 17 March 2023, the former President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Fifth Alteration (No. 33) Bill 2022 (the "Electricity Constitutional Amendment") into law. Before this time, States could only make laws on the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in areas not covered by the national grid system within that State. The Electricity Constitutional Amendment effectively changes the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) (the "Constitution") to empower States in Nigeria to make laws on the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in areas covered by the national grid system within the relevant State.

Furthermore, a State Water Board manages local water schemes, and the State Ministry of Education builds and maintains public primary and secondary schools, as well as State-owned universities and polytechnics. Hence, State Governments are the key players in developing local and State-based infrastructure. Through the Governor's leadership and its dedicated ministries, a State Government builds and maintains the schools, hospitals, local roads, and water systems that help citizens in their daily lives.

3. The Local Government

The Local Government is made up of the executive arm, the legislative arm, and administrative departments (see Appendix section). The Local Government Chairman and Vice Chairman head the executive arm. They make decisions, approve and supervise local projects managed by dedicated departments. On the other hand, the Local Government Council is the legislative arm, made up of the Speaker of the Council and Councillors elected from individual wards in the LGA. The Local Government Council plays a key role in identifying the community's most pressing needs. The primary role of Local Government Councillors is to listen to the people in their wards, understand the challenges they face, and speak about those issues in Council meetings.

Working with other Council members and the Speaker of the Council, Councillors make bye-laws and annual budgets. This determines where money is spent and what services (such as waste collection, parks, libraries, and roads) are provided or improved. The scope of their work is community-based and essential for daily living. A key responsibility is the construction and maintenance of inner-city roads, feeder roads within the local areas, and drainages that connect neighbourhoods. In the vital area of public health, the local government is tasked with managing primary healthcare centres (PHCs), which serve as the first point of medical contact for most citizens. They are also fundamental in providing basic sanitation services, including waste collection, public toilets, and the maintenance of local markets. Furthermore, their role in education involves managing and supporting the infrastructure of public primary schools and early childhood education centres within their jurisdiction.

Finally, the administrative departments manage the day-to-day activities of the Local Government. Each department: Health, Education, Works, Finance, Agriculture is headed by a secretary (or director) appointed by the State Governor and drawn from the civil service.

The Supreme Court of Nigeria, on 12 July 2024, delivered a landmark judgment affirming the financial autonomy of local government councils. The Court ruled that the seven hundred and seventy-four (774) LGAs should receive their statutory allocations directly from the Federation Account. Before this judgment, Section 162(5) of the Constitution provided that funds in the Federation Account which are meant to be credited to the Local Government shall be allocated to the State Government for the benefit of the Local Government on terms decided by the National Assembly.

The implication of this is that State Governments held and disbursed these funds to the Local Government. Now, the Supreme Court Judgment has stopped any possible misappropriation or diversion of funds that only the Local Government should benefit from. Also, the Local Government can now independently decide what those funds should be used for, based on their unique needs.

Overview of Infrastructure Planning and Budgeting

In Nigeria, Section 5 of the Constitution gives the Executive arm of government the responsibility to execute laws and policies. Section 81(1) of the Constitution says that every year, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall make sure that an estimate of the revenues and expenses of the country is prepared and laid before the Senate and House of Representatives in preparation for the next financial year, and this should be done at any time in each financial year.

In Nigeria, the Constitution says that the Executive arm of government (consisting of the President, Governors, Local Government Chairmen) is responsible for building infrastructure. However, no project can begin without following a legal process, that is, every infrastructure project must be included in the annual budget, and the National Assembly (or State House of Assembly for State projects) must approve that budget before any money can be spent. This approval is called “appropriation” because it gives the government legal permission to spend public funds on the listed projects.

As a citizen, you need to understand how the budget process works so you can track what infrastructure your community should receive and hold the government accountable when projects listed in the budget are not delivered. The budget is a public document, and you have the right to access it, see what projects were approved for your area, know how much was allocated, and demand answers when budgeted projects remain undelivered.

Stages of Infrastructure Budgeting in Nigeria:

- I. **Budget Preparation:** Each year, ministries and agencies submit their infrastructure needs and cost estimates to the Budget Office. The Executive (President or Governor) compiles these into a budget proposal showing all planned projects, their locations, and costs.
- II. **Legislative Approval:** The National Assembly (for Federal projects) or State House of Assembly (for State projects) reviews, debates, and approves or adjusts the budget. Only after this approval can the government legally spend money on infrastructure.
- III. **Implementation and Oversight:** The Executive awards contracts and builds the approved projects. The legislature monitors spending and can investigate delays, abandoned projects, or misuse of funds. Citizens can also monitor using platforms like National Open Contracting Portal (NOCOPO) and demand accountability.





2.

YOUR ROLE AS A CITIZEN IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Do you know that you have a role to play in infrastructure development? Yes! Every citizen must contribute to the community and the nation as a whole. These contributions expected of you are known as your civic duties and responsibilities. The beauty of infrastructure development lies in united efforts, driving the change that we want to see, especially because we are direct recipients of development. Remember that a nation is only as strong as its people.

Nigeria operates a democratic system of government. As such, citizens' participation is key to decision making, policy formulation, and constructive development.

Your Civic Duties and Responsibilities

As citizens, we have the power to determine who leads us, how governance should take its course, and assist with infrastructure planning that caters to our needs. Examples of your civic duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:



- 1. Informed Voting:** This is both a right and a duty as a citizen. It is a powerful tool in your hand to elect a responsible leader at all levels of government. In other words, you get to decide how the society is shaped, while facilitating good governance. One of the most powerful long-term responsibilities of every citizen is to vote for political candidates based on their credible plans and track record for infrastructure development, rather than on sentimental ties. By electing leaders who are genuinely committed to and competent in delivering public goods, citizens ensure that infrastructure planning and execution are in capable hands, which is the cornerstone of sustainable national development and an improved standard of living for everyone. Before you vote, pay attention to the candidate's manifesto for infrastructure development.
- 2. Payment of Taxes:** Taxes are dues that citizens pay from their income to contribute to developing a safe and functional society. The law prescribes the amount of tax which each citizen is obliged to pay. Essentially, your tax demonstrates your commitment to national development, and the government can utilise the funds raised through taxation to fix roads, build and repair schools, provide better healthcare, etc.

