

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON THE YEAR 2020 BUDGET PREPARATION AND EDO STATE MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF) 2020 – 2022 ORGANISED BY THE MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING ON TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER, 2019 IN FESTIVAL HALL, GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

1.0 PREAMBLE:

The Stakeholders' consultative forum was organized to deepen stakeholders' awareness of government projects and programmes, allowing the general public to participate in the formulation of the year 2020 budget of the State.

2.0 OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the meeting are:

- i. To deepen stakeholders' awareness of government projects and programmes earmarked for 2020 budget.
- ii. To allow the general public to participate in the development of the state 2020 budget.

3.0 OPENING:

The Meeting commenced with an opening prayer by Rev. Humphrey Arheghan from Church of God Mission (C.G.M.) Int. & Bethshan Youth Organization at 10:25 am.

This was followed by a self introduction by participants.

A welcome address was given by the Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Princess Otse Momoh Omorogbe. In her address, she welcomed participants to the meeting and admonished them to develop a robust response for inputs into the State 2020 budget. She stated that the forum is to facilitate engagement with the public for improved service delivery and society's development. She added that the State has prepared a Citizen's Budget that presents Edo State's budgetary information in a manner that is easily digestible for its citizenry. She thereafter declared the meeting opened.

4.0 ATTENDANCE:

Over one hundred and twenty participants from across the State were present at the meeting. They include representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Societies, Organized Private Sector, Government Officials (i.e. Hon. Commissioners, Executive Chairmen, Special Advisers, General Managers, & Permanent Secretaries of MDAs, `Staff of Ministry of Budget & Economic Planning etc), Faith-Based Organizations, Persons with Disabilities and Media.

5.0 TECHNICAL SESSION

5.1 YEAR 2020 CITIZENS BUDGET

This presentation on the year 2020 Citizen's Budget was made by the Functioning Director of Budget from the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Michael Oseh. The purpose of this presentation is to inform participants of a simpler budget document produced annually by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning for better understanding of the State Budget.

5.2 OVERVIEW OF 2020 – 2022 MTEF AND YEAR 2020 BUDGET

The overview of the 2020 to 2022 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the Year 2020 Budget preparation was facilitated by Mr. Joseph Eboigbe, the Honourable Commissioner for Finance.

Highlights of the presentation include:

- Overview of the National Economy:
- The key goals and priorities of the FY 2020 budget include
- Overview of the 2020 – 2022 MTEF
- Overview of the year 2020 budget

6.0 ISSUES FROM THE PRESENTATIONS

Delegates at the forum extensively deliberated on some key issues of the State. This was followed by responses from Government Officials. Mr Joseph Eboigbe:

- i. **Tax Holidays:** Ransley Abu-Osagie also asked to know about the plans of the State to grant tax holidays to businesses in the State

- ii. **Edo Language Extinction:** General Manager Edo Broadcasting Service Ransley Abu-Osagie shared his view on the Benin language extinction. He said that if the Government does not invest in promoting Edo Language, the languages will not be prestigious in 50yrs time according to a prediction by Mr. Erike.
- iii. **Over-Reliance on Federal Allocation:** Mr Humphrey Arheghan spoke of his observation of the State dependence on Federal Allocation to about 80% of total revenue and suggest increase in the State internally generated revenue by investing in food preservation and resuscitation of the fruit juice factory located at Ehor that has been moribund.
- iv. **Corruption and Award of Contract/Uromi Water Supply:** Mr Humphrey Arheghan from C.G.M. Int. & Bethshan Youth Organisation observed that the State process of awarding contract was flawed due to the bad quality of some road facilities being constructed in the State and questioned the rationale towards the workability of the Uromi water supply.
- v. **Insecurity in the State:** On insecurity, Theresa Omioiowele Legal Officer I.D.P.C. Benin queried that the insecurity in the State suggest the State Government to support the tackling of the menace.
- vi. **Plan for Persons with Disability:** Omosah Melody President Network Advocacy for People with Visible Disabilities (NAPVID) enquired about the State plan and investment for persons living with disabilities in EdoBest programme and other State programmes. He also suggested development of policy & framework for Persons With Disabilities by State Government with support from development partners.
- vii. **Child Protection Policy:** Stella Ojeme Coordinator, Child Protection Network raised the issue of the overwhelming rise in child abuse and the lack of adequate shelter to accommodate children abused for proper rehabilitation
- viii. **Human Trafficking:** Mrs. Edegbe Princess, Executive Director Creating Awareness Initiative asked about the effort of Government on rehabilitating victims of human trafficking and reducing its prevalence

7.0 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

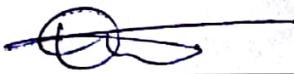
The following are some of the recommendations reached:

- i. The State should promote and provide a good business environment by providing tax holidays.
- ii. There should be increase in investment of food preservation and a resuscitation of the Fruit Juice Factory located at Ehor.
- iii. The State contract award process should be strictly followed to reduce the prevalence of bad project execution.
- iv. State security architecture should be strengthened to reduce security breaches.
- v. Persons Living with Disabilities should be considered in government programmes, plans and projects including EdoBest.
- vi. The overwhelming rise in child abuse and the lack of adequate shelter to accommodate children abused for proper rehabilitation should be tackled by the State Government.
- vii. There should be a concrete plan in stemming the tides of human trafficking in the State.
- viii. Edo State Government should invest in promoting indigenous languages of the State.

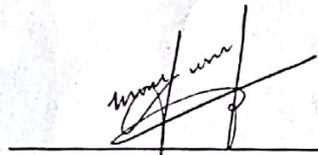
8.0 CONCLUSION

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning Mrs. Vera Obadan thanked participants for coming and wished everyone a safe journey back to their respective destinations, at 12:30 pm.

The undersigned are key participants of the 2019 stakeholders' consultative forum geared towards the 2020 budget preparation of the State:



Princess Otse Momoh Omorogbe
Rep. Hon. Commissioners.



Rev. Humphrey Arheghan
Clergy (Church of God Mission)



Imam Enabulele
Chief Imam (Benin Central Mosque)



Andrew Agenmonmen
M.D. (Agen Longspan Ind.)
Rep. Private Sector



Ebose I. Henry
Joint Nat. Ass of Persons With Disabilities
Rep. Persons With Disabilities



David Ugolor
ANNEJ
Rep. Non Governmental Org.



Stella Ojeme
Coordinator, Child Protection Network



Jimoh Akande
Rep. Media