

2020

UDEME REPORT

SUMMARY AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
CONSTITUENCY PROJECT
TRACKING IN NIGERIA



Udeme Report: Summary
and Recommendations
for Constituency Project
Tracking in Nigeria

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Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism [PTCIJ] is a non-governmental organisation, founded in 2014, to promote a truly independent media landscape that advances fundamental human rights, good governance and accountability in West Africa through investigative journalism, open data and civic technology.

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Introduction

UDEME is a social accountability project of the Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ). This project seeks to enhance

transparency and accountability in the public procurement and contracting space through project monitoring, data analysis and investigative reporting.

UDEME kicked off its operations in 2018 and has since tracked over 6,000 constituency projects dating as far back as 2015, ecological projects with data extracted from the Ecological Office as well as capital projects implemented by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Nigeria.

These projects are contained in the nation's annual budget and other official documents including annual reports as well as audit reports, and performance audit reports by MDAs. For example, through utilising a rigorous data cleaning mechanism, UDEME discovered that some funds were illegally disbursed to top members of the National Assembly from the Finance Ministry during the tenure of Kemi Adeosun, the former Finance Minister of the country. The issue was immediately reported on Premium Times and a countdown clock was instituted for the prosecution of those involved. Later, it was found out that the members of NASS used her forged certificate as a bait to extract monies worth over N50 billion from the Ministry. Kemi Adeosun later resigned as the public poured outrage for her resignation.

Between January and December 2020, UDEME deployed its monitors to 13 States to track and ascertain the status of implementation of constituency projects by several agencies including Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Border Communities Development Agency (BCDA), Anambra Imo River Basin Development Authority (AIRBDA),

Ogun Osun River Basin Development Authority (OORBDA), Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) among others.

Why This Path?

As a social accountability project, our goal is to enhance transparency and democratic accountability in Nigeria. By tracking and ascertaining the true state of the government-owned project backed by accurate and truthful reporting, we strive to enhance accountability in government, responsive and responsible leaders as well as civic participation.

Primary Data

Data contained in this document were gathered by deploying reporters to the field in Anambra, Oyo, Ogun, Katsina, Benue, Akwa Ibom, Lagos, Kwara and Osun States to track constituency projects from 2015 - 2020. This is a product of UDEME, a project of the Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ).

Scope Of The Report

In 2020, UDEME tracked 120 constituency projects across the six geo-political zones, ranging from education to electrification, road construction, erosion, water projects across different communities in these states.

These projects are characterised by the level of completion: completed, poorly executed ongoing, abandoned, non-existent/not found. 28 abandoned; 14 ongoing; 55 completed; 11 ongoing; 24 unexecuted (including missing/not existing projects).

Findings

Border Communities Development Authority (BCDA)

- **Mini stadium at Kashere - abandoned**

In 2018, a senator representing Gombe Central, from Gombe state, nominated a project to construct a mini-stadium at Kashere, Gombe state, in the annual Zonal Intervention Projects

(ZIP) at a budgeted amount of N150 million. BCDA was the implementing agency. UDEME found the project to be abandoned when we visited in September, 2020.



Collapsed roof at Kashere stadium



Front view of Kashere stadium

- **Kumo and Deba mini stadiums - poorly executed**

In 2018, Kumo and Deba mini stadia in Gombe Central were nominated for 'completion' at an allocated sum of N42 million and 'upgrading' at an additional sum of N82 million in the annual Zonal Intervention Project (ZIP) under BCDA.

In August 2020, UDEME visited the Kumo

mini stadium in Akko local government area and discovered that part of the roofing sheets of some offices have been destroyed in a storm. At Deba stadium, a portion of the roof of the toilets was also affected by the storm. Although the project was recorded as executed, the contractor poorly executed it.



Spectators stand at Deba mini stadium



Part of Kumo stadium

Border Communities Development Authority (BCDA)

- **Extension of electrification from Agbire-Ikujimi - not executed**

In 2018, a project for the extension of electrification from Agbire-Ikujimi and from Peter Junction to Ibu Village in Ogun Waterside was nominated at a budgeted sum N20 million. The project was placed under the supervision of the Border Community

Development Agency (BCDA). In September 2020, UDEME observed that the electrification project stopped at Agbire junction. UDEME neither saw an electricity pole nor cables connecting from Agbire- Ikujimi to Ibu village.



Ibu village sign post



Ibu village

- **1km by 6m Asphalt Road at Obafemi Awolowo to Dominion Hotel, Ago Iwoye - executed**

In 2018, the construction of a 1km by 6m asphalt road from Obafemi Awolowo to Dominion Hotel, Ago Iwoye in Ijebu North LGA, Ogun East Senatorial District, was nominated at a contract sum of N39,222,222

and supervised by Border Communities Development Agency(BCDA).

