



Nasarawa State Government

Ministry of Finance, Budget & Planning

Town Hall Consultation on Citizens' Budget for Nasarawa North Senatorial Zone @
Hall 14, Nasarawa State College of Education, Akwanga

29th April, 2021

| S/N | TIME | ACTIVITY | RESPONSIBLE |
|-----|-------------------|--|--|
| 1. | 9:00 - 10:00am | Arrival & Registration | All |
| 2. | 10:00 - 10:15am | Opening Prayers | CAN & JNI Representatives |
| 3. | 10:15am - 10:30am | Remark/Meeting Objectives | Permanent Secretary, MFBP |
| 4. | 10:30 - 10:40am | Goodwill Messages | 1) CSOs Representatives 2) Media & other groups 3) S.A to the Gov. on Banking & Finance |
| 5. | 10:40am - 10:45am | Opening Address | Honourable Commissioner MFBP |
| 6. | 10:45 - 10:50am | Reading of 2020 Townhall Meeting Communique | SFTAS TA |
| 7. | 10:50 - 11:15am | Presentation on the 2021 abridged version of the Citizens' Budget | Director of Budget |
| 8. | 11:15 - 11:45am | Citizens contribution on Projects to be included in the 2022 Budget | All |
| 9. | 11:45am - 12:20pm | Contributions/ Observations/ Questions | All |
| 10. | 11:20pm - 12:25pm | Group Photograph | All |
| 11. | 12:25 - 12:40pm | Refreshment/Reading of Communique | All/ CDC |
| 12. | 12:40pm | Wrap Up, Next Step and Closing | PS/ Director, Budget |



NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

CITIZENS' BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

VENUE: SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES HALL, ISA MUSTAPHA AGWAI 1 POLYTECHNIC, LAFIA
Meeting Attendance Date: 13th April, 2021

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SABARAYA STATE GOVERNMENT

CITIZENS' BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

VENUE: SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES HALL, ISA MUSTAPHA AGWAI 1 POLYTECHNIC, LAFA

Meeting Attendance

Date: 13th April, 2021

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NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

CITIZENS' BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

VENUE: SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES HALL, ISA MUSTAPHA AGWAI 1 POLYTECHNIC, LAFIA

Meeting Attendance

Date: 13th April, 2021

| S/N | NAME | ORGANIZATION | ADDRESS/ COMMUNITY/ LGA | CONTACT | EMAIL | SIGNATURE |
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NAMBARWA STATE GOVERNMENT

CITIZENS' BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

VENUE: SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES HALL, ISA MUSTAPHA AGWAI 1 POLYTECHNIC, LAFIA
Meeting Attendance

Date: 13th April, 2021

| S/N | NAME | ORGANIZATION | ADDRESS/ COMMUNITY/ LGA | CONTACT | EMAIL | SIGNATURE |
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NASARAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

CITIZENS' BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

VENUE: SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES HALL, ISA MUSTAPHA AGWAI 1 POLYTECHNIC, LAFIA
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| S/N | NAME | ORGANIZATION | ADDRESS/ COMMUNITY/ LGA | CONTACT | EMAIL | SIGNATURE |
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MINUTES OF ONE (1) DAY TOWNHALL CONSULTATION ON CITIZENS' BUDGET PARTICIPATION FOR NASARAWA SOUTH SENATORIAL ZONE HELD ON 13TH APRIL, 2021 AT THE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE HALL ISA MUSTAPHA AGWAI 1 POLYTECHNIC, LAFIA.

1.0 Attendance

See attendance list

2.0 Opening Prayer/Commencement

The meeting commenced with a national prayer (Anthem) at 11:20am.

3.0 Remark/Meeting Objectives

Permanent Secretary Ministry of finance Budget and Planning in his remarks, commended the participants for the role they played in 2019-2021 budget, he then said citizen budget means budget of the people at the grassroot level. In addition, He reminded the citizens to ask for projects they want government to execute in 2022. He said their input were implemented in 2021 budget and the one in this town hall meeting will not be an exception. Although, not all that the citizens wants will be included. He further outlined the objectives of citizen budget as stated below;

- To understand participatory Citizen budget.
- To promote accessibility and transparency in governance.
- To share ideas and experiences among citizen.
- Involves peoples in making decision as far as budgeting process is concerned.
- Encourage and empower individuals and communities to participate in governance.
- Promote direct involvement of communities particularly in budget decisions.
- Recognize and remove barriers to full and effective participation.