- 3. The Duty Not to Overload Vehicles:** Citizens have a key duty to avoid overloading their vehicles, as this causes road damages more quickly. An overloaded truck or bus exerts more stress on the road surface than a properly loaded one, directly leading to cracks, deep ruts and potholes that damage all other vehicles and cause accidents. This behavior forces the government to spend billions of Naira in taxpayer money on constant repairs, while also making the roads more dangerous for every other road user.
- 4. The Duty to Preserve Property and Report Damage:** As a citizen, you have a duty to actively protect public facilities like oil pipelines, transformers, and telecommunications infrastructure from destruction. When a transformer is tampered with, the whole neighbourhood is left with a blackout. Similarly, when pipelines are tampered with, it can cause dangerous explosions and environmental pollution. Also, stealing optical fibre and telephone cables cuts off internet and phone service for entire communities, and when schools are vandalised, students' education suffers. Every citizen should know that these facilities are our collective property, and it is our duty to protect them. If you see someone cutting a cable or tampering with a transformer, report them. This way, we can preserve public health, safety and the future of the community itself.
- 5. The Duty to not Build or Dispose Waste on Natural Waterways:** Waste disposal and building houses or shops on drainage paths, rivers, and other water bodies block the natural flow of water. When it rains, these blocked waterways have nowhere to go but back into our streets and homes. Obstructions to waterways directly cause the severe flooding that destroys houses, ruins properties, and forces families to flee their homes. Be mindful of this in order to protect the entire community from preventable disaster.
- 6. Abstaining from Illegal Wire Connections:** It is important to avoid illegal wire connections commonly known as 'tapping light' or bypassing metres. This practice is not a clever way to save money; it is a form of theft that damages the entire electricity infrastructure. Illegal connections overload transformers, causing them to burn out and throw entire neighbourhoods into prolonged darkness. They also lead to unstable and low voltage, which can damage appliances like fridges and televisions. Most importantly, exposed and poorly connected wires are extremely dangerous and can cause electrocution, fires, and loss of life. Using electricity legally helps us all to have a safer, more stable, and reliable electricity supply for everyone in the community.

The Power of Collective Voice

There is strength in unity. Imagine the transformer in your area stopped working and you are unable to carry out your household chores that require electricity. However, no one in your area is talking about this. You write a letter to the electricity distribution company in your State but all you hear after months is silence.

Compare this with a situation where everyone shares the same concern that the transformer has to be fixed immediately. Taking action, your community members call for a meeting where you all deliberate on the next steps and write a letter reflecting everyone's united decision, followed by consistent follow-up with the electricity distribution company. You are likely to see quicker results compared to when you act alone. That is the power of a collective voice!

In demanding better infrastructural accountability, this is the stance every citizen has to take. You have to demonstrate a united voice, simply because it carries greater weight.

Some Examples of Citizen-Led Impact

Across Nigeria, citizens in every region are demanding better infrastructure and holding the government accountable. Here, we will be sharing real-life stories of how citizens' participation has led to change in their communities.

FESTAC Residents Demand Urgent Road Repairs (Lagos, September 2025)

Hundreds of residents of Festac Town in Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos State, under the TakeBack Festac–Amuwo Fairstack Movement, recently staged a peaceful walk to highlight the poor state of infrastructure in their community and demand urgent government action.

Festac Town, once a prominent neighbourhood that hosted the world during FESTAC '77, has suffered years of infrastructural neglect. Residents pointed to badly damaged roads filled with potholes and a failing drainage system. These conditions have increased transport and logistics costs, making Festac one of the more expensive places to live in Lagos. Poor road access has also affected emergency response, with ambulances and police unable to reach residents quickly.

According to the Movement's coordinator, Valentine Uduebo, this was not the residents' first protest. Following an earlier protest on 7 July, about 20 trucks of granite were delivered to 2nd Avenue, alongside temporary repairs and the removal of some illegal structures. While residents saw this as a sign that their concerns were being acknowledged, the actions did not result in lasting road repairs. As conditions continued to worsen, they organised a second protest in September 2025.

Residents described the roads as dangerous, raising concerns about accidents and health risks, especially for pregnant women. Beyond the peaceful walks, residents have also engaged the media and held press briefings.

In September 2025, representatives of the Festac Town Residents' Association also visited the local government chairman's office, showing continued engagement through formal channels.

The Tunga Community Petition (Nasarawa, July 2024)

The Tunga community in Nasarawa State petitioned the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges, and Public Petitions, alleging that Triacta Nig. Ltd., the contractor for a road project, had abandoned the work. The indigenes, through their lawyer, claimed the contractor refused to complete the 118 kilometre road project worth N1.7 billion. They questioned why Triacta Nig. Ltd. would grade and pour laterite on the Tunga road if it was not part of the project. However, the Deputy Director of Triacta Nig. Ltd., Mr. Tayo Korede, responded that the contract agreement specified a different scope of work, that is, the Lafia-Obi-Awe section, which is 88km, not 118km.

Senator Imasuen stated that the Federal Ministry of Works, which awarded the contract, would be invited to clarify the discrepancies between the two conflicting documents. This is a good example of citizens identifying a discrepancy in project contract and speaking up.

Mokoloki's Transformation: When Light Brought Life (Ogun State, February 2024)



In Mokoloki Town, a rural community in Ogun State, Nigeria, residents received only three (3) hours of electricity each day. At the health clinic, women gave birth by torchlight as health workers held flashlights while delivering babies. The clinic had no working refrigerator, so vaccines and medicines got bad. Chief Alhaja Akamo, the "Onigbaje" (Head of commerce) of Mokoloki town, ran a shop for over forty (40) years but stopped selling food because everything spoiled without power for refrigeration. Even the Queen's ice-making business failed, and the Royal Guest House closed because generators constantly broke down.

A collaborative effort brought change. Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC), Nayo Tropical Technologies (a solar company), Mokoloki community leaders, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI - an international non-profit organisation focused on clean energy solutions), and Nigeria's Rural Electrification Agency

(NREA) worked together. To make contributing easier for community members, they were encouraged to donate land, labour, and security service that then goes into the balance sheet of the project in monetary percentage. The government created helpful regulations

while the private company invested money and built a 185-kilowatt solar system.

The results were instant. At the clinic, there was regular power supply for its services while businesses in the community boomed, bringing customers from neighbouring villages specifically to buy cold drinks. The school started computer training, and children could finally do their homework under proper lighting instead of struggling in the dark. Also, the town grew by 60%, from two hundred and fifty (250) to four hundred (400) households, as families moved to Mokoloki for reliable power. New businesses arrived, and profits doubled in eighteen (18) months. Soon enough, the electricity initiative needed expansion to cater to the growing demand.

The Mokoloki community owns a portion of the minigrid, takes part in decision-making, has women representatives in the decision-making body, and participates in a benefit-sharing model that allows the community to invest some percentage of the revenues from energy sales into community development projects. This shows that infrastructure building requires everyone's participation.

Lessons from these Citizen-Led Impact Stories

These examples show that when we decide to act, we can move the government to respond. Also, infrastructure development requires the joint effort of all stakeholders: the government, citizens, and private sector. The tools for change as demonstrated in the examples above are peaceful protests, formal petitions to Senate committees, public-private partnerships, attending town hall meetings to voice citizens' concerns, and leveraging external assistance, whether that is legal expertise like hiring a lawyer to represent the community or media connections.







3.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:
LAWS AND POLICIES THAT SUPPORT YOU**

As a Nigerian citizen, the law supports you as you demand for better infrastructure. This is because there are laws and policies that detail the government's role to build and maintain infrastructure, spend public funds appropriately, and answer to you. When you know these laws, you become empowered to ask for what your community needs. Understanding these laws equips you to confidently hold the government accountable.

The Nigerian Constitution

The 1999 Constitution is the highest law in Nigeria. Every other law must follow what the Constitution says. When it comes to infrastructure and your welfare as a citizen, the Constitution has clear provisions that protect your rights and place duties on the government.

- **Section 14(2)(b)** says that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government.” This means the government's main job is to take care of citizens and look after their welfare. To this end, infrastructure must be provided and maintained in the public interest.
- **Section 16** says the government must manage the country's resources for the common good of all citizens. This includes managing the economy to give you maximum welfare.
- **Section 17** says the government must provide equal opportunities for all citizens to earn a living, adequate shelter and food, as well as healthcare and education. Building and maintaining healthcare and educational infrastructure is an actualisation of this duty.
- **Section 18** says the government must provide free basic education for all children. Going by this, it is nearly impossible for the government to achieve this without adequate infrastructure and facilities for



education.

- **Section 20** says the government must protect the environment, including water, air, land, and forests. In particular, clean water is a basic right. Hence, the government in fulfilment of this section must ensure adequate water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure for all.

These sections create a clear duty for the government to provide and maintain infrastructure. When you demand better roads, water, electricity, schools, and hospitals, you are asking the government to do what the Constitution already obliges them to do. In modern democracies, we measure how well the government works by how well citizens are living. The Constitution recognises this by making your welfare the government's number one job.

National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP)

The National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan (NIIMP) is Nigeria's blueprint for boosting the nation's infrastructure stock over the next twenty-three (23) years. It was approved in 2014 and is expected to continue till 2043. It covers essential infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water, schools, hospitals, railways, etc. across the entire country. The Federal Government created this plan, hence, it is expected to implement it within the expected timeframe and according to set policy indicators.

The following are your rights under NIIMP:

- **Access to Information about Planned Infrastructure**

The NIIMP identifies all the infrastructure Nigeria needs in different sectors. Section 3 of the plan covers seven (7) important areas: roads and transport, electricity, internet and phones, water and farming, housing, schools and hospitals, and security. Chapter 4 of the plan shows what each part of Nigeria should get as it covers all six (6) geopolitical zones of the country. The government is mandated to share this information with the public as Section 7.2.5 states that "the Plan must be effectively communicated to the general public, to create awareness and public support for the plan." This means that you have the right to ask about the planned infrastructure for your community, the right to see if your community is included in this national plan, and demand that the government follow the plan as created.

- **Clear Implementation Timelines**

The NIIMP runs from 2020 to 2043 making twenty-three (23 years) in total. The plan divides projects into three groups based on timeline:

- **Short-term projects** which should happen quickly, within the first five (5) years from 2020-2025. These are called "quick wins."
- **Medium-term projects** should be done within five (5) to ten (10) years.
- **Long-term projects** will take twenty (20) to thirty (30) years to complete.



Since the plan has clear timelines, you can check if projects highlighted in the policy plan are on track. If a project was supposed to start in 2021 but nothing has happened by 2024, you should ask why this has been delayed. You can hold government officials accountable when they miss deadlines or when projects get delayed without good reasons.

- **Budget and Investment Information**

Section 2.4.1 of the NIIMP shows how much money Nigeria needs to build all the required infrastructure. The total amount is \$2.3 trillion over twenty-three (23) years. That means about \$100 billion every year. The plan breaks down the costs by sector. For example, electricity needs \$759 billion (33% of total cost) while roads, rail, and transport need \$575 billion (25% of total). The plan shows where every naira should go.

Chapter 6 of the NIIMP also explains where the money should come from. About 44% should come from government budgets (both Federal and State). The remaining 56% should come from private companies through partnerships.

You can use this information to check government spending. When the annual budget comes out, compare it to what the NIIMP says. If the government budgets less money than the plan requires, ask questions. If money goes missing while projects are not completed, demand answers.

- **Participation and Consultation**

The NIIMP was created with input from Government agencies, State Governments, private companies, universities, etc. all which contributed ideas. This is explained in the 'Acknowledgement Section' at the beginning of the document. State Governments are encouraged to create their own plans based on

the NIIMP. These are called State Integrated Infrastructure Master Plans (SIIMPs). Each State should plan according to its own needs. In fact, a workshop for all thirty-six (36) states and the FCT on developing SIIMPs was held in July 2023. This means communities should have a say in infrastructure projects. When the State government plans to build something in your area, you should be consulted. Your concerns should matter. The NIIMP supports the idea that people's voices should be heard.

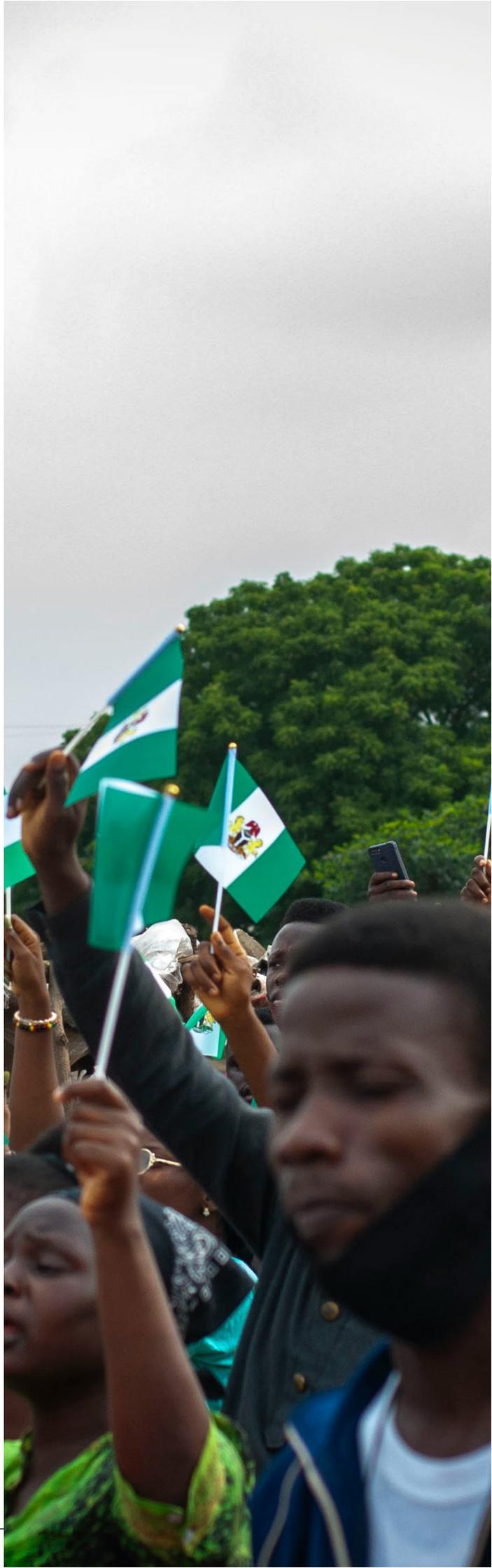
- **Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms**

The NIIMP created special offices to make sure the plan actually happens. The Infrastructure Delivery Coordinating Unit (IDCU) tracks all infrastructure projects. It is located in the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning. The National Council on Infrastructure, inaugurated in August 2022, is the top body that advises on infrastructure in Nigeria.

