

**MINUTES OF ONE (1) DAY TOWNHALL CONSULTATION ON CITIZENS BUDGET FOR NASARAWA WEST SENATORIAL ZONE, HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021, AT UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM KEFFI.**

**1.0 Attendance:**

See attendance list attached.

**2.0 Opening Prayer/Commencement.**

The meeting commenced at about 10:10am and thereafter opening prayer were said by Reverend Canon A.S Kuzoda CAN Chairman Toto Local Government Area and Maryam Suleiman Odaudu of FOMWAN.

**3.0 Remark/Meeting Objectives.**

**3.1** The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning said the aim and objective of this meeting is to know what the citizens need; citizens budget is made for the people at the grassroot level. He also went further to say that civil society organization will have full participation on the budgetary process so as to bring development to our communities and state at large.

Therefore, he urges participant to think out of the box and bring out those things that they want government to do for them, and also include it in the 2022 budget.

He highlighted some key objectives of the citizens budget as follows;

- To understand participatory citizens budgeting.
- To promote accessibility and transparency in governance.
- Involve people in decision about citizens budgeting processes and projects.
- Encourage and empower individuals and communities to participate in governance.
- Promote direct involvement of communities particularly in governance.

- Promote direct involvement of communities particularly in budget decisions.
- Share ideas and experience among citizens
- Recognize and remove barriers to full and effective participation.

Based on the foregoing, wished the participants a fruitful deliberation as their contributions, observations and questions is needed for development and to include in the 2022 financial year budget.

#### **4.0 Goodwill Messages:**

The following personalities delivered their goodwill messages during the event

##### **4.1 Rev. Dr. Bulus Joshua Dakaru; CAN Chairman State Western Senatorial**

Zone, after thanking the initiator of the budget, he said that it is his hope that the deliberation on this citizens budget will yield a positive result at the end of day and also help their communities.

##### **4.2 Abdullahi Isah Muhammed, Speaker youth assembly of Nigeria, Karsh Development Area.**

In his goodwill message, urged participants to contribute, make observations because citizens budget play a vital role in youth development, he therefore wish the people a peaceful deliberation.

##### **4.3 Comrade Esson A. Yerima, Civil Society Organization (CSO), on**

his own message, he said he wants the Governor of the state to have a good synergy with the Ministry of Finance, Budget & Planning and also have a full recognition so as to enable the Ministry performs their duties deligently. He reiterated that the Ministry should be involved in all policies and decision of state. With that, it will bring development to door steps of the citizenry.



## 5.0 Opening Address

The honourable Commissioner Ministry of Finance, Budget Planning on his welcome everyone to another town hall

meeting on Citizens' Budget participation. This is the third edition of this kind of engagement since the inception of the Administration of **Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule** and the second meeting this year. This town hall meeting has delegates from various groups of interest including the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations-FBOs (Religious Leaders), the Media, Youth Associations, Market Women, Farmers' Union as well as 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, this year's consultation 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 previous consultations. The State Government had planned for a wider consultation, through gathering of people based on senatorial zones. The first for this year was organized for the Southern Senatorial Zone and today we are here in Keffi to organize for the Western Zone with representatives of the citizens from Karu, Keffi, Kokona, Nasarawa and Toto LGAs. You are all carefully selected for a purpose to represent various groups and interest. **He** further explained what citizens budget is all about as he said Citizens' budgeting otherwise known as participatory budgeting is a process of democratic deliberation and discussion as well as decision making, in which the citizens (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 real decisions about how funds are utilized.

In addition, the Honourable Commissioner highlighted the reason for engaging the citizens to include;

- Generally, Government has its own plans, programmes and projects for the people. 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 and programmes are shaped.
- With a participatory budget, citizens have the chance to allocate resources, prioritize social policies, and monitor public spending through budget tracking.
- Citizens budgeting makes governance more transparent and accessible to the common man. Fundamentally, 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 as well as 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 2020 Townhall meeting communique.**

Communique of the last townhall consultation was read by Tsovina Tanko David.

## **7.0 Presentation on the 2021 abridge version of the citizens**

**budget.** By Akolo Peters Ataka, Director of Budget Ministry of Finance, Budget and planning. Presented a general overview of budget size is all about and how it will yield positive result to the citizens. He Further explained where the money is coming from **revenue** and where the money is going **expenditure**. He reminded the participants on how corona-virus (Covid-19) pandemic has affected the global economy, in which Nasarawa State is not exempted. As a result of that, 2020 budget has be revised in other to meet up with the economy challenges. Again, climate change is also a matter of concerned, and they have allocated budget line in the 2021 budget.

## **8.0 Citizen contribution on projects to be included in the 2022 Budget.**

Contribution were made by various representatives of organization some of the issues raised are insecurities, poor roads network, empowerment, building/rehabitation of primary schools, delay in supplies of agricultural inputs, lack of proper identification of revenue in some L.G.A, lack of payment of LGA staff Salaries among others.

## **9.0 Contribution/Observations/Question.**

Some questions and observations made are.

- a. Why Insecurity is increasing despite the huge allocation of budget \ to security and governance.
- b. How would government tackle issue or roads construction in the

rural areas? Especially Toto, Nasarawa and Karu L.G.A

- c. What is government doing in terms of building/rehabilitation of primary schools and recruitment of personnel.
- d. Agriculture as our main stay. What is government doing in other to provides inputs for Farmers at the right time.
- e. Some revenue that are not be tap what government is doing about it.
- f. How would Government expand the internal revenue base, especially untapped areas.

#### **10.0 Reading of Communique.**

Reading of communique by Secretary of the Communique. Drafting Committee, the committee recommend the following Key point.

1. It was agreed that infrastructure should be priorities in Karu L.G.A
2. Karu Science School should be rehabilitated and renovated to meet standard.
3. Communique agreed that there should be price control system in the state.
4. Local Government Areas Should prepared budget so as the people can track spending.
5. There should be publication of local Government releases monthly.
6. Women empowerment should be priorities in the budget.
7. There should be a complete master plan of Keffi L.G.A
8. It was also agreed that the should established a state College of Education Campus in Toto L.G.A and also other resolutions made in the meeting.

## **10.0 Vote of thanks**

Timothy Victoria Iyabo (DNS). Chairperson women CAN Nasarawa L.G.A said the Vote of thanks on behalf of the participants by thanking God and the initiator of the programme. She wishes that whatever the discussed here will yield positive results. She equally wished every body safe journey to their destinations.

## **11.0 Closing Remark.**

The Permanent Secretary gave the closing remark and promised to work on the next steps to ensure that all the contributions, observation and question asked were taken into consideration. The meeting came to a close at about 2:24pm.

Sign by the following.



**Philip Zachariah**

**Secretary**



**Allanana S. Omaku**

**CSOs' Rep**