

**MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDERS TOWNHALL MEETING ON YEAR 2021 BUDGET  
ORGANISED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING,  
LOKOJA, KOGI STATE, HELD ON 13TH, OCTOBER, 2020 AT 95 DEGREES EVENTS  
CENTER, KABBA, KOGI STATE.**

**1.0.0 PREAMBLE** The Stakeholders meeting in Kabba, Kogi West, is part of the ongoing consultations with the people on the budget process, aimed at obtaining their inputs into the 2021 Budget. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> stakeholders meeting on Budget, the 1<sup>st</sup> being in 2018 in Lokoja, where stakeholders from the 3 senatorial districts were invited. However, participants advised that, extending the meeting to the senatorial districts would give room for wider participation and further improve the credibility of the process. This informed the reason for holding the meetings at the senatorial level in 2019 and now 2020.

1.0.1 Some of the other achievements of the meeting include promotion of transparency, accountability and inclusive governance. The meeting had provided platform for suggestions that culminated into preparation of Citizens Budget, making the Budget document and other related documents publicly available on the State official website etc.

1.0.2 The Hon. Commissioner of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, **Mukadam Asiwaju Ashiru Idris**, paid a courtesy call on the Obaro of Kabba- land, **Oba Dele Awoniyi**, as part of the stakeholders meeting in Okunland. The Commissioner intimated the Royal father of the State Government development agenda in the area, consisting roads, water, health, education, agriculture etc. He solicited the support of the Oba, to enable Government implement its development programs in the area including revenue generation. He commended the Senatorial district for toping others in IGR. While welcoming the Commissioner and his team, the Royal Father, commended the State Government for its development efforts. He called on Government to strengthen infrastructural development in the area, especially road and construction of central Palace for the Obaro of Kabba. He assured the Commissioner of his people support for Government. He said his impression about Budget was that any item provided for in the Budget was as good as being implemented but wondered why many items in the approved Budget were not implemented.

## **2.0.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

2.0.1 The meeting commenced at 11:10AM with a prayer by Pastor Kinrinola Emmanuel-Kabba Development Union (KDU) and Mal. Mohammed Muktar Idris-Kogi State Internal Revenue Service (KGIRS).

## **3.0.0 OPENING REMARKS**

3.0.1 The Hon. Commissioner welcomed participants to the meeting which he said was consistent with best practice. He informed the meeting that, His Excellency Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello, was very passionate about the meeting, which was the reason he gave a standing directive for the meeting to be made an integral part of the budgeting process. He said the essence of the meeting was to provide opportunity for the people to speak frankly about projects that they wanted to be included in the Budget for their communities, saying such would be captured in the State Development Plan and would be implemented gradually through the annual Budget. He disclosed that, over the few years of the Stakeholders meeting, the budgeting process had been significantly improved including public disclosure of our documents on the State official website.

3.0.2 On why the 2020 Budget was revised, he informed that the assumption that informed the preparation of the 2020 Approved Budget could no longer endure, as the oil benchmark of \$57 Dollars per barrel upon which the Budget was prepared oscillated between \$17 and \$30 Dollar per barrel. At the same time, the exchange rate, projected at N305/\$ rose to N360/\$. He said all other assumptions such as inflation rates, GDP growth rate, unemployment etc. showed very bad signals. Based on these developments, he said, the Budget was revised N176 Billion to N102 Billion, to reflect the prevailing realities and make it implementable. He continued that, in revising the 2020 Approved Budget, Over Head cost was cut down, the planned recruitment exercise was suspended, while tax relief was granted to vulnerable businesses as well as increased allocation for the health sector, to cater for Personal Protective Equipment, Medical allowances and health insurance. He said provision were also made to support rural agriculture, social safety net support, livelihood support, public works support, all of which were provided for under the COVID-19 CARES program, expected to take-off soon and continued in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

3.0.3 He continued that, the 2020 Budget had been revised in line with the effect of COVID-19, saying the World Bank had reviewed the Revised Budget and confirmed that the State complied with the guidelines for the Budget amendment. Based on this, the State would be awarded a grant of \$5 Million US Dollars. He maintained that, the Stakeholders engagement was considered very important by Government which informed the presence of key representatives of MDAs on the State team, to answer stakeholders' questions on the different sectors of the economy. He asked the stakeholders to submit their inputs, which he promised would be collated and shared on the State website, particularly the requests that were captured in the Budget and those that would not be captured based on funding constraints.

3.0.4 In conclusion, he congratulated the State Governor, Alh. Yahaya Bello, over his victory at the Supreme Court, assuring the people of the commitment of Government to continue to address their yearnings.