UDEME observed in July 2020, when it visited, that though the project was executed but it had no signage.



Asphalt road at Ago Iwoye



Image of asphalt road at Ago Iwoye

Border Communities Development Authority (BCDA)

- **Ansaru-ud-deen Middle School - completed**

The construction and completion of blocks of classrooms and staff room at Ansaru-ud-deen Middle School, Testing Ground, Osun state was budgeted at N90 million in 2018 under BCDA's supervision.

UDEME visited the school in July 2020 and observed that the project has been completed and put to use.



(Side view) Ansaru-Ud-Deen Middle School



(Front view) Ansaru-Ud-Deen Middle School

Rural Electrification Agency (REA)

- **Supply and installation of one 300 KVA transformer in WYegunle community - not executed**

In 2016, the federal government budgeted N4.3 million for the supply and installation of one 300KVA transformer in Ayegunle community, Ejigbo Local Government Area of Osun State. Four years later, despite the award of contracts and the release of the funds, the villagers have not witnessed power supply.

The community's traditional ruler said the contractor never completed the project. When UDEME checked the profile of the contractor, Ayoka Co. Nigeria LTD, it left no trail on its

signage that contained contact details like: email, phone number, address, website address or any other contact information.



Rural Electrification Agency (REA)

- **Rural electrification in Ifesowapo community - unexecuted**

In September 2020, UDEME sought to but could not find the 2016 N13.7 million rural electrification project for the Ifesowapo community in Iwo Local Government Area of Osun State. Furious community leaders lamented the neglect as they took our reporter to the site of a transformer they had to install from community contributions.

Xtra Sun Nigeria Limited was the company awarded the contract to carry out the project.



- **Rural electrification in Irewole Local government headquarters - abandoned**

A N75 million electrification project for the community awarded since 2016 has been abandoned. In July 2020, when UDEME visited the site, we merely saw some electrical cables, poles and a transformer.

Residents living close to the local government headquarters said the items were mere decorations as tall grasses had grown and covered the transformer.

An REA document obtained by UDEME indicated that the contract was awarded to Borno Engineering Supply Technical Company Ltd.

The chairman of the company, Isa Badamosi, however denied receiving the contract in a telephone interview with our reporter.



- **Electrification project in Akakan community - missing**

At Akakan community in Ede South, Osun state, UDEME encountered difficulty tracing its

electrification project in July 2020 which was allocated at N20 million since 2019.

Rural Electrification Agency (REA)

- **Oparinde - missing project**

The N11.4 million electrification project at Oparinde in Osun state was allocated in the 2016 Special Intervention Projects. Upon UDEME's visit in September 2020, we could not find any community or street with that name in Okinni, Egbodore Local Government.

After hours of scouring the area, one of the elders in Okinni said that he had never heard of Oparinde, even though he has been a security worker in the community for several years.

- **Alusekere Community in Ede North LGA - ongoing**

As of July 2020, an electrification project was ongoing at Alusekere Community in Ede North

LGA, Osun state. The project was awarded at the cost of N40 million in 2019.



- **500 KVA transformer was made at Alagbede - completed**

The Alagbede community of Ede North Local Government was supplied one 500 KVA transformer, and the transformer was installed. The project was allocated N8 million in 2016.

UDEME discovered that the contractor had completed the project.

Universal Basic Education (UBEC)

- **Construction of One (1) block of three (3) classrooms in Ogun state - completed**

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After hours of scouring the area, one of the elders in Okinni said that he had never heard of Oparinde, even though he has been a security worker in the community for several years.



New block of classrooms at United Primary School



Obafemi Awolowo Primary School locked

-
- **Renovation of Ilupeju Community Grammar School - completed**

The sum of N20 million was budgeted for the renovation of Ilupeju Community Grammar School in Atakumosa East Local Government

Area of Osun State in 2017. The project was found to be executed when UDEME visited in July 2020.



Ilupeju Community Grammar School



Ilupeju community Grammar school

Universal Basic Education (UBEC)

- **Esa Oke Grammar School Corpers Lodge Rehabilitation project - missing**

In Esa Oke, Osun state, the project, allocated in 2017, to rehabilitate Esa Oke Grammar School Corpers Lodge for N30 million did not exist.

- **Community Education Centre at Ila Orangun - missing**

Despite a budgetary allocation of N350 million, the Community Education Centre at Ila Orangun, Osun Central, was not found.