The government is supposed to produce Annual National Infrastructure Reports. These reports show what progress has been made each year. Reports were produced from 2016 to 2021. You can request these reports to see what is happening. If projects in your area are not moving forward, you can contact the IDCU and ask why targets are not being met.

Freedom of Information Act (2011)

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act was signed into law on 28 May 2011. This law gives you the right to access any information held by government and public institutions. The FOI Act was a response to increasing dissatisfaction about the secrecy in government policy development and decision making. For example, In Nigeria, Sections of the Official Secret Act and the Criminal Code prohibit the



disclosure of official secrets and they stipulate penalty for any violation. The FOI Act changed this. It says you have the right to know what the government is doing with public resources.

The following are your rights under the FOI Act:

- **The Right to Request any Public Information:** Section 1 of the FOI Act states that you can ask for information which is in the custody or possession of any public official, agency or institution. This means that you can ask for budget documents, project contracts, spending records, or any government information. You do not need to explain why you need it. Section 2 of the Act mandates public institutions to keep proper records of all their activities, operations and business; and make such information available in a manner that will facilitate easy public access.
- **The Right to Get Information Quickly:** Section 4 of the FOI Act states that the government must respond within seven (7) days. If they need more time, they must tell you why within those seven (7) days.
- **The Right to Know Why (if denied):** Section 7(1) of the FOI Act states that if the government refuses your request, they must tell you in writing why they refused and which section of the law allows the refusal.
- **The Right to Go to Court:** Section 7(1) of the FOI Act also states that if your request is wrongly denied, you can take the case to court within thirty (30) days.
- **The Right to See Erring Government Officials Punished for Violations:** Section 7(5) of the Act states that any official who wrongly denies you information can pay a fine of N500,000, while Section 10 of the Act provides that any official who destroys records to hide information can go to jail for at least one (1) year .

You must note that Section 27 the FOI Act protects government officials who release information in the public interest. This means officials cannot be punished for giving you information that exposes wrongdoing or helps the public. Information is power, and you can use the FOI Act to get the facts you need to demand better infrastructure.

Public Procurement Act (2007)

The Public Procurement Act (PPA) was passed in 2007 to eliminate corruption and wastage in the government's contract spending. Before this law, there were no clear rules for how the government should award contracts for building roads, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure. Additionally, public procurement accounts for about 65% of government yearly budget spending in Nigeria.

A World Bank investigation, under the President Olusegun Obasanjo administration, found that Nigeria was losing \$10 billion every year because of corruption in contract awards. The PPA was created to fix this problem by making the contract process open, fair, and transparent.

The following are your rights under the Public Procurement Act (2007):

- **The Right to See How Contracts are Awarded: Section 24** of the PPA 2007 states that all government contracts must be awarded through Open Competitive Bidding. This means the process must be public and fair, not given secretly to friends or family. By virtue of this provision, the PPA has clearly created a level playing ground for all categories of bidders in the procurement system.
- **The Right to Observe the Process: Section 19(b)** of the PPA 2007 states that the government must invite two credible observers from professional organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), or Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to watch every procurement process. These observers can report what they see to the public.
- **The Right to Demand Value for Money: Section 16(18)** of the PPA 2007 mandates the government to get the best quality at the best price; therefore, you can question contracts that seem overpriced or poorly executed.
- **The Right to Know Contract Details:** Both **Section 38(2)** and **Section 16(14)** grant the public the right to know who got a contract, how much was paid, what the contract covers, and when work should be completed.
- **The Right to Report Violations:** The Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) is the agency that enforces this law. You can report any contract awarded unfairly or any contractor doing poor work.

Now that you are aware of your rights under the PPA, you may demand accountability regarding how contracts are awarded, who the contractor is and how much they were paid, whether civil society observers were present during the bidding process, as well as whether the quality of products used is commensurate to the contract sum.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act was passed in 1992 to protect Nigeria's environment from damage caused by construction and development projects. Among other things, the Act enumerates a wide range of projects for which an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be carried out such as mining, petroleum, power generation and transmission.

Before any major project like roads, bridges, dams, mining, oil drilling, or power plants can start, the law requires the government or companies to study how the project will affect the environment and people living in the area. This protects you from projects that can contribute to flooding, pollution, erosion, or destroy your water supply.

The following are your rights under the EIA Act:

- **The Right to Know about Projects:** In pursuit of the environmental objectives stipulated under the EIA Act, every holder of an exploration license or mining lease is required to submit an EIA statement approved by the Federal Ministry of

Environment in respect of the mining operations to be conducted within the mineral title area.

The EIA Act grants Nigerians the right to be formally notified about proposed projects that may affect their environment. This is done through mandatory public notices. **Section 25(2) (Public Participation)** specifically states that the agency shall “ensure that the public is given the opportunity to examine and comment upon the environmental impact assessment...” Furthermore, the EIA process itself, as outlined in the Act’s schedules, requires the project proponent to publicise the project’s details and the availability of the EIA report, ensuring communities are not kept in the dark about potential developments.

- **The Right to Participate (Public Consultation and Hearings):** The Act clearly provides the right for the public to participate in the EIA process. Section 25(1) and (2) are the cornerstone of this right, mandating that “the agency shall... afford the public concerned an opportunity to comment on the environmental impact assessment.” This is not a mere suggestion; the Act mandates public hearings as a critical step for projects with significant potential impacts. However, this is not automatic. The Minister of Environment has the discretion to decide if a public hearing is necessary based on “public interest.” This gives Nigerians a direct platform to voice their concerns, ask questions, and present their views on the project’s potential effects on their land, health, and livelihood to the regulatory authority.
- **Right to Monitor Compliance:** You can check if projects are following environmental conditions and mitigation measures meant to protect your community. If a project is causing erosion, flooding, pollution, or destroying your water supply, you can rely on the EIA Act to demand that the government stops the project or forces the contractor to fix the damage.

The entire EIA Act creates a statutory duty, and any breach allows citizens to seek redress in court. **Section 2** of the Act states that if a project proceeds without an EIA, or violates any of its terms, any affected person can seek and obtain an injunction to stop the project due to the failure to comply with the mandatory procedures of the Act. This right is fundamental, as it provides the legal standing for citizens to act as watchdogs and hold both project executors and the government accountable.

Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA, 2007)

The Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) was passed in 2007 to ensure that the government manages public money responsibly. Fiscal responsibility means the government must spend wisely, collect revenue properly, control debt, and be transparent about how these your tax money. The law exists to ensure greater efficiency in the allocation and management of public expenditure, revenue collection, debt control and transparency in fiscal matters.