3.0.5 **Mr E O Bayode, the SFTAS Coordinator (World Bank Assisted)**, spoke on the benefits of stakeholders' engagement on Budget. He defined Budget as the process whereby decision-makers allocate scarce resources to fund vital public services and facilities. He posited that, engaging the stakeholders was a great way to gather information and feedback to guide the decisions of government. He said the information gathered from stakeholders' engagement would enable government to prove to the citizens that the decisions that were made in the budgeting process were intended to meet the desires, needs and priorities of the people; He said the more views gathered in the process of budget formulation, the more likely the final product of the budget would meet the most needs and address the most concerns possible; therefore, consistently engaging with the citizens helps the government to maintain credibility over time; Collecting ideas and inputs from stakeholders across all areas would engender peace and stability in governance and less agitations from the citizenry and finally, Stakeholders involvement in the budget process engenders ownership of the budget.

3.0.6 He concluded that, institutionalizing Stakeholders engagement, affirmed the commitment of His Excellency, Alh. Yahaya Bello, to institute a culture of Transparency, Accountability and Openness in the governance system of the State. He appreciated His Excellency for the laudable initiative which, if sustained, had the ingredient of promoting openness, transparency and accountability and ultimately, good governance.

#### **4.0.0 REMARKS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

4.0.1 **Mr. Atibioke Julius-National President, (Ijumu Development Union)**, commended Government policy of inclusiveness and noted that resources are limited but projects that are important to the people should be prioritized. He advised Government to consider the following;

- **The KOICA project on Cassava processing at Egbeda in Yagba LGA had been abandoned for long, Government should focus on the project by funding in order to develop the facility.**
- **Agricultural Processing Zones should be established. Government should open up the Virgin Forest so that the Youth can access the vast Arable land in the Area for Agricultural practices.**
- **Kogi State has Comparative Advantage in Agriculture. Large quantity of Agricultural Products like Mangoes, Cashew etc. are produced in the area, Government should fund farmers to concentrate on the production of this crops.**

4.0.2 **Mr. Mark Friday (JP)-Kabba Development Union**, welcomed participants to the Meeting. He gave a list of requirement/ demands on behalf of Kabba Development Union (KDU);

##### **1) ROADS CONSTRUCTION**

- A. Kabba Township- Ikowo-Opa Main Road**
- B. Obangogo Hills Road**

##### **2) CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF BRIDGES**

- A. St. Joseph Primary School Bridge (Within Kabba Town)**
- B. Kano Road Bridge**
- C. College of Education (Technical), Kabba Bridge (Permanent site)**
- D. Fehinty Bridge**
- E. Omigbo Bridge**
- F. Riverside Bridge**
- G. Kajola Bridge**
- H. Bamisto Bridge**

##### **3) PROVISION OF WATER**

**A. Provision of More Boreholes in Kabba**

**B. Rehabilitation of and reticulation of Water Works Project**

#### **4) INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- **Construction and Renovation of infrastructure in all Public Schools in Kabba**
- **Renovation and Rehabilitation of Infrastructures at Specialist Hospitals Kabba including;**
  - A. Provision of Ambulance**
  - B. Provision of functional Water Supply System**

#### **5) CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGES**

- **Rehabilitation of Drainages including;**
  - ❖ **Drainage at Dada Onicar Roundabout**

4.0.3 **Mr. Ayo Sunday Joseph-Treasurer (Isanlu Progressive Union)**, expressed appreciation to Government for the initiative to consult with citizens and obtain their inputs into the budget. He presented the following list of requests on behalf of his people:

##### **1. ROADS**

- **Construction of 20km out of 120km Isanlu Township road**
- **Makutu Township Road**
- **Aiyetoro-Okegada Road**
- **Ilafin-Odogbe Road**
- **KDJEC-Irunda-Ile Road**

##### **2. HEALTH CARE**

- **Recruitment of more qualified Doctors and other Health Care Personnel**
- **Renovation and Completion of General Hospital**

##### **3. WATER SUPPLY**

- **Provision of portable Drinking Water (Isanlu host one of the biggest Dam yet there is no portable Drinking Water)**
- **Renovation of the Water Works**

4.0.4 **Mr. Oke Simon Adebayo- (from Obaro Palace, Kabba)**, welcomed participants at the Meeting and said, as a representative from the Palace he had the mandate to speak the Obaro's mind. He called for attention to be paid to the following salient points;

- **That, the people of Kabba had excellent relationship with the government, saying His Excellency, the Governor of Kogi State is a friend of Kabba people. Therefore, the development of Kabba-land is paramount to him.**
- **The Palace should be involved in the monitoring of all projects. details of Contracts awarded and the Contractors handling the Projects should be known to the Palace.**
- **That the Palace was very concerned about the State of Kabba Township roads, calling for it to be prioritized in the 2021 Budget.**