4.0 Goodwill Messages

The goodwill messages were delivered as follows;

- 4.1** Accountant General: delivered goodwill message by saying, it was not business as usual. According to him, citizens must embrace new innovations by participating fully in the budget process for the development of the state. He also said every approval of government expenditure must fully follow the budget before releases are made.
- 4.2** Amirat, FOMWAN chairperson, thank the organizers of the programme even as she solicited that 2021 Budget should be inline with the decision taken by participants at the meeting. She then wished the participants a fruitful deliberation.

5.0 Opening Address: The Honorable Commissioner Ministry of Finance, Budget & Planning, welcomed the participants to the first town hall meeting on Citizens' Budget participation for 2021. He said the engagement was the third edition since the inception of the Administration of **Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule**. He however said that, the town hall meeting comprised of delegates from various interest groups such as Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations-FBOs (Religious Leader), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Community-B Leaders), the Media, Youth Associations and Unions from both the formal and informal sectors. Last year edition of this kind of meeting has the theme "Participatory Budgeting: Towards Accessible and transparent Governance" However, today's meeting with the theme "Social Pact with the People, The Way Forward for Greater Development" is an improvement in terms of participation and organization over the first and second town hall meetings. Again, the State Government had planned for a wider consultation, through gathering of people but this will be done by zones. You are carefully selected for a purpose to represent various groups and interests. Furthermore, Citizens budgeting otherwise known as participatory budgeting is a process of democratic deliberation as well as decision making, in which the people decide how to allocate part of the State budget. This systematic process allows the people to identify, discuss and prioritize public spending projects and to make realistic decisions about how funds are utilized. The Honorable Commissioner highlighted the reasons for engaging citizens to include:

- Generally, Government has its own plans, programs and projects for its citizenry. However, Citizens' budget is organized to allow participation of the people so as to engage real projects that the citizens need and not what the government assume that they want.
- Participatory budgeting is now being used by administrations all over the world to give citizens a say on how local policies are shaped.
- With a participatory budget, citizens have the chance to allocate public resources, prioritize social policies, and monitor public spending.
- Citizens' budgeting makes governance more transparent and accessible to the common man.

In conclusion, people's voice must be heard and incorporated into the state plans and actions. One of the foremost steps in this regard is to engage the citizenry in a meeting like this to bring in their inputs and support the government in delivering quality service down to the grass roots. This can be done through both offline and online basis.

It is my desire, therefore, that this meeting achieved its lofty objectives of ensuring that the lingering challenges faced by the communities are dealt with squarely by your efforts as we work towards getting the desired result.

6.0 Reading of Last Communiqué by Mr. Tsovina Tanko David Technical Assistant on SFTAS

6.1 Adoption of Communiqué: I Araku Isuwa Obele of YMCA Lafia, haven been part of the Drafting Committee and also been present in the meeting of citizen budget held in the 2020, I therefore move for the adoption of the last communiqué due to following:

- i. All observations made in the last meeting was properly captured
- ii. Contributions, questions raised, are properly captured. I Helen Omechia Agbo seconded for the adoption of last
communiqué.

7.0 Presentation of the 2021 abridged budget (citizen version): The Director of Budget Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning on his presentation said that 2021 budget is christened "**BUDGET OF ECONOMIC RECUPERATION**" It is a budget of economic recovery and revitalization targeted at addressing some of the negative challenges encountered in fiscal year 2020. He gave general overview of Budget size, he further enlightened the people on how to make use of mega resources available at their disposal. Money coming in as **revenue** and money **spent** in the state does not tally. However, if the state wants to spend more, there is need for improvement in the Internally generated revenue. Director of Budget further explained how the money is allocated to different sectors in the state.

8.0 Contribution/ Observations / Question

Contribution, observations and question are made by various representatives of the organization. some questions raised are:

- (a) One of participant observed that last year, we make submission for introduction of Central Billing System (CBS) to block linkages. He doesn't know what is still delay the issue of creating it's up to date?
- (b) The representatives of ASANPIN observed that if allow to key in their programme, it will enable Government of the state to obtain Aids and Grant. The essence is to track government projects and Budget performance. Base on the forgoing therefore, the amount allocated to Agricultural sector in 2021 is inadequate to run Agricultural activities.

- (c) The representative of precious FM said he is member of safe one million life (SOML) and family planning, advocating that, despite the fact that the projection plan is made, Government should do more in releasing the money to enable MDAs execute their programmes.
- (d) The representative of PWD asked why despite the effort of government to health sector, yet the rates of mortal mortality is still increasing. Secondly, there should be employment of technical staff in the health sector and well-motivated, to enable them perform effectively.
- (F) One participant asked that, over the year government has not pay much attention to entertainment industries, what is government doing to restate it since is one of government source of revenue ?

9.0 Reading of Communique Reading of communique by Secretary of the Communique Drafting Committee. The committee recommend thus;

1. It was agreed that there should be creation of more awareness on citizens Budget
2. Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning should liaise with YMCA to create more new sources of revenue.
3. It was resolved that casual workers should be permanented since most of them has al reading been train like permanent staff.
4. Women empowerment should be priotise in the Budget.
5. It was agreed that, employment opportunity should be created in the health sector and proper staff motivation in other to reduce rate of mortal mortality in the state.

10. Vote of thanks:

Salifu Fatima (FOMWAN) thanks and appreciate organizer of programme and all the representatives for peaceful deliberations. Therefore, she wishes every one journey mercy to their destinations

11. Close Remark:

The Permanent Secretary gave a close remark by saying that the aims and objective of these meeting would be appreciated if citizens know exactly what to do. He therefore promised to work on next steps to ensure all

observations contributions and questions made in this meeting are taken into considerations. The meeting came to a close at about 2:34pm.



Philip Zachariah

Secretary



Allanana S. Omaku

CSOs' Rep

**REPORT ON TOWN HALL CONSULTATION ON CITIZENS' BUDGET FOR
NASARAWA NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT HELD ON 29TH APRIL,
2021 AT HALL 14, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AKWANGA NASARAWA
STATE.**

1.0 Opening Prayer:

Prayers were led by the Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Akwanga Chapter Rev. Samson Chuga and JNI Chairman, Wamba Chapter, Mallam Ali Ogah respectively.

2.0 Introduction:

The Director Budget introduced the aim for the Town Hall meeting which is to consider the inputs from stakeholders, the reason why the representatives were carefully selected from various groups across the three LGs of the north senatorial district to participate in the engagement. Mr Akolo Peters Ataka, said that the meeting was aimed at encouraging and empowering individuals and communities to participate in government through their input in the budget. He said "We have selected you from various communities, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Faith-Based Organisations, youth groups among others in order to get your inputs. We want to know your communities' needs/challenges in order to have a holistic 2022 budget for the overall development of the state.". The Director further urged the participants to contribute earnestly during the meeting in their interest and for the development of the state.

3.0 Welcome Address:

Mr Emmanuel Alidzi, the Permanent Secretary, welcomed the participants to yet another meeting which happens to be the third of its kind for the year. He said that the state government was encouraging citizens participation in state policies and programmes for development to thrive.

Furthermore, he advised the participants that since they have been carefully selected to represent their constituents and it would be a disservice if they do not contribute effectively for the preparation of next year budget.

Meanwhile, he elucidated the objectives of the meeting as follows:

- i. To make the citizens understand the essence of participatory budget
- ii. To promote accessibility and transparency in governance
- iii. To share ideas and experience among citizenry
- iv. To involve people in decisions about citizens budgeting processes and project
- v. To encourage and enhance individuals and community participation in governance
- vi. To promote direct community participation in budgeting process

4.0 Goodwill Messages:

One of the Civil Society Organization representatives in person of Ageba Tashi said he was happy to be part of the budget discursion which allows room for contributions from citizens. He promised to take the message down to his constituency.

Kalu Idika from the media wing said that they have been following tracks of events and happenings in the State but this engagement is the first of its kind that government is moving from zone to zone to collect people's inputs. To him, this standard will help the government to serve the people better. As media practitioners, he said that they will justify the confidence reposed on them and that they will report every event and monitor the activities to ensure implementation.

CAN Chairman Akwanga Chapter appreciated the government for ensuring that what is needful is being done for the welfare of citizens. He however said as faith-based organization this is commendable because the government is involving the tax payers to contribute towards development of the State. He assured that, they will pray for the government continuously and mobilize the citizens to support government assiduously to ensure mutual relationship and cordiality.

JNI Chairman, Wamba Chapter, said it was his first time of attending such a wonderful occasion. That since from the moment he was invited he started praying that God should spare his life to witness the epoch-making event. According to him, the invitation has proven that this very government is a government of the people.

In a similar manner, CAN Women Wing and FOMWAN thanked the government for being open and promised to step down every experience gathered at the forum.

The Chairman EYM Akwanga Chapter, commended the effort of the government for initiating the programme. He congratulated every participant in attendance for the opportunity to engage government. He told the participants not to misuse the opportunity given to them and they should not allow the administration to fail now that they have the chance to contribute towards State development.

Chairman Youth Council on his part said that 2022 budget will be a budget of the people, to the people and for the people since it has involved the stakeholders to contribute to the development of the state. He said he was happy to be part of the moving trend.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Banking and Finance said that he will like to join Akwanga people to commend the governor who also hail from the zone for his unique style of leadership. He maintained that the whole of Akwanga zone may not have been invited but they have been fully represented

through the careful selection made. On his part, Mr Ibrahim Ogah, commended the governor for ensuring transparency and accountability in governance. According to him, the inclusion of citizens in budgeting would promote good governance in the country.

5.0 Opening Remarks:

The Honourable Commissioner of Finance Budget and Planning said that Governor Abdullahi Sule-led administration was determined to change the lives of the people of the state positively through the initiation of quality policies and programmes.

He however affirmed that all states are expected to implement the Public Financial Reforms in key areas of: Increasing Fiscal Transparency and Accountability; Strengthening Domestic Revenue Mobilization; Strengthening Efficiency in Public Expenditure and Sustainable Debt Management. The SFTAS programme initially had 9 Key Disbursement Link indicators (DLIs) which he mentioned in his opening remarks. Moreover, he said Nasarawa has been organizing town hall meetings on citizens budget since 2019 in adherence to DLI 2 of the SFTAS protocols. As the third consultation, the commissioner said this town hall meeting is organised towards ensuring that the 2022 budget captures inputs from the citizens. Hence Delegates from various groups of interest including the Civil Society Organisations (CBOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBO), (Religious Leaders), the Media, Youth Associations, Market Women, Farmers, Union as well as Associations and Unions from both formal and informal sectors were invited. Furthermore, he unveiled the theme for the year thus: "Social Pact with the people: The Way Forward for Greater Development". He maintained that the theme was an improvement from previous consultations in terms of participation and organisation. He also assured the participants that their inputs will be beneficial and highly considered.

In addition, the Honourable Commissioner defined Citizens' Budgeting otherwise known as participatory budgeting as a process of democratic deliberation and discussion as well as decision making, in which citizens decide how some part of the budget can be allocated. He enlisted the purpose of citizens consultation on the budget as follows:

- i. To allow participation of the people so as to engage real projects that the citizens need and not what the government assume they want
- ii. Participatory budget is now used all over the world to give citizens a say on how policies and programmes are shaped.
- iii. To enable citizens, have a chance to allocate resources, prioritize social policies and monitor public spending through budget tracking
- iv. To make governance more transparent and accessible to the common man.

In conclusion, the Commissioner yearned to achieve a lofty objective of ensuring that the lingering challenges faced by the communities are dealt with squarely through purposeful deliberation even as we work towards getting the desired result. He therefore declared the engagement opened.

6.0 Reading of The Last Year Communiqué:

After reading of 2020 communiqué by Tsovina Tanko David (SFTAS Technical Assistant), Mr Akolo Alaku who was present at Ministry for Local Government Community Development Chieftaincy & Affairs where the last year budget discussion held said the communiqué covered all the deliberations in the previous year participatory budget. He then moved for the adoption of the communiqué while Esson Yarima who took part actively in the drafting of the communiqué seconded.

7.0 Presentation on the 2021 Abridged Version of The Citizens' Budget:

The Director budget presented the analysis of the 2021 Citizens Budget. In his presentation, he stated that revenue of the State majorly comes from IGR and FAAC for which in turn goes to Personnel, Overhead and Capital Expenditures respectively. He however encouraged participants to cooperate with the government through purposeful deliberation. More so that some people are not public servants, the easiest way to benefit from government is through execution of capital projects. He dwelt on other aspects that have been enshrined in the 2021 budget which are Covid-19 and Climate Change Budget. The Director maintained that Covid-19 and Climate Change were included to ameliorate the pandemic and mitigate the impact of climate change.

8.0 Questions, Observations and Contribution:

Mr Ageba Tashi a CSO representative, asked for ways in which CSO can be included in the state budget. He also said the government should make their annual performance public so that citizens can track projects that are domiciled in their respective Local Governments.