The following are your rights flowing from the FRA Act:

- **The Right to Prudent Borrowing and Responsible Spending:** The law stops the government from borrowing money carelessly. The government cannot just obtain loans at leisure. It must be clear that the loan is for a specific project which will help the country. Sections 41(1)(a) and 42(1)(a) of the FRA state that the government can only borrow for specific, capital projects that are included in the approved budget. They cannot borrow to fund regular, day-to-day expenses. The government must spend public money efficiently and only on projects that benefit citizens, not wasteful ventures.
- **The Right to Transparency:** The government must be open about how much money they receive, how much they spend, and how much they borrow. Before the government spends money each year, they must show you their plan (the budget). **Sections 13(1) and 14(1)** of the FRA state that the Federal Government's budget must be based on a "Medium-Term Expenditure Framework" (MTEF) which must be approved by the National Assembly and published in the Gazette. This publishing makes it a public document for all to see. This is done so you can see if the plans are realistic and if the money is going to important things such as good roads, schools, and hospitals.
- **The Right to See Budget Implementation:** The government must follow the approved budget with practical results.

If the government cannot account for the spending of public funds, they have violated the Fiscal Responsibility Act, and you have every right to demand answers.





4.

HOW TO TRACK AND MONITOR PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Identifying Ongoing or Planned Projects

Infrastructure development has far-reaching effects on the economy and citizens too. Well-maintained infrastructure means lower costs for goods and services, better quality of life, and a strong economy. Comparatively, abandoned projects, inflated contracts, and fake budgets thrive when citizens remain silent and uninformed. This section shows you exactly how to find information about projects in your community, monitor their progress, gather evidence, and report problems.

Before you can monitor infrastructure in your community, you need to know what projects exist. Think of this as your starting point because you cannot hold anyone accountable for something you do not know about. When identifying projects, ask yourself these key questions:

- **What projects exist in my community?** - Is there a road construction project? A new school being built or water pipeline installation?
- **Where are they located?** - On your street, in your local government, or State?
- **Who is responsible?** - Federal, State, or Local Government?
- **When should they start and finish?** - What is the project timeline?
- **How much money was allocated?** - What is the approved budget?

Finding answers to these questions puts you in a strong position to track progress and demand accountability. Here are some of the places to start looking:

I. Using Government Platforms

The Nigerian government has created several online platforms to make information about projects and budgets accessible to citizens. These platforms are powerful tools for tracking infrastructure in your community because they allow you to see what projects have been approved, how much money was allocated, and sometimes even the progress being made. The two most important platforms you should know about are **National Open Contracting Portal (NOCOPO)** and the **Budget Office of the Federation website**.

NOCOPO

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[Resources](#)

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Welcome To The Official Nigeria Open Contracting Portal (NOCOPO)
Track and manage contracts files of the federal government of Nigeria

Input Keyword

search for any project data

151,973	Planned Projects Count	24,973	Awarded Projects Count	4,973T+	Total Projects in Naira	91,973	Published Projects Count
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BUDGET DOCUMENTS

HOME / RESOURCES / INTERNAL RESOURCES / BUDGET DOCUMENTS

Budget Document

2026 Budget (2 Documents)	2025 Budget (6 Documents)	2024 Budget (10 Documents)
2023 Budget (64 Documents)	2022 Budget (57 Documents)	2021 Budget (29 Documents)
2020 Budget (65 Documents)	2019 Budget (15 Documents)	2018 Budget (8 Documents)
2017 Budget (38 Documents)	2017 Approved Budget (42 Documents)	2016 Budget (41 Documents)

NOCOPO is specifically designed to provide transparency in government contracts and procurement, showing details of contracts awarded across Federal ministries, departments, and agencies. You can search for projects by location, ministry, or contractor name, and see information like contract value, timeline, and the company awarded the contract.

The Budget Office of the Federation website publishes annual budgets showing how the government plans to spend taxpayers' money, including allocations for infrastructure projects in different States and sectors. By learning to use these platforms, you gain the power to hold the government accountable with officially released data.

II. Other Resources

Beyond government platforms, several civic organisations have created user-friendly tools specifically designed to help citizens track infrastructure projects, budgets and policies, and report problems. These platforms bridge the gap by collecting infrastructure data, making it accessible in simple formats, and providing channels for citizens to report issues directly.

- **SeraNova** is a digital repository for infrastructure policies across the African continent. SeraNova offers policy snapshots, in-depth policy analysis, policy status updates, all in one place. Nigerian citizens can use SeraNova to find and understand infrastructure policies that should be guiding national development. Search for Nigeria-specific policies on infrastructure and reference these policies in your letters and petitions to hold the government accountable to their own stated commitments.
- **InfraMoni** is an annual publication by InfraSpotlight focused on tracking, monitoring and reporting on infrastructure financing in Nigeria. InfraMoni provides citizens, development actors, public officials and key stakeholders access to the infrastructure finance and investment landscape in Nigeria.

- **Udeme Africa** is a social accountability platform designed to hold the Nigerian government accountable for funds released for developmental projects. Launched in February 2018, Udeme is a repository of capital and constituency project allocations from 2015 to date. You can use Udeme to search for capital and constituency projects in your area, verify whether allocated funds were actually used for the stated projects, report discrepancies between budget allocations and on-ground realities, and access investigation reports that expose corruption in procurement and project implementation.
- **Tracka** is a civic technology platform created by BudgIT that empowers Nigerian citizens to monitor government budgets and track public developmental projects in their communities. The platform enables active citizens to share photos, videos, and comments on existing infrastructure projects. Their advocacy work has achieved tangible results, such as completing a road project in Kilanko and Elegbede communities in Ilorin South LGA, Kwara State after five (5) years of engagement, and in Lagos, influencing the approval of one hundred and fourteen (114) road construction projects, 95% of which were roads Tracka had tracked and reported. The platform combines open data with social media tools to ensure public resources work for the people and that citizen voices are amplified and documented. Beyond physical infrastructure, they have launched PHC Accountability Tracka, a digital platform that enables citizens to review and report on community health facilities, which has generated about 40,000 feedback reports since July 2023.
- **Advokc Foundation** is a dynamic, youth-led civic technology organisation in Nigeria working to promote transparency, accountability, and positive change in governance. The platform tracks promises made by elected officials, reminds them about their promises, fact checks political statements, and advocates for improved climate policies. They rate campaign promises based on verifiable outcomes rather than intentions or effort, creating promise metres such as the 'Buharimetre' by analysing speech transcripts, TV appearances, position papers, and campaign websites. Using their Promise Tracker NG platform, Advokc's Legislative Agenda Metre tracks the performance of Nigeria's legislature. On 17 November 2025, Advokc revealed that only one (1) of twenty-eight (28) tracked promises by the 10th Senate has been kept while 82% have not been tabled or discussed.
- **Follow The Money** is a social accountability initiative by Connected Development (CODE) founded in 2012. A Nigerian NGO, starting after an investigation exposed lead poisoning that killed one hundred and sixty-three (163) people in Bagega community, Zamfara State. It is now the largest citizen-led socio-digital accountability movement in Africa, comprising a network of journalists, community champions, information analysts, legal practitioners, citizens and people who are passionate about development who track government projects and advocate for transparent government process. The initiative mobilised citizens through social

media to demand justice for children affected by lead poisoning, accelerating the disbursement of \$5.3 million by the Nigerian government for treatment and rehabilitation, and has since tracked \$13.5 million in government projects across three hundred and seventy-one (371) grassroots communities. The organisation collects, publishes, and visualises budget and aid spending data, connecting findings to social media networks to bring government attention to crises requiring resources or immediate action.