4.0.5 **Engr. Elefin, E.A, Industrialist (Obaro's Palace)**, called the attention of the Government on the following;

- **The construction of access road to the Obaro's Palace should be prioritized in the 2021 Budget**

4.0.6 **Mr. Babatunde Muyiwa-National Secretary (Ere Welfare Association)** presented a list of top priority projects from his community as follows;

- **ROADS CONSTRUCTIONS**
  - A. **Odo Ere-Akata-Oke-Ere Link Road (5km with culvert)**
  - B. **Kabiyesi Street linking (Odo Ere-Iyamerein-Oke Eri)**
  - C. **General Hospital Road (linking Federal Road)**
  - D. **Odo-Ere Township Road**
- **WATER SUPPLY**
  - A. **Sinking of more Boreholes in Odo-Ere LGA Headquarters (due to increase Population)**
  - B. **Completion of the awarded Overhead Tank at Idi Agba Oke Aga**
- **HEALTH CARE**
  - A. **Rehabilitation including fencing and equipping of General Hospital Odo-Ere,Yagba West LGA**
  - B. **Recruitment of Qualified Doctors and Medical Personnel**
  - C. **Supply of Drugs**
- **EDUCATION**

**A. Rehabilitation including Building of Classrooms for Schools in Yagba-West LGA**

**B. Upgrading of Gbaraga College, Odo Ere, to a Higher Institution**

**C. Upgrading of Okutadudu High School to a Higher Institution**

**D. Recruitment of qualified Teachers**

➤ **CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGES**

**He said the community was threatened by the menace of Erosion and called for it to be tackled in the 2021 Budget**

**4.0.7 Mr. James Olorunmola-PRO (Kabba),** advocated the following to be provided in the 2021 Budget;

- **Establishment of Recreational Centers like Parks and Gardens. He said this would positively engage the youths as a means of supporting livelihood**
- **Construction of the Road to Obangogo Mountain. He said this had the potential to attract Tourist and generate revenue to the community and the Government.**
- **Establishment of Skill Acquisition Center. this can also engage the mind of the youth and take them off the streets.**

**4.0.8 Pastor Kinrinola E.A. of Kabba Development Union (KDU),** congratulated the Hon. Commissioner on the success of the Stakeholders Townhall meeting. He made the following comments/inputs:

**Government policy on Agriculture is commendable. For the first time in so many years, Farmers are able to access Agricultural inputs like Fertilizers directly without going through middlemen.**

- **Government should do an assessment of areas with comparative advantages in different Agricultural products with a view to developing these advantages.**
- **Government should consider Farmers in Kabba when allocating COVID-19 Palliative**

**4.0.9 Mr. Shaibu Adams-Assistant Manager (KGIRS, Kabba Tax Office),** commended the Government for organizing the Stakeholders Townhall Meeting.

- **He noted that it provided first hand opportunity to educate taxpayers on how revenues were generated and expended.**

- **He used the opportunity to appeal to Taxpayers to fulfil their Civic duty, by paying their taxes as and when due.**

4.1.0 **Mr. M.O MAKUN-Obaro's Palace, Kabba**, in his contribution, provided the following insights:

- **Government needs money to carry out its developmental agenda. Therefore, all hands must be on deck to ensure to boost Government revenues**
- **The Hospitals in Kabba are in dire need of rehabilitation. Doctors and other Medical Personnel need to be recruited and Drug supply sustained.**

4.1.2 **Mrs. Theresa-Director of Planning (MFBEP)**, Stated that Kabba was privileged to have her son as Commissioner for Finance, Budget and Economic Planning. She called for the renovation of Kabba Water Works in order to ensure portable Water supply to the Community.

4.1.3 **Mr. Ogunleye Durojaiye-Area Tax Manager, Kabba (KGIRS)**, informed the meeting that, **KGIRS no longer issue manual receipts but e-receipt through automated systems.**

4.1.4 **Mr. Osagbemi Reuben Sunday-DLG (Yagba- East)**, advised Traditional Rulers to cooperate with Government for the development of their community. **He noted that the Ome Dam had the potential to provide adequate portable Water supply to the community, calling for the option to be exploited for the good of the people.**

4.1.4. **Mr. E.M Obolusoro-Retired Officer (Kabba/Bunu)**, expressed concern on Herders-Farmers conflict, saying it had constrained farmers from farming activities for safety concerns. **He advised Government to engage Herders and Farmer in dialogue for peaceful co-existence.**

## **5.0.0 RESPONSE FROM COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

5.0.1 Hon. Mukadam Asiwaju Ashiru Idris assured the participants that, all the issues raised had been properly documented.

