

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIVE FORUM FOR  
SOUTHERN SENATORIAL DISTRICT ON THE 2020 ANNUAL AUDITED  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ORGANIZED BY NASARAWA STATE AUDITOR  
GENERAL'S OFFICE ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021 AT THE  
CONFERENCE HALL OF THE MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND  
CHIEFTANCY AFFIARS, LAFIA. NASARAWA STATE.**

***IN ATTENDANCE:*** 1. DIRECTOR PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT OF LAFIA, AWE, DOMA, OBI AND KEANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS AND THE SENATOR REPRESENTING SOUTHERN SENATORIAL DISTRICT **ALH. UMARU TANKO ALMAKURA** AND HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS REPRESENTING LAFIA, CENTRAL, LAFIA EAST, AWE NORTH, KEANA, OBI 1 AND DOMA SOUTH CONSTITUENCY IN ADDITION THERE WERE IN ATTENDANCE NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS(NGOs) COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs), FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS (FBOs), CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs), MARKET WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS, PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES AND FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS.

The meeting which was at the instance of the state Auditor-General *Lamus Rayyanu Alhassan (FCNA)* commenced at exactly 10:15am with an opening prayers from Mal. Lamino S. Ubandoma (Muslim) and Mr. Kefas Julius Bala (Christian) faith.

Participants at the meeting introduced themselves and the community/organizations which they are representing.

Thereafter, Mr. Tanko David Tsovina - Director Government Audit in the State Auditor-General's Office gave an introductory remark on the purpose of the meeting being organized. He told the participants the essence for which this meeting is organized is to inform the citizens of Nasarawa state about how much the Government of Nasarawa state received in form of revenues in the year 2020 and how such moneys were utilized for the benefit of the populace. In addition he informed the participants that same town hall meetings are holding in the Central and Western senatorial district, respectively. He stressed the importance of the

involvement of citizens in monitoring how government utilize the resources of Nasarawa. Citizen accountability report, if sustained will check mate some excesses of power drunk politicians and impact positively on projects that will benefit the citizens.

This is because social amenities like hospitals, roads, security of lives and properties, water, housing and schools etc. The Director called on the citizens to support policies and programs of the government while not renegeing on emphasizing the respective specific demands of each area, group, interest, religion and professions of the people of the state. He concluded by drawing attention of participants to their rights of questioning the government each time it is drifting away from its basic responsibilities and failure to account to the electorates that this is why the government saw the need to carry citizens along so as to acquaint them with the efforts the government is making in revenue drive and its impacts on the citizenry.

In response several questions were raised seeking for clarifications by participants at the forum. The representative of the Civil Society Organization (CSO), **Barr. Daniel Gelle Kwanchi** admonished the participants to reason with the situation at hand and join hands with the government in her quest to a better revenue generation in the state for effective service delivery.

In his welcome remark, the Director Personnel Management of Lafia Local Government Alh. Osabo Abubakar stressed the important of citizen's participation in the entire budget circle and how government also spent their money, he also pleaded with the participants to educate citizens on the need to participate actively so as to get acquainted with how government budget processes are carried out from the wards to the local government and to the state level. He acknowledged the importance of the forum as it affects the citizens directly; he also said it will give the citizens a sense of belonging. He states that the idea of citizen's participation in understanding the financial statements presented in a simple language is a very good initiative by the government to involve citizen's participation in the budget process of the State, thereby boosting citizen's moral in participatory governance. He stressed the need for the organizers to translate

the citizen audited financial statement into Hausa, and other major local languages like Eggon, Alago, Mada, Egbira, Tiv, Afo, Jukun, Fulani and Gwandara, in order to reach the populace widely and stimulate positive response.

The Representatives of the press Mr. Kalu Indika Kalu Jr. called on the press to widely publicize the simplified version (Audited Citizen Accountability Report) in order to create more awareness on the need for the citizen to contribute to the direction of Government activities for the maximum benefit of the populace. This will produce projects that are meaningful and developmental in nature, instead of the previous methods of forceful citing of projects or programs that are initiated just for cheap political popularity but with no effects. He also called on the citizen to be willing to pay their taxes now that government is proving accountable.

On his part, the chairman of root crops and cereals appreciate the efforts of the organizers of this forum and called on the State government to make timely provisions of fertilizers and other farm inputs, especially tractors in order to improve farming activities in the state thereby increasing farm produce for the betterment of living standards of citizens. He also pleaded for the construction of more feeder roads to various communities to ease transportation of cash and food crops, to the market to boost government revenue drive. He also calls on the government to provide assistance to farmers by given them facilities in form of soft loans because Nasarawa state is basically an agrarian state, he believes that will enhance productivity and revenue generation and by so doing will rebuild confidence in people's participation in this noble exercise.

The House of Assembly Member Representing Awe North constituency, Alh. Umar Tanko Tunga call on government to look into the plights of people in project selection and implementation this will impact and transform positively in the lives of the communities. He also said that the government should provide gainful employment to the Youths, as the Youths constitutes the highest population in the state and this will boost revenue drive in the state and equally encourage those into private businesses to partner with Government in order to make governance all encompassing.

The Director of Budget, Doma Local Government thanked God for the opportunity provided to the participants to make their contributions to the success of governance in Nasarawa state, and called for more of such engagements. He also pleaded with the representative of the State Auditor-General's Office, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning and the CSO's to continue to create good rapport between the government and the governed.

The Representative of Market Women Association used the occasion to applaud the efforts of the government of Nasarawa state in building modern markets across the three senatorial districts of the state. She stressed that the members of the association appreciates the gestures.

On behalf of the Faith Based organization (FBO) the chairman of Christain Association of Nigeria (CAN) Lafia Local Government call on the organizers to guide government to be sincere with the populace and they will win large followership. He observed that what is discouraging the rural populace is that most times income and expenditures captured in the budget meant for them are not always executed or seen, as such the people are not willing to cooperate with the government's drive on revenue generation. He welcomed this forum and is optimistic that if government budget is properly executed, it will build confidence in the rural populace, hence their effective participation in the process.

Other dignitaries at the program were appreciative of the new drive towards adequate accountability.

On the whole, the town hall meeting was fruitful and successful. The meeting came to an end at about 2:45pm with a vote of thanks by the Focal person of SFTAS, Mall. Isa Abdul Osama.



**Bawa Yahaya Ainaka**  
*Youth Revival Mission*



**Otache Helen**  
*Kwararafa Women Group*



**NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT**

**T H E M E :**

# **PUBLIC CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON THE 2020 ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**16TH  
SEPT.  
2021**

**TIME:  
10:00<sup>am</sup>**

MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS, LAFIA.

**Organized By:  
NASARAWA STATE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR STATE**