

REPORT ON THE CITIZENS' TOWNHALL MEETING FOR THE KANO STATE 2027 BUDGET (BICHI ZONE)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On **September 13, 2026**, the **Ministry of Planning and Budget (MoPB), Kano State**, in collaboration with the **Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI)** and the **Kano Budget Working Group (KBWG)**, convened a Citizens' Townhall Meeting for the Bichi Senatorial Zone.

Held in accordance with **Section 10(3) of the Kano State Public Financial Management (PFM) Law 2020**, the event brought together key government officials, traditional institutions, civil society organizations, community leaders, and diverse social groups from eight Local Government Areas (LGAs) to collate community-driven development priorities for incorporation into the upcoming Kano State 2027 Budget.

2. EVENT DETAILS & ATTENDANCE

- **Date:** September 13, 2026
- **Location:** Bichi Zone, Kano State
- **Organizer:** Ministry of Planning and Budget (MoPB), Kano State
- **Co-organizers / Partners:** Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI) & Kano Budget Working Group (KBWG)
- **Facilitator:** Mal. Safiyanu Bichi (*Chairman, Kano Budget Working Group*)

Coverage (Participating Local Government Areas)

1. Bichi
2. Tsanyawa
3. Kunchi
4. Dawakin Tofa
5. Tofa
6. Bagwai
7. Shanono / Danbatta (*Danbatta LGA*)
8. Makoda

Key Dignitaries & Representatives

- **Secretary**, Bichi Local Government Area
- **Representative of the District Head** of Bichi

- **Representative Village Heads** across Bichi Zone
- **Representatives** from the Kano State Ministry of Planning and Budget (MoPB)
- **Hajiya Fatima Musa**, leading the delegation from Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI)

Stakeholder Groups in Attendance

The meeting featured multi-stakeholder representation to ensure broad grassroots participation:

- Trade Unions
- Islamic Scholars (*Ulama*)
- Teachers & Educationist Unions
- Youth Associations
- Women Groups
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) & Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

3. PROCEEDINGS

4. KEY DELIBERATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

A. Goodwill Message & Gender-Responsive Education Budgeting (BCAI)

Delivering the goodwill message on behalf of **Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI)**, **Hajiya Fatima Musa** stressed the imperative of **Gender-Responsive Education Budgeting (GREB)** and inclusive citizen participation frameworks. Highlights included:

- **Equity in Resource Allocation:** Ensuring education budgets specifically address gender disparities, such as girl-child enrolment, retention, and safe learning environments.
- **Sustained Funding:** Advocating for increased, timely, and targeted releases of funds for primary and secondary education across the zone.

B. Budget Performance Presentation (MoPB & KBWG)

Facilitated jointly by representatives of the **Ministry of Planning and Budget** and **Safiyanu Bichi** (*Chairman, KBWG*), this presentation provided participants with:

- An overview of the previous and current budget performance metrics in Kano State.
- Clarifications on public budget mechanics, emphasizing that a budget translates policy into actual community development.
- The legal backing under **Section 10(3) of the Kano State PFM Law 2020**, mandate-driven citizen input inclusion.

5. CITIZEN CAPACITY & TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK

Participants were briefed on the core concepts of the public budget process to ensure that inputs generated during the session were structured, realistic, and actionable.

BUDGET CYCLE:

Planning → Preparation → Legislative Review & Approval → Assent → Implementation → Monitoring & Evaluation

Key Conceptual Focus Areas:

1. **Why Citizens Participate:** To help the government understand real, localized priorities; ensure equitable resource distribution; and promote transparency.
2. **Focus Sectors for 2027 Inputs:**
 - **Education:** School repairs, recruitment, instructional materials, girl-child facilities.
 - **Healthcare:** Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) upgrades, staffing, maternal care facilities.
 - **Water & Sanitation:** Clean water supply, boreholes, sanitation infrastructure.
 - **Infrastructure:** Feeder roads, access routes, community electrification.
 - **Agriculture & Livelihoods:** Fertilizer access, extension services, youth/women economic empowerment.
 - **Environment & Climate Resilience:** Erosion control, afforestation, drainage management.
3. **Budget Input to Budget Tracking:** Emphasized that engagement does not end with input submission. Citizens were encouraged to follow the life cycle from *Allocation* → *Release of Funds* → *Project Implementation* → *Monitoring* → *Completion*.

6. MAIN TECHNICAL SESSION: GROUP WORK & CITIZEN INPUTS

During the main technical session (11:00 AM – 3:45 PM), participants split into working groups organized by Local Government Areas (**Bichi, Tsanyawa, Kunchi, Dawakin Tofa, Tofa, Bagwai, Danbatta, and Makoda**).

Each group utilized the standardized documentation template to execute a four-step framework:

\text{IDENTIFY} \rightarrow \text{DISCUSS} \rightarrow \text{PRIORITISE} \rightarrow \text{DOCUMENT}

Summary of Priority Focus Areas Across LGAs:

- **Gender Budgeting & Social Inclusion:** Dedicated allocations for women-led agricultural initiatives, vocational centers, and girl-child education retention support.
- **Primary Health Care (PHC) Upgrades:** Urgent rehabilitation and staffing of rural health centers in hardship communities across Kunchi, Makoda, and Bagwai LGAs.
- **Potable Water Supply:** Provision of solar-powered motorized boreholes to reduce waterborne illnesses in rural communities.
- **Feeder Roads & Rural Infrastructure:** Rehabilitation of farm-to-market access roads across Dawakin Tofa, Tofa, and Tsanyawa LGAs to support agrarian trade.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

1. **Integration into 2027 Draft Budget:** The Ministry of Planning and Budget (MoPB) should synthesize and prioritize the collated template inputs into the state's 2027 Budget Estimates.
2. **Sustained Gender Responsiveness:** Maintain close synergy with organizations like BCAI to embed gender-responsive budgeting tags across sector line items.
3. **Grassroots Budget Tracking:** CSOs, CBOs, and community leaders in the Bichi zone should form local monitoring committees to track project execution once the budget is passed into law.
4. **Feedback Loop:** The MoPB should return to the zone with a feedback report detailing which citizen inputs were successfully incorporated into the final approved budget.

8. CONCLUSION

The Bichi Zone Citizens' Townhall Meeting successfully provided a legitimate, legal, and collaborative platform for direct community involvement in the Kano State 2027 Budget formulation. The active participation of government representatives, traditional institutions, Civil Society, and marginalized interest groups underscores Kano State's commitment to participatory governance and transparent public financial management.