On the Herdsmen-Farmers conflict, the Commissioner informed the meeting that Government had just inaugurated the Livestock Management Commission and was in the process of creating a new security outfit to manage the situation. This, he said, was to manage conflict and to ensure farmers resume Farming activities without fear.



On forest clearing to ensure accessibility to arable, he said Government was working in conjunction with Nigerian Agricultural Land Development Agency (NALDA) to realize this objective of clearing 500 hectares of land.

On mitigating the effect of COVID-19, Government had purchased 9200 bags of Fertilizers to be distributed free to genuine Farmers. He said, the APPEALS project (World Bank Supported) and the Auditor General would be used to monitor the distribution while Food items would be shared to people.

Still on access to farmland, the Commissioner informed the meeting that, the RAAMP, another World Bank project, would commence operation in 2021. One of the key mandate of the project was to construct rural roads to improve rural farming to improve the agricultural value chain.

The Commissioner said, in order to achieve comparative advantage in Agricultural Produce, the ALAPE Staple Crops Processing Zone was created. This would encourage Farmers in different areas to concentrate on the production of crops peculiar to their locality and for which they had comparative advantage. He also informed the meeting that, Government had allocated 4 Tractors to Kabba, which was expected to be accessible to the people at a token.

On Road construction, he said work had commenced on the kabba-Ilorin road while Kabba Township road had been approved for construction as soon as the Budget was approved. He said the request for the construction of 20km Isanlu township road was noted for action.

The Hon. Commissioner said that, as part of the process of deepening transparency and accountability, the State Government had introduced Kogi Open Governance and Accountability System (KOGAS). This, he said, was to ensure that all projects were executed according to specifications and standards.

The Commissioner said the Kabba Water Works was a bond funded Project, saying good money had been committed to the project. He said what had been lacking over time was the funds for pumping water, staffing security. He said the PPP option would also be considered The option for private investment under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement would be considered.

On the development of Obangogo Hills as a Tourist site, the Commissioner explained that Government could not be involved in everything, maintaining that Government

had no good history of running a business. He therefore called on the Citizens to investment in the sector.

On Erosion control and construction of Drainages, the Hon. Commissioner directed the Kabba Development Union (KDU) to send to his office, photographs of the affected erosion and drainage sites.

On Health Facilities, Government is working on rehabilitation and recruitment of Doctors and other Medical Personnel while The Specialist Hospital Kabba project is awaiting funds release.

On Educational Institutions, Government priority is focused on the Rehabilitation of Classrooms, supply of Textbooks and other Teaching Aids and Recruitment of qualified Teachers for Secondary Schools.

On Establishment of Recreational Park and Gardens, he advised the Youths to partner with private investors and to approach the CBN to source for funds under its programme called Creative Thinking Money.

On Tax Matters, the Commissioner said, as the Interim Chairman of KGIRS, Government had instructed that IGR should be dedicated to Projects. He commended the KGIRS on automation of tax payment and generation of e-receipts and also the people of Kogi West for doing well in payment of taxes.

Finally, the Commissioner thanked participants and the People of Kogi West for the qualitative contributions and for also performing their civic responsibility, assuring that the Budget would address their demands.

#### **6.0.0 VOTE OF THANKS**

6.0.1 The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Jimoh Muhammed thanked His Excellency, Alh. Yahaya Bello, the Executive Governor of Kogi, for creating a platform for the citizens to make their inputs into the Budget, thereby making the budget process inclusive. He said all issues raised would be addressed in line the available resources. He also thanked the Royal Fathers and Representative of the Community for honoring the invitation.

## 7.0.0 CLOSING PRAYERS

7.0.1 The Meeting came to an end at 1:43PM with closing prayers by Mr. Atibioke Julius-National President, (Ijumu Development Union) and Mr. Sanni H.M-Director, International Cooperation (MFBEP)



**Mukadam Asiwaju Asiru Idris**

Commissioner of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.



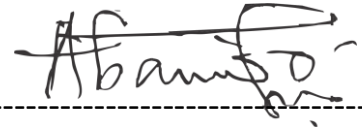
**Christy Abayomi**

Executive Director  
(GLOHWOC)  
Kabba/Bunu



**Mr. Atibioke Julius T**

National President  
(IJUMU DEV.UNION)



**Obaniwo C Nathaniel**

CSO  
Executive Director  
(RECAN)



**Mr. Babayomi F Sunday**

National Secretary  
(ISANLU PROGRESSIVE UNION)



**Mr. Olajide Samuel**

Director Budget  
MFBEP