

**KOGI STATE MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND PLANNING. LOKOJA, KOGI STATE.**  
**MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDERS TOWNHALL MEETING ON YEAR 2020 BUDGET**  
**HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> /11/2019 AT IGBO HALL, DADA ONIKAR JUCTION, KABBA,**  
**KOGI STATE**

**PREAMBLE**

The idea of a Stakeholders meeting on budget is part of the efforts of deepening the participation of the citizens in the budget process with a view to ensuring that the people support and own the approved Budget. This idea is gradually being met, as many recommendations by the stakeholders in the last year's meeting had been implemented, which had stimulated the interest of the people in the meeting. Some of the recommendations already acted upon by the Ministry of Budget and Planning include holding the Stakeholders meeting outside Government facility; decentralizing the stakeholders meeting to ensure wider participation; publishing the Budget Call Circular on the State official website to enable the citizens take timely steps to make inputs into the Budget etc.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 11.30am with Muslim and Christian prayers by Chief Fadile Yusuf and Mrs. Olupeka respectively.

**OPENING REMