

MINUTES OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING FOR THE FEED BACK ON THE AMENDED BUDGET OF YEAR 2020, HELD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LAFIA ON 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2020.

- 1. PREAMBLE:** In order to effectively coordinate the State Budget activities to be all inclusive and participatory, the State Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning which is responsible for the preparation and production of the State Budget, organised a One-day town hall meeting with citizens and some key stakeholders in the State on the 10th September, 2020, at the Ministry for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Community Development Conference Hall. The meeting reviewed Budget activities updates in line with the State Government prevailing challenges at hands that affected the initial 2020 proposed Budget and the reason for the amendment.
- 2. COMMENCEMENT:** The meeting started at 10:30am with registration of participants. Opening prayers were said by Mr Abdullahi Ismaila and Mrs Mercy T. Asso respectively.
- 3. ATTENDANCE:** A total number of Fifty two (52) people attended the meeting which comprised of Government Officials, Youth Leaders, Faith Base Organizations, Members of Civil Society Organizations, and Media among others. See attached list.
- 4. WELCOME ADDRESS / REMARKS:** The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning, **Mr Emmanuel M. Alidzi** on behalf of the Honourable Commissioner, welcomed all participants present. He frowned at the attitude of some stakeholders who do not honour invitations base on the time stipulated in the invitation letter and appreciated other participants who were present earlier for their patience. The Permanent Secretary highlighted the importance of attending

meeting on scheduled time as well as the benefits of time management.

He went further to highlight on the historical trend of how 2020 budget was prepared and assented to by Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule the Governor of Nasarawa State on 30th December, 2019.

The Permanent Secretary stated that, the 2020 original Budget was proposed to the tune of N 108,444,805,614.00. However, with the advent of Covid-19 pandemic, where key economic activities have been hampered, owing to the protocols and guide lines set by the Federal Government to avoid spread of the disease. It has become very pertinent to amend the Budget in order to have a closely realistic figures which the sum of N 64,624,108,808 was approved by the Nasarawa State House of Assembly and assented to by the Executive Governor on 28th July, 2020. The implication of this is that most proposals made in the initial budget for execution of projects in line with the requests of citizens across the State have been suspended. The participants were delegated to step down this information to their respective communities and interest groups.

In conclusion, he called on the audience to continue to partner with Government to ensure full implementation of the amended Budget and finally urged them to be more proactive in carrying out their responsibilities as well as contribute meaningfully to the development of their respective communities and their organizations which will give rise to peaceful and harmonious Nasarawa State.

5. **OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING:** The objectives of the meeting were presented by the Director of Budget, **Mr Akolo Peters Ataka** as follows;

- ❖ To update the audience on the plans and programmes of Government as it relates to State budget.
- ❖ To rationalise and mobilize meaningful contributions from participants on how full implementation of the amended Budget will be achieved despite the presence of Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ To improve on the participation of public / citizens in the State Budget preparation and implementations and
- ❖ To inform audience on the newly amended Budget and the consequences as well as reasons for the amendment.

6. GOODWILL MESSAGE:

(a) The Chairperson of CS-SUNN State Chapter **Mrs Mercy T. Asso**, on behalf of the CSOs appreciated the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning as well as the State Government for recognizing the CSOs as partners and for including CSOs in the town hall meeting and appealed for the sustainability. She went further to call on her colleagues to continue to support Government to deliver on its mandates to better the lives of the vulnerable citizens. She finally wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE BREAKDOWN OF AMENDED BUDGET: The Director of Budget (Mr Akolo Peters Ataka) presented the detail breakdown of the amended Budget as follows:

- i. Recurrent Budget was N38,158,476,434
- ii. Capital Budget was N26,465,632,374

8. **DISCUSSION SESSION:** After the presentation, there was questions, observations and comments from the audience and answers were provided base on the questions raised.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** The following were the recommendations made during the session;

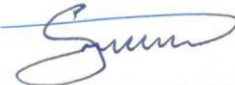
- ✓ Government should minimise restriction of movement to enable people to earn a living.
- ✓ There should be a sustainable partnership between Government and Civil Society Organizations for better performance.
- ✓ There should be an increase human resource development in the aspect of training and re-training.
- ✓ There should be an increase in budget allocation for Capital projects for sustainable development.
- ✓ Provision of space for CSOs participation in Budget tracking in order to achieve value for money among others.

10. **CLOSING REMARKS:** The meeting came to a close at 3:00pm with vote of thanks by the Director of Planning (Isa Abdul Osama), who spoke on behalf of the Ministry. The Director appreciated the meaningful contributions made by participants and assured them of the Ministry's readiness to work with all organization to better the Ministry performance. He also promised the audience that, all commence and observations raised will be forwarded to the appropriate authority. Finally he wished everyone journey mercies back to their respective destinations.

SIGN:



Mercy T. Asso
08038086848



Esson A. Yerima
09033407527