Community Monitoring and Evidence Gathering

Pay attention to what is visible around you. If you see construction work happening in your neighbourhood, walk closer and look for a signboard. Most construction sites are required to display a board showing the project name, how much it costs, who is building it, and when it should be completed. Take a picture and/or write down these details. If there is construction but no signboard, that is a cause for suspicion and further inquiry.

In Lagos, the enforcement is primarily handled by Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA). LASBCA requires that clients must display a board outside the site displaying the development permit number, title of project, the contact details of the owner and professionals involved in the project and the 'All Risk Insurance number'. Additionally, a copy of the approved plan must be kept on site. In Abuja, the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council (AMMC) enforces this.

Whenever you find information about a project, note the project name, location, budget, timeline, contractor, and where you got the information. Keep these records in a notebook or on your phone. This documentation is your tool for holding the government accountable. Remember that the government works for you, and you have every right to know what projects have been planned and funded for your community. Every step brings you closer to becoming an empowered citizen who can demand better infrastructure.

Reporting Problems or Delays

While monitoring a particular project in your community, you may notice something questionable. For example, the work that was scheduled to start in January has not started by October, or the contractor abandoned the site halfway through the project. Perhaps the project seemed rushed or the quality of work looks poor. What do you do next? This is where reporting comes in. Staying silent means nothing changes. However, not every small delay or hiccup in a project may require a formal report. Sometimes there are valid reasons for minor setbacks such as bad weather, a public holiday, or a brief shortage of materials. However, there are serious problems that you absolutely should not ignore. For instance:

- **When a project never starts:** Imagine you found out that N30 million was allocated in the 2024 budget to build a primary health centre in your community. The timeline says construction should begin in March. It is now October, and there is no sign of

any work, no land clearing, no workers. It seems that the project exists only on paper. This is a problem you must report.

- **When a contractor abandons the project:** It may be that the work has already started, that is, machines were laid out, the foundations were dug, and a few bricks were laid. Then suddenly, the workers disappear. Weeks turn into months, and the site sits empty, gathering dust and weeds. The project is now abandoned, and your community is left with an incomplete structure that serves no one. This deserves to be reported.
- **When materials are fake or inferior:** This occurs where contractors use cheaper, lower-quality materials than what was specified in the contract, pocketing the rest of the contract money. For example, they may mix the concrete with too much sand and water, making it weak. You may spot it by observing or you may become curious when so-called 'brand-new' structures fall apart quickly. This is something you should report.
- **When project materials or infrastructure are vandalised or stolen:** Sometimes, materials meant for construction such as cement bags, iron rods, pipes start disappearing from the site or perhaps a completed project, like solar streetlights or water pipes, gets vandalised or stolen shortly after installation. While this might not always be the government's fault, it still needs to be reported so security can be improved and replacements can be made. Infrastructure belongs to the community and we all must protect it.
- **When construction damages the environment:** Careless construction can cause serious harm. If a contractor blocks a natural drainage system while building a road, your street would flood every time it rains. Cutting down too many trees may contribute to erosion and dumping construction waste in a river would pollute the water supply. Environmental damage affects everyone's health and safety. If you notice construction causing harm to the environment, report it immediately.

When you see any of these issues, it is time to speak up, equipped with facts and evidence. By doing so, you bring attention to these issues and ensure accountability. Below is a simple step-by-step guide on how to report:

1. Take photos or videos with your phone showing the problem and write down the date when you noticed the issue. Remember to include the details (e.g. the project name, location, and the problem you noticed). You can find these details in the newspapers, or on the signboard at the project site reflecting the cost, contractor name, and timeline.
2. Choose where to report. Depending on who is responsible for the project, you can report to: your Local Government Chairman (for Trunk C roads and local projects), State Ministry of Works or relevant State Commissioner (for State projects), Federal

Ministry of Works or FERMA (for Federal highways), the Police, or civil society organisations who can help amplify your complaint.

3. Make your report through a formal letter or petition (see Chapter 6 of this Guide for detailed guidance), a visit to the official's office in person with your evidence, a call to government hotlines, by using online platforms like NOCOPO to report, contacting CSOs through their social media, or tagging relevant officials and agencies.
4. Keep records of everything. Save copies of all your reports, keep receipts if you delivered letters in person, screenshot any online reports or social media posts, note down the names of any officials you spoke to and the dates, and store all evidence (photos, videos, documents) safely on your phone and/or computer.
5. Follow up persistently. Give officials a reasonable time to respond (usually 2 - 4 weeks). If you do not hear back, follow up with a phone call or visit referencing your original report. If there is still no action, escalate by reporting to higher authorities or sharing your evidence with media and CSOs. Keep the pressure on respectfully but consistently until you see results.





5.

HOW TO DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY

Writing Petitions or Letters

Writing a formal petition or letter is one of the most effective ways to demand accountability from government officials. Although both petitions and letters help you to communicate your concerns, they differ in an important way.

A letter is typically written by one person or a small group expressing a complaint or request while a petition is a formal document signed by many community members showing collective demand for action. A petition demonstrates that an entire community is united in their concern, not just one individual. Both create an official record of your complaint and can be used as evidence if you need to escalate the issue later. The key to both is to be clear, factual, use respectful language, and specific. Officials receive many complaints, but those with solid evidence, precise details, and multiple signatures (in the case of petitions) could be harder to ignore.

Engaging Local Councillors or Traditional Leaders

Local Councillors are your elected representatives at the ward level. They sit on the Local Government Council and have direct access to the Local Government Chairman. On the other hand, traditional leaders are your Chiefs, Obas, Emirs, Igwes, Baales, and village heads. They are respected community leaders who also have the influence to speak on behalf of the entire community.

The first step to engaging Councillors or traditional leaders is to gather your facts. Remember that you must show that the issue truly exists with clear facts or evidence. Hence, your evidence includes photos of the infrastructure that needs fixing or the government's attention, documents reflecting the government's budget for it, and the signatures of other community members.

The next step is to approach your Councillor or traditional leader respectfully, following cultural protocols such as using their proper titles (Your Highness, Kabiyesi, Honourable), dressing properly depending on cultural or official protocol, and visiting during their known visiting hours. When you have been granted an audience, present your case clearly, showing that many people within the community share the same concern. Ask for the Councillor or traditional leader to organise a town hall meeting with government officials, visit the problem site, or write an official petition on behalf of the community.

When they call a meeting, mobilise as many neighbours as possible to attend, because it is better to demonstrate your collective concern with your physical presence. In other words, when you are present in your numbers, it shows that the entire community is watching and demanding accountability. Finally, assign a small group of community members to follow up regularly with the leader until you see the results that you desire, keeping the pressure on politely but persistently.

