

**STATE-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Scorecard for Bayelsa State**

Bayelsa State’s IGR rose from N4.7 billion in 2010 to N11 billion in 2014, recording an impressive 23.5% growth rate. The performance however remains poor when compared to other States in the South South region. Its average revenue generated monthly is 8 times lower than what is generated in Rivers State. The percentage contribution of IGR to the State’s total recurrent revenue is around 6%, showing very high fiscal dependence.

**IGR SNAPSHOT IN THE SOUTH SOUTH ZONE (2014)**

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| S/N | STATE | MONTHLY IGR (N) | ANNUAL IGR (N) | 5 YR GROWTH RATE | IGR/RECURRENT REVENUE (%) | IGR PER CAPITA (N) |
| 1 | RIVERS | 7,426,037,362.30  | 89,112,448,347.58  | 15.8% | 31.4% |  13,118.31  |
| 2 | DELTA  | 3,568,267,418.77  | 42,819,209,025.24  | 13.2% | 17.6% |  8,092.84  |
| 3 | EDO  | 1,418,632,935.97  | 17,023,595,231.62  | 12.4% | 20.4% |  4,254.35  |
| 4 | CROSS RIVER  | 1,311,570,895.33  | 15,738,850,743.95  | 18.9% | 23.4% |  4,328.16  |
| 5 | AKWA IBOM  | 1,306,375,201.92  | 15,676,502,423.00  | 11.5% | 5.8% |  3,074.62  |
| 6 | BAYELSA  | 913,188,640.67  | 10,958,263,688.00  | 23.5% | 5.9% |  5,114.68  |

Commendable practices in the State’s tax system include the following:

1. Presence of tax offices in all LGAs.
2. Sufficient number of district offices to reach out to taxpayers
3. Ease of tax payment at commercial banks and use of e-payment systems

**Key Challenges:**

1. Poor release of IGR budget
2. Cumbersome procedures and long and complicated tax forms
3. The number of tax payers covered by the tax net is only 25%
4. Tax officers are not trained in assessment and audit
5. Leakages still exist in the tax collection process
6. Lack of a comprehensive strategy for the informal sector
7. Absence of property and consumption tax
8. Ad hoc application of user-fees for public services

**STATE’S ACTION PLAN**

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| **S/N** | **Identified Goal** | **Required Reforms** | **Timeline** | **Responsibility** |
| 1 | Expand tax base for the informal sector | Public enlightenment and engagement of key stakeholders; business enumeration | Six Months | BIR/Government |
| 2 | Increase in IGR | Bills presently with the State House of Assembly should be passed into law  | Six Months | State House of Assembly |
| 3 | Increase in cost of collection to enhance efficiency | Increase in percentage of Cost of Collection  | Six Months | The Governor |