The Chief Imam Of College of Education, Akwanga Chapter inquired what government is doing to encourage faith-based organisation. He however lamented about the deplorable state of education particular in the area of employment and structure hence the needed attention has to be given to improve on the standard of education in the state. In the area of Agriculture, the Chairman said that government should increase her spending in Agriculture and the fund budgeted for Agriculture should be spent judiciously. He also solicited for more programmes that are tailored towards empowering women to enable ease of doing business. The leader of Market

Women Association also joined other participants in seeking for more support for women.

Prince Peter Ango said they need classroom building and toilets in Kagbu Ero primary school and more roads should be opened to remote villages in order to create transport access for farmers to convey their crops to the market. One of the participants task the government on industrialization in order to provide job opportunities for the youths

Alex Jonathan, a person living with disability from Akwanga, thanked the government for granting scholarships to people living with disability. However, he solicited for employment opportunity so that after graduation from school they can be fully engaged. Similarly, the President Assakio Technical Student Association said government should create jobs to solve the problem of youth restiveness.

CAN Chairman on his part said that hence there's deficit in medical healthcare in Akwanga Zone, government should partner or support those existing Missionary Hospitals in the area by strengthening them for efficiency and wider coverage.

9.0 Responses:

In response to questions and observations raised by the participants, the commissioner said the government has budgeted 35% of the total budget for education in 2021 which means the government is doing her best to improve the sector. He however said that about 2500 teachers were recruited into the State service. Still in the area of employment, the Commissioner said His Excellency has also empowered about 5000 staff to help solve the challenges associated with youth restiveness. Also worthy to mention was the recruitment of 820 medical staff in DASH and HMB.

Talking of monitoring government projects at the Local Government, the Commissioner tasked the people to engage Local Government to ensure proper planning of budget which to him was the only way to make Local Government budget trackable.

On the aspect of industrialization, he said the former VIP Lodge has been refurbished and converted to Luxury crown Hotel. To him this has created jobs for the citizens even though it has been leased to private management.

Concerning government assistance to community-based organization, the Commissioner said that they taught that faith-based organization belong to those communities that are represented and whatever the government do for the people will equally serve their purpose.

The Special Adviser on the other hand said that government is over stretched in the area of employment. According to him the government was still looking into the issues of implementation of minimum wage and promotions hence they cannot do otherwise.

10.0 Presentation of the Communique:

Communique drafting committee highlighted some of the views and recommendations arising from the meeting. The committee include CSOs, Religious Leaders and NYC representatives, some of the resolutions were:

- i. The Government should provide infrastructure in rural communities in order to open up business opportunities which will check rural-urban migration.
- ii. The government should also give attention to employment, skills acquisition in order to tackle youth restiveness and unemployment in the state as well as prioritising the payment of pension and gratuity.
- iii. There should be provision of credit facilities in form of soft loans to boost our agricultural activities.
- iv. The state should prioritise rural development and economic empowerment in the 2022 budget to improve on the standard of living of its citizens.
- v. Government should partner with the existing Private/Missionary hospitals by supporting them with the needed facilities in order to improve their capacity base to tackle the health needs of the Zone.

11.0 Closing Remarks:

The Director Budget told the communique drafting committee to work on the drafted communique and submit the clean copy to the Ministry of Finance Budget and Planning. However, he thanked everyone for coming and assured them that their purposeful deliberations will be considered when preparing 2022 budget.

Attached overleaf are some of the pictures at the Nasarawa North Senatorial District held at College of Education Akwanga, Nasarawa State.

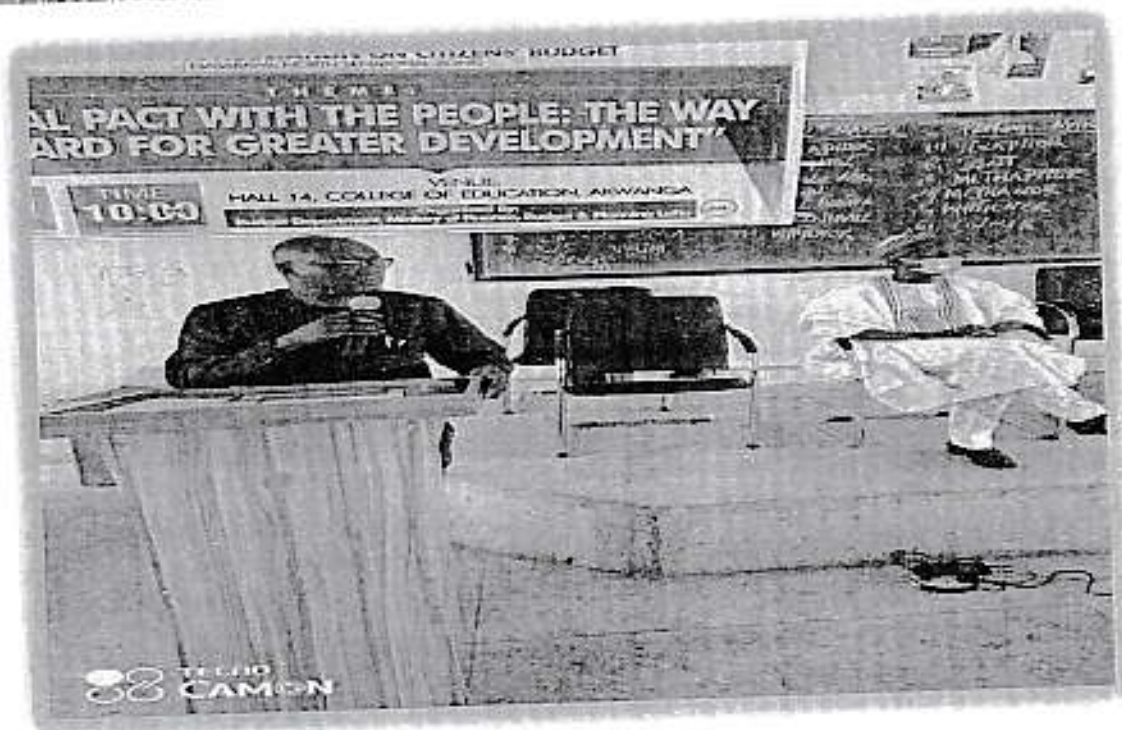
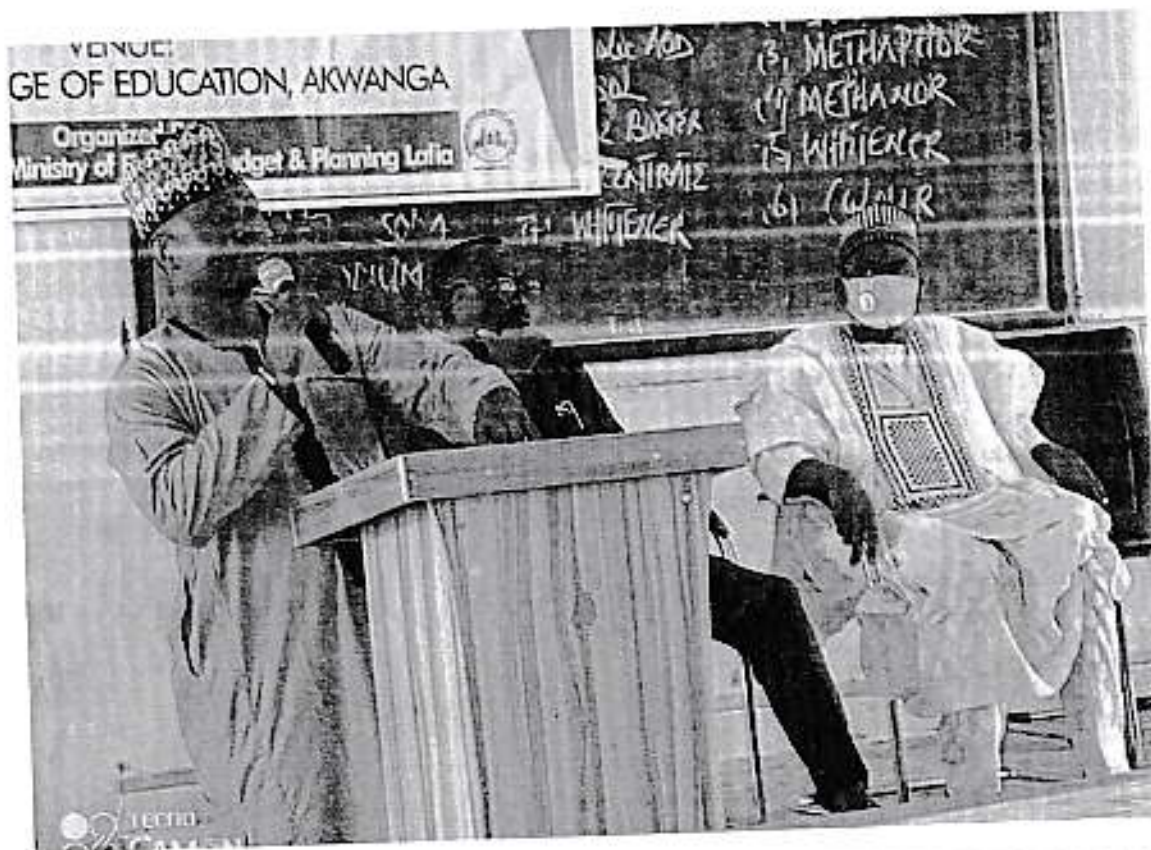