Community Engagement

Community engagement means using every available platform to raise awareness about infrastructure problems and pressure government officials to act. Town hall meetings are one of your most powerful tools because they bring officials face-to-face with citizens. Governments often announce new projects at town hall meetings, ward meetings, or Community Development Association (CDA) gatherings. Make it a habit to attend these meetings, or if you cannot, ask a neighbour to share what was discussed.

Whether these meetings are organised by local government, CDAs, or traditional leaders, they give you the chance to ask direct questions about projects in your area. It is good practice to attend these meetings well prepared. This means you already have questions you want to ask, backed up with verified facts rather than rumours. Listen carefully to the discussions and ask questions. Clearly and respectfully ask for timelines and budget figures for the projects in your community. If officials announce new projects at these meetings, ask about their plans for implementation and execution. The power of town hall meetings is that officials cannot ignore you when you are standing right in front of them, and when other community members support your concerns, it often creates immediate pressure for action.

Traditional and Online Media

Apart from town hall meetings, traditional media (radio, television, newspapers) and social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) also help you reach beyond your immediate community to create public pressure. Local radio stations often have call-in programmes where you can report infrastructure problems and question government officials live on air. Newspapers publish investigative stories when you provide them with solid evidence of abandoned or poorly executed projects; however, newspaper publications tend to be expensive for the average citizen.

On social media, you could post photos and videos of the infrastructure issue, tag relevant government officials and agencies (such as your State Governor, Ministry of Works, or Local Government Chairman), use hashtags to make your posts discoverable, and encourage neighbours to share and comment to increase visibility. When your complaint goes viral or gets media coverage, officials who might have ignored a private letter may suddenly pay attention because their reputation is now at stake publicly.

Remember to always be factual, respectful, and persistent as you keep posting updates, keep attending meetings, and keep the issue in the public eye until you see results. Silence protects poor performance, but when you engage loudly and consistently across multiple platforms, you make it impossible for the government to ignore your community's needs.

Working with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

Civil Society Organisations are non-governmental groups that exist to help citizens like

yourself to demand better infrastructure and hold the government accountable. They are organisations you can partner with. They have the expertise, networks, and resources to amplify your concerns on infrastructure development. In short, think of them as advocates who could help turn your individual complaint into a powerful campaign. When you report an abandoned project or poor infrastructure to a CSO, they can verify your evidence, add it to their tracking systems, help you draft stronger petitions, organise community meetings, get media attention, and even file Freedom of Information requests on your behalf. The value of working with them is that you gain protection through numbers and credibility through their established reputation.

To work with a CSO, follow these simple steps:

- **Find a CSO** working on infrastructure or governance issues in your area or online
- **Share your evidence** with them (photos, budget documents, community signatures), and
- **Work together for results** by staying engaged and helping to mobilise your community.

CSOs can connect your local problem to bigger advocacy efforts and keep pressure on officials until you see results. Examples of CSOs are BudgIT, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), and Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), and so on. When you combine your local knowledge and passion with their expertise and platforms, real change becomes possible.





6.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR ACTIVE CITIZENS

Sample Questions to Ask During a Town Hall or Community Meeting

1. What specific infrastructure projects are planned for our community this year, and what needs assessments informed these decisions?
2. Can you share the budget allocation for each project and explain how the costs were determined?
3. What mechanisms are in place to ensure transparency in procurement and contract execution?
4. Who is the contractor handling this project, and how were they selected?
5. What steps will be taken if the contractor fails to meet deadlines or delivers poor-quality work?
6. What is the project's start date, expected completion date, and key milestones along the way?
7. How will progress updates be communicated to the community, and how often can we expect them?
8. How is the project being monitored, and who is responsible for on-site supervision?
9. How does this project address the needs of women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities?
10. What provisions have been made to ensure the safety and accessibility of the infrastructure once completed?
11. How will rural or hard-to-reach parts of the community benefit from this project?
12. Is there a maintenance plan for this infrastructure, and what budget has been set aside for upkeep?
13. How can community members participate in monitoring or reporting issues during construction?
14. What lessons were learnt from previous projects, and how are they being applied to this one?
15. Are environmental and social impact assessments available for public review?
16. How are you ensuring that local workers and businesses are included in the project implementation?
17. What is the status of ongoing or stalled projects in our area, and what actions are being taken to address delays?
18. How can citizens access official documents such as project designs, bills of quantities, and procurement records?
19. What accountability measures exist if the project deviates from approved plans?
20. How will this project improve daily life in our community, and how will you measure its success after completion?

Sample Letter/Petition Template

[Your Address]
[Town/Community]
[State]

[Date]

[Name of the Official]
[Position/Title]
[Office/Ministry/Local Government Council]
[Office Address]

Dear [Title and Official's Name],
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION REGARDING [NAME/TYPE OF PROJECT] IN [COMMUNITY]

I am writing as a concerned resident of [community name] to request clarification and urgent action regarding the [describe the infrastructure issue or project], which has been affecting our community.

It has come to the attention of many residents that:

- [Briefly state the problem. For example: "the road rehabilitation project on Market Road has been abandoned since March 2024" / "the borehole commissioned in July is not functioning" / "the new school block approved by the State Ministry of Education is yet to be completed despite the approved budget of 25 million."]

This situation is causing the following challenges:

- [Describe impacts such as safety risks, economic hardship, delays for school children to access quality learning facilities, etc.]

In line with our rights to information under [Cite the Relevant Law e.g. Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act (2011)], transparency, and community engagement in public projects, I respectfully request the following:

1. The current status of the project, including reasons for any delays or changes.
2. Details of the contractor, project cost, and expected completion timeline.
3. Steps your office is taking to address the issue and ensure quality delivery.
4. Opportunities for community members to participate in monitoring progress going forward.

As citizens, we are committed to supporting government efforts to improve infrastructure, and we believe that open communication will help ensure the project is completed to benefit everyone.

I kindly request a written response within seven (7) days, in line with Section 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (2011).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and to seeing progress on this important community project.

Yours faithfully,
[Your Name]
[Phone Number]
[Email Address]



7.

**ACTIONABLE ADVOCACY -
WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY!**

Simple Action Steps for Individuals and Communities

Primarily, infrastructure should improve our lives. When projects fail, remain incomplete, or money disappears, it affects everyone. You have the right to know how public funds are spent and to demand quality infrastructure. Both individuals and communities have roles to play.

As an **individual**, you can:

- Document the problem
- Ask questions about the project
- Report it (see the section on 'Reporting Problems or Delays' above)
- Follow up on letters and petitions that you submit about infrastructure complaints

As a **community**, you can:

- Hold regular community meetings
- Select representatives to visit the project site and give reports
- Take pictures and gather evidence of the project site
- Request meetings with your Local Government Chairman, Councillor or traditional ruler
- Write a petition and get community members to sign
- Submit your petition to the local government, State Governor, or anti-corruption agencies in cases of suspected corruption

Creating or Joining Local Accountability Groups

Local accountability groups are groups where citizens come together to monitor government projects and spending in their community. They are neighbourhood watch teams for public funds, tracking how money is spent, whether projects are completed properly, and holding officials responsible for their promises. What are the benefits of creating or joining local accountability groups?

First, there is strength in numbers. When you walk into a government office alone with a complaint, you could be ignored or dismissed. Comparatively, when ten (10) or twenty (20) community members arrive together with the same concern, or submit a petition signed by one hundred and fifty (150) community members, officials are more likely to pay attention. This is the power of accountability groups. They amplify your voice and multiply your impact.

Additionally, different people can use their specialised skills for the group's benefit. For instance, someone knows how to read budget documents, another person is good with gathering evidence or taking photos, someone else speaks confidently in meetings, and another has connections to the media. When you come together, you combine these different strengths into something that drives change.

Again, in accountability groups, everyone learns from one another. The person who does not understand budgets begins to learn and develop confidence simply by watching other people speak up. Soon, everyone develops new skills and responsibilities. Essentially, creating or joining an accountability group is empowering, contributing to the good of the community and the individuals involved.

To find existing accountability groups, you can:

- Check with your CDA
- Look out for town hall meeting announcements
- Attend public events where you will meet other people interested in driving infrastructural accountability
- Search local civic groups on social media - Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram etc.

In a nutshell...

Infrastructure is not just about roads, bridges, or water pipes. It is about the quality of life you, your loved ones and every citizen deserve. Every pothole you avoid, every light that stays on, every tap that flows with clean water represents a promise that the government must keep to its people. This Guide aims to equip you with the tools to hold those in power accountable. Change does not happen overnight, and it rarely happens without pressure from citizens like you.

Whether you start by documenting an abandoned project, attending a town hall meeting, or joining a community accountability group, you are taking a stand for a better Nigeria. Your voice matters. Your evidence matters. Your persistence matters. When you demand accountability, you are exercising your democratic rights and building the nation we all want to see. The power to transform our infrastructure does not solely reside in government offices, but in our hands. Now is the time to use it wisely and collectively, and never stop demanding the infrastructure that every Nigerian deserves.



APPENDIX

Appendix I - Glossary of Key Terms

- **Appropriation-** The process of legislative approval of the annual budget.
- **Environmental Impact Assessment-** An assessment of the potential impact of a project on the impact, usually carried out before implementation of the project.
- **Infrastructure-** The services that facilitate economic activity and social well-being.
- **Infrastructure Stock-** The total value of a country's infrastructure, usually expressed as a percentage of its Gross Domestic Product.
- **Open Competitive Bidding-** A process of awarding government contracts in a transparent manner whereby qualified candidates are invited to submit bids and the bids are evaluated on a clear criteria before the contract is awarded.
- **Public Procurement-** The process by which government entities acquire goods or services from private suppliers.



APPENDIX II - CONTACT LIST OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT BODIES AND CSOS WITH HOTLINES

	FUNCTION	CONTACT
Budget Office of the Federation	Responsible for preparing, implementing and monitoring the Federal budget.	Email: info@budgetoffice.gov.ng contact@budgetoffice.gov.ng
BudgIT	Uses data and technology to promote budget transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement.	Email: info@budgit.org Phone number: +2349083331633
Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE)	Responsible for implementing the government's privatisation and commercialisation policies.	Email: info@bpe.gov.ng Phone number: +2342094604401
Bureau of Public Procurement	Sets the rules and monitors how all Nigerian government agencies procure goods and services to ensure fairness, transparency, and value for money.	Email: info@bpp.gov.ng
Centre for Fiscal Transparency & Public Integrity	Advocates for fiscal transparency and public sector integrity.	Email: mail@fiscaltransparency.org Phone number: +23492921659
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)	Promotes accountability, democratic governance, and anti-corruption initiatives in Nigeria.	Email: info@cislacnigeria.net Phone number: +2347034118266

	FUNCTION	CONTACT
Connected Development (CODE) – Follow The Money	A civil society organisation whose mission is to strengthen local communities through platforms that empower Nigerians to hold the government accountable.	Email: info@connecteddevelopment.ng Phone number: +234(09) 2917545
Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy	The Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy is the government ministry that creates and oversees policies to develop Nigeria’s	Email: info@fmcide.gov.ng
Federal Ministry of Housing & Urban Development	Responsible for managing land, providing housing, and planning sustainable city development across Nigeria.	Email: info@fmhud.gov hmregistry@fmhud.gov.ng hmsregistry@fmhud.gov.ng psregistry@fmhud.gov.ng Phone number: 234-(0)-9122058161
Federal Ministry of Power	Responsible for policies that support power generation in Nigeria.	Email: info@power.gov.ng
Federal Ministry of Transportation	Ensures fast, safe, efficient, affordable, and convenient transport systems that help Nigeria’s developmental needs and enhance the quality of life for all Nigerians.	Email: info@transportation.gov.ng
Federal Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation	Ensures sustainable development, management, and regulation of Nigeria’s water resources	Email: info@waterresources.gov.ng Phone number(s): + (234) 706 145 0955 + (234) 818 433 8544

	FUNCTION	CONTACT
Federal Ministry of Works	Responsible for planning, constructing, and maintaining Nigeria's federal roads.	Email: info@fmw.gov.ng Phone number: +2349122058161
Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA)	Ensures safer roads for Nigerians through surveillance, maintenance and repairs.	Phone number(s): +2348181994447 +2349060001490
Fiscal Responsibility Commission	Established to enforce transparency and accountability in Nigeria's public financial management.	Email: info@frc.gov.ng Phone number: +2348149095640
InfraSpotlight	Raises awareness and provides reliable information on infrastructure development.	Email: hello@infraspotlight.com
Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission	Facilitates and coordinates public-private partnerships for infrastructure projects.	Email: info@icrc.gov.ng Phone number :+234-9-4604900
Learn Politics	Learn Politics is an initiative that is aimed at fostering an engaged citizenry and providing comprehensive political education through courses and programmes.	Email: info@learnpolitics.ng
National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA)	Established to improve access to quality primary healthcare services, immunisation coverage, and promote sustainable health initiatives for Nigerian communities	Email: info@nphcda.gov.ng Phone number(s): +2349093995444 +2349112117897

	FUNCTION	CONTACT
Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)	Safeguards the use of telecommunication users, prevents monopoly of service providers, and ensures that service providers comply with regulations.	Email: ncc@ncc.gov.ng Phone number(s): +23420946175148 +2342094617000
Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation	Responsible for auditing accounts and financial records for all Federal ministries, departments, and agencies in Nigeria	Email: - Phone number: +2347074411121
OrderPaper Advocacy Initiative	Provide simple and reliable parliamentary data that empowers citizens to take action and enable informed decision-making for good governance.	Email: info@orderpaper.ng Phone number: +2347047003031
Policy Alert	An NGO on a mission to deepen citizen's engagement with policy processes using technology and data, across state and local levels	Email: info@policyalert.org Phone number: +2348034984063
Public and Private Development Centre (PPDC)	Empower citizens to actively participate in legislative processes to make the government more transparent and accountable.	Email: info@ppdc.org
Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP)	Promotes socio-economic rights through legal advocacy	Email: info@serap-nigeria.org Phone number: +2348160537202



APPENDIX III - ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF LGAs IN NIGERIA



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