- **Construction of classroom at GDSS Okekere - completed**

In 2017, N23,750,000 was budgeted to construct a block of three classrooms with a modern toilet, motorised borehole with overhead Geep tank in GDSS Okekere, Ilorin West.

We observed during our visit in July 2020 that the contractor had executed the project.



Government Day Secondary School, Okekere project signpost



GDSS Okekere

Universal Basic Education (UBEC)

- Rehabilitation of Ilo Abito / Ilo Offianta Learning Square Nsugbe Anambra - not executed

The project for the rehabilitation of Ilo Abito /Ilo Offianta Learning Square Nsugbe Anambra State was nominated in 2019 at N35 million by a former lawmaker of the House of Representative. As of July 2020, no renovation had taken place.



Anambra Imo River Basin Development Authority (AIRBDA)

- **Solar-powered borehole Urum community - not identified**

An N8 million solar-powered borehole with an overhead tank was nominated for construction in 2018 for Urum community citizens in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra.

A borehole was found in the community but its true identity in relation to the nominated contract in question could not be verified as there was no signage.



- **Solar-powered borehole in Isuaniocha - abandoned**

In 2018, N8 million was also allocated to provide a solar-powered borehole with an overhead tank to Isuaniocha, Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

The project, which was started in 2019, has remained at the same preliminary stage when visited in July 2020.



Anambra Imo River Basin Development Authority (AIRBDA)

- **Construction of borehole in Ezinifite - abandoned**

In 2017, N9 million was budgeted to construct a borehole with an overhead tank at Ezinifite police station in Nnewi South LGA. Three years

into the project, UDEME visited in 2020 and found out that the project, which started in 2014 through 2017, had been abandoned.



- **Skill acquisition centre in Adazi Ani - not seen**

The solar-powered borehole project situated in the skills acquisition centre in Adazi Ani budgeted at N15 million was not seen. We

could not view or inspect the project because the skills acquisition centre was under lock and key during our visit in October 2020.



- **Box culvert for flood control at Hospital Road, Mkpasaku Enugwu Agidi - not executed**

In 2018, N15 million was budgeted to construct a box culvert for flood control at Hospital Road, Mkpasaku Enugwu Agidi. On getting to the

community two years after, in 2020, UDEME could not find the project.

Lower Niger River Basin Development Authority, (LNRBDA)

- **Weru bridge in Kwara State - abandoned**

In the past five years, N144 million has been allocated to the construction, completion and rehabilitation of Weru bridge in Kwara State. This bridge links and connects the agrarian communities to the major market, Malete, where they sell their farm produce. This bridge has, however, remained incomplete, safe to say abandoned.



Weru bridge abandoned

The UDEME visit between 2018 to 2020 revealed the sorry state and poor living conditions of community members and the economic restraints faced by the farmers.

In response, the supervising agency said paucity of funds is a major cause for the state of the project.



Land affected by poor implementation of the project

- **Malete township water reticulation - completed**

In 2018, N30 million was appropriated for the Malete township water reticulation, supervised by LNRBDA. Out of the N30 million, N22,023,006 million was released to Lush Tech Engineering.

That same year, the completion of the reticulation system and additional storage tanks at Kwara State University, Malete campus was awarded to Turning Point Engineering at a contract sum of N67,744,480 million of which N23,308,707 was released.

In 2019, an extension of the reticulation works within Malete township for the sum of N20 million was reinserted into the Zonal Intervention Projects. Only N13,177,224 of the contract sum was released and awarded to Turning Point Engineering. Malete waterworks



Malete project signage

Lower Niger River Basin Development Authority, (LNRBDA)

is comprised of an earth dam, treatment plant, transmission line, storage tank and a distribution network

Interestingly, UDEME observed that despite the incomplete release of the budgeted

values, the three projects had been completed and serving members of the Maleta community and its environs, making them outlier examples in a national catalogue of depressing legislative accountability.



Maleta dam

Lower Benue River Basin Development Authority (LBRBDA)

- **Lessel dam - abandoned**

In 2018, the House of Representative member for Lessel and Kwande Federal Constituency nominated the construction of an earth dam in Lessel, Ushongu LGA. N200 million was

budgeted for the project under the supervision of LBRBDA. The project has been abandoned with little or no development when visited in July 2020.



Abandoned Lessel dam project



Abandoned Lessel dam project

Lower Niger River Basin Development Authority, (LNRBDA)

- **Rural electrification of Ihungwanor - completed**

In 2018, the House of Representatives member for Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency nominated a rural electrification project for Ihungwanor, Gboko LGA, worth N58 million. UDEME's visit in July 2020 showed that the project had been completed, and about 50 households were benefiting from it.



Completed rural electrification project at Ihungwanor



A classroom in LGEA Central Alaide

- **Solar-powered classrooms and furnishing in Gwer West/ Gwer East - unexecuted**

N35 million was nominated to provide solar-powered classrooms and furnishing in Gwer West/ Gwer East Federal Constituency of Benue state in 2018. When Udeme visited in 2020, we observed that no projects had been executed. The classrooms were dilapidated; some had desks, and some were without desks. The classrooms were also not secured with windows and doors.

- **Provision of 10 Nos Solar powered boreholes in Benue North West -unexecuted**

The project to provide 10 Solar powered boreholes in Benue North-West Senatorial District was nominated in 2018 at N100 million. In August 2020, the project was yet to be executed. The residents of Mbanough

community of Tarka local government in the Benue North-West Senatorial District have continued to use dirty water from streams and wells as their source of water.



Spoilt mechanized borehole at Tarka



Part of river Kugba used by Tarka residents

Ogun Osun River Basin Development Authority (OORBDA)

- **12 Nos Motorised Boreholes in Abeokuta South Federal Constituency - executed but diverted**

In 2018, 12 Motorised Boreholes in Abeokuta South federal constituency were nominated at the sum of N20 million. UDEME could not locate any project by OORBDA in the community during a tracking visit in September 2020. The agency gave UDEME all six locations, the contractors' names, and the projects' status. It disclosed that five of the six were functioning 100% while the remaining one

is not working yet.

UDEME tracked all six but found some irregularities in the execution of the projects. We found that some of the boreholes were diverted to different constituencies while some were sunk on private properties, like the house of the former head of state, Ernest Shonekan and the representing lawmaker's farm.



Lawmaker's farm



- **Ajinapa water supply scheme - executed but not functioning**

Tagged 'Completed' and commissioned in 2018, the Ajinapa water supply scheme was designed to provide clean water to residents of the community and adjoining villages; but it never worked beyond the moment it was commissioned. The supervising agency for the construction of the project was initially LNRBDA but in 2015, OORBDA took over the

completion of the water supply scheme. In response to an FOI request by UDEME in 2018, OORBDA said N180 million (N180,023,729) was released for the project in 2015. The agency could not provide the 2016 figure. Eurobel International Limited executed the project. UDEME observed that the project was executed but not functioning.



Abandoned pipes at Ajinapa water supply



Faulty generator at Ajinapa dam

Conclusion

From our findings, through visits and scrutinising the budget document, it has become imperative to state that some project descriptions are intentionally vague to hinder attempts at locating them. We observed that some ministries supervise or inherit projects that are not within their remit.

We found out that most projects visited are either abandoned or not executed at all. UDEME could not trace some contractors due to the lack of details. We also discovered that some projects lacked adequate signposts for easy identification.

We observed that lawmakers conducted poor needs-assessment studies before inserting or nominating projects for members of their constituency as some residents complain of the non-beneficial nature of some projects executed in their name by lawmakers.

Based on our evaluations during the visits, the execution of projects in Nigeria by MDAs and lawmakers (involved in the execution process) lacks transparency and are apparently programmed to be highly shrouded in secrecy.

Recommendation

The National Assembly's constitutional function is partly to perform oversight functions over the executive arm so as to ensure that the operations of government are in tandem with their objectives. Members of the Committee on Appropriations at both chambers must therefore ensure that they work in sync with heads of MDAs to identify constituency projects that have been poorly executed or abandoned. After identifying these projects and the respective contractors, the National Assembly representatives of the communities must be brought on board to 'close-mark' these contractors for adequate implementation of these projects to derive value for the money spent.

Similarly, NASS must work closely with the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to identify those (MDAs, lawmakers, contractors, citizens) who have defaulted in effectively utilizing the funds released, according to the ICPC Act 2000. Since the Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Exercise (CEPTG) commenced in 2019, in partnership with CSOs and the media, the Commission has seen the

completion of over 255 projects across the six geo-political zones. The CEPTG invariably highlights the importance of collaboration between government, CSOs and NGOs, as this type of association facilitates factual information sharing and data gathering, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability.

UDEME also recommends a constitutional review to accommodate the Zonal Intervention Project initiative, which has no constitutional backing since its inception. Failure to incorporate constitutional safeguards to implement constituency projects will continue to create more room for corruption, embezzlement of funds and waste of national resources by people in the corridor of power.

Lastly, ICPC should undergo a company/contractor profiling exercise of constituency projects to spot defaulting contractors, companies owned by lawmakers and companies awarded contracts despite being blocked for prosecution where necessary.