Achiaku Ezekiel
Secretary


Azizi Josephine
CSOs' Rep

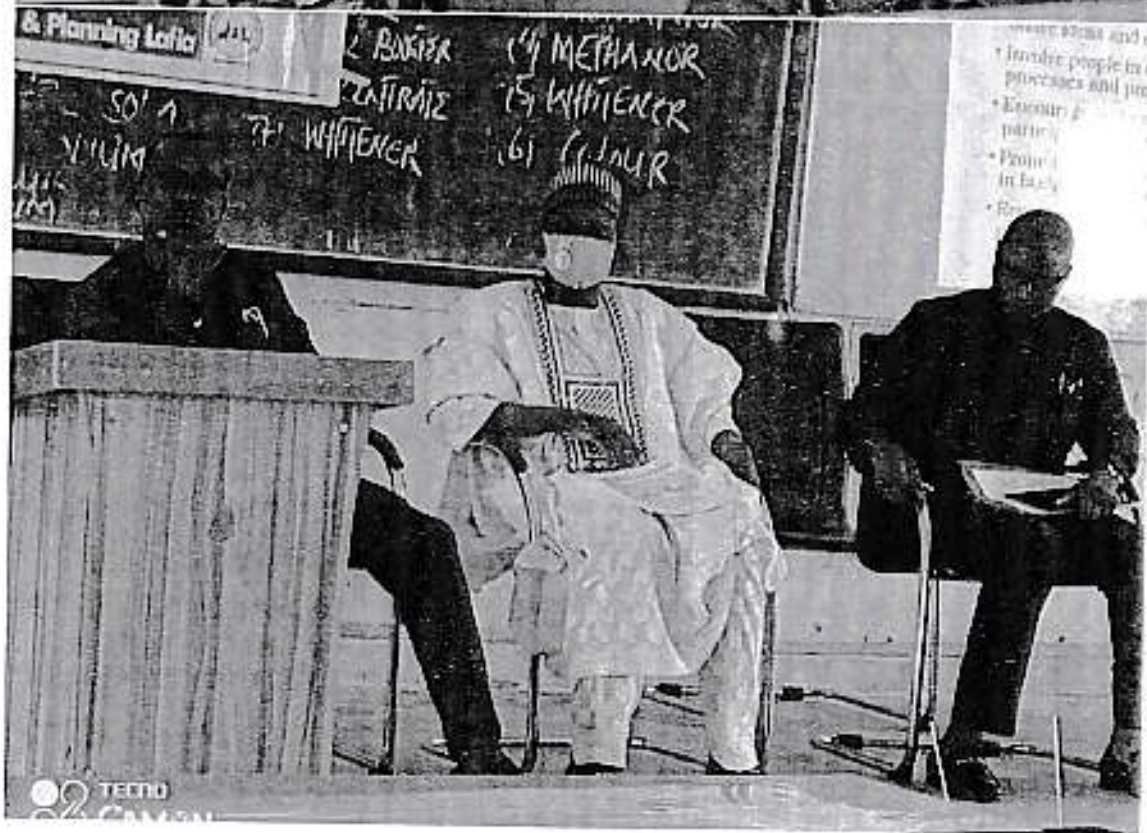


Group Picture of the Participants with the Hon. Commissioner.

Director Budget coordinating the discussion at COEA



Welcome Address by the Permanent Secretary MFBP



From the left - right Mr. Ibrahim Ogah, Special Adviser to the Governor on Banking & Finance, Honourable, Adamu Haruna Ogbale, Commissioner of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning, Nasarawa State, and Mr Emmanuel Alidzi, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning.