

REPORT OF THE ONE-DAY TOWN HALL MEETING ON CITIZENS' INPUTS INTO THE KANO STATE 2025 BUDGET HELD AT GAYA CLUSTER, KANO STATE

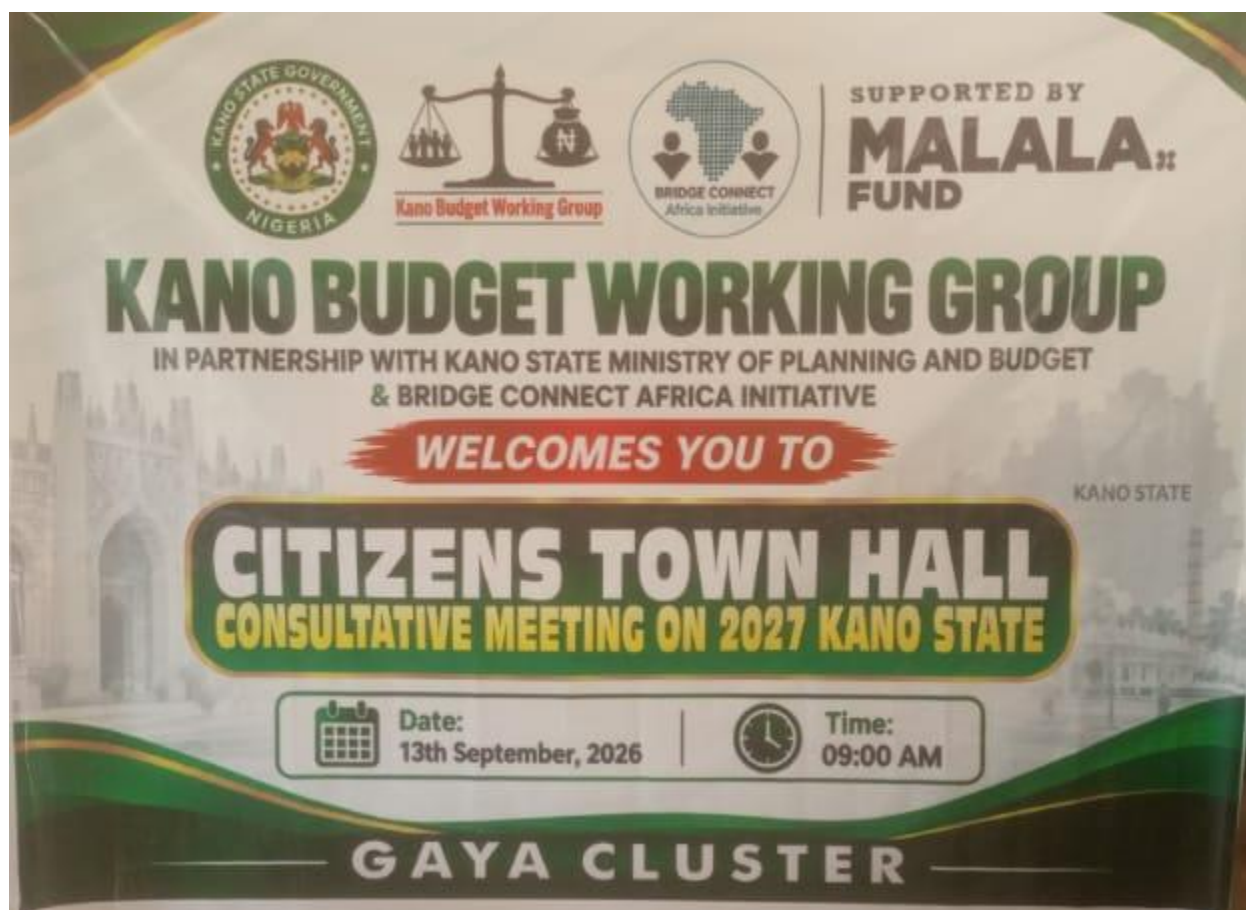
Date 13th September 2026

Venue: Gaya Emirate Cluster, Kano State

Team Lead: Dr. Abdussalam Muhammad Kani

Background

The preparation and implementation of a credible public budget are central to effective governance, resource allocation and the delivery of development outcomes. Citizen participation in the budget process is therefore essential to ensuring that public resources respond to the priorities and needs of communities.



In line with the provisions of the Kano State Public Financial Management Law, 2020, the Kano Budget Working Group (KBWG), in collaboration with the Kano State Ministry of Planning and

Budget and Bridge Connect Africa, organised a one-day town hall meeting at the Gaya Emirate Cluster to sensitise citizens on the budget process and provide a platform for the generation and collation of citizens' inputs into the State budget.



The meeting brought together representatives of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), the

Ministry of Planning and Budget and other relevant stakeholders. The session provided an opportunity for participants to better understand the budget cycle, fiscal management and the importance of citizen engagement in budget formulation, monitoring and accountability.



The objectives of the town hall meeting were to create awareness among participants on the State budget process and its importance; promote citizens' participation in budget monitoring and tracking; and facilitate the collation of citizens' inputs in accordance with the Kano State PFM Law, 2020.

Following the welcome address, goodwill messages and introductory remarks by representatives of the participating institutions, Dr. Abdussalam Muhammad Kani, the facilitator, delivered a presentation on the budget process and its importance. The presentation generated discussions and questions on public finance, fiscal responsibility, debt management and the role of citizens in promoting transparency and accountability.

Key Observations and Issues Raised

The discussions highlighted a number of issues relating to public debt management, fiscal transparency and accountability in Kano State. Participants noted that the State's current debt position, as discussed during the session, appeared to remain within manageable limits, but emphasised the need for continued vigilance to preserve debt sustainability.

Concerns were raised regarding inconsistencies between debt data published by the State and information released by the Federal Debt Management Office, which could create difficulties for citizens and other stakeholders seeking to understand the State's debt position. Participants also observed that the State's economic growth and revenue-generation potential should be better leveraged to strengthen fiscal capacity and reduce pressure on debt financing.

The meeting further raised concerns about the need for more regular and coordinated auditing of public debt data by the relevant financial oversight institutions. Participants also identified insufficient information exchange among the Debt Management Office, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Accountant-General, Office of the Auditor-General and Ministry of Planning and Budget as an issue requiring attention.

Participants emphasised that delayed publication of debt-stock and debt-service information could affect transparency, accountability and investor confidence. They also observed that limited public enlightenment on public debt and inadequate access to relevant debt publications and audit information constrain citizens' ability to engage meaningfully in public debt management.

Another issue raised was the need to establish the Consolidated Debt Service Account contemplated under the Kano State Debt Management Law, 2021, to support the orderly management of the State's debt-service obligations. Participants also raised concern regarding the presentation and public disclosure of the annual debt report by the Commissioner of Finance to the Kano State House of Assembly as required by the applicable legal framework.

Recommendations

Based on the discussions, participants recommended the development and implementation of a comprehensive debt-management framework that places strong emphasis on transparency, accountability and fiscal sustainability. They also called for deliberate strategies to diversify the State's revenue base and reduce excessive reliance on debt financing, while ensuring that borrowed funds are channelled towards projects capable of generating significant economic and social returns.



Participants recommended strengthening public financial management systems, budgetary

controls and debt-reporting mechanisms, alongside continuous capacity building for officials responsible for fiscal planning and debt management. They further stressed the need to reconcile State debt records with those of the Federal Debt Management Office to ensure consistency and credibility of published information.

The meeting also recommended stronger collaboration with relevant federal and international financial institutions to explore appropriate concessional financing opportunities and the development of a detailed action plan based on the findings of the Debt Sustainability Assessment and Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy, with clear responsibilities and timelines.

Participants called for regular follow-up engagements to assess progress and adjust strategies where necessary. They recommended the establishment and proper funding of the Consolidated Debt Service Account, including the provision for its replenishment through the annual budget as appropriate.

The meeting further proposed the establishment of a Joint State and Local Government Revenue Committee to facilitate dialogue on revenue generation and distribution, consider the contribution of individual Local Governments and periodically review revenue performance and related fiscal matters.

Participants emphasised that citizen engagement, fiscal transparency and access to information are important elements of open and accountable government. The Debt Management Office was therefore encouraged to strengthen public sensitisation on public debt, its role in financing development and the implications of debt sustainability, while ensuring that relevant debt data, audit reports and publications are accessible to citizens.

For enhanced public accountability, participants also recommended that the annual debt report be submitted to the Kano State House of Assembly in accordance with the applicable law and appropriately published for public access, including through relevant official and public communication channels.

Conclusion

The town hall meeting provided an important platform for citizens and stakeholders in the Gaya Emirate Cluster to engage on public finance, budgeting, debt management, transparency and

accountability. The discussions demonstrated the importance of sustained citizen participation and access to credible fiscal information in strengthening public financial management.

The meeting reaffirmed the need for stronger coordination among fiscal institutions, improved debt-data management and disclosure, sustainable revenue mobilisation, prudent borrowing, effective use of borrowed resources and continuous public engagement.

The successful implementation of these recommendations will require sustained collaboration among the Kano State Government, relevant MDAs, Local Governments, civil society organisations and citizens. Continued town hall engagements and other participatory mechanisms should therefore be maintained to ensure that citizens remain informed and able to contribute meaningfully to the State's budget and fiscal management processes.

Dr. Abdussalam Muhammad Kani

KBWG Team Lead, Gaya Cluster



CITIZENS TOWNHALL MEETING ON 2027 KANO STATE BUDGET
PARTICIPANTS ATTENDANCE

S/N	Names		LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Phone Number	Sign
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2	Emack	Abdulaziz	Ajingi	08066325418	
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4	Haruna	Hamza	Min of planning	08035940506	
5	Shehu	ABDU	GATA	08166525100	
6	Fusef	AMIN	GATA L.G.A	07038418924	
7	Shehu	CHARBA	GATA	68635031736	
8	ZUBAIRU	ALI	GATA	08101943758	
9	IBRAHIM	SABO	GATA	07031229093	
10	ALITU	ABDULKABIR IBRAHIM	GATA L.G.A	07068533351	
11	NAZIRU	DALHA	GATA L.G.A	08100621271	
12	MAGI	MUHAMMAD	0810004		
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Kano Budget Working Group

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18	Umaru Umaru	Gaya	09129313521	1
19	Sani Adamu Hamza	Gaya	08069664715	1
20	SURITA UMAR	Gaya	09076736351	1
21	Shahman Sani Bello	Gaya	08160251112	1
22	Mutari MOTO	Gaya	0901148548	1
23	Muwa Dahir	Gaya	08123282506	1
24	Amira Adamu Hamza	Gaya	09067311429	1
25	Hafsat ABUBAKAR BAKIR	Gaya	09120970309	1
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27	Idrus Nuhu	Gaya	07031305272	1
12	Aisha Habibu Adam	GAYA	08128343944	1
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14	ABASURU ORATHIN ALI	Gaya	07087093709	1
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Womens Budget Working Group		Womens Budget Working Group		Womens Budget Working Group	
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27	Ino Adamu	Gaya	08037573295		
12	Zahraddaen I. Abubakar	Gaya	08036874535		
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& BRIDGE CONNECT AFRICA INITIATIVE

WELCOMES YOU TO

CITIZENS TOWN HALL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON 2027 KANO STATE

KANO STATE



Date:
13th September, 2026



Time:
09:00 AM

GAYA CLUSTER



Working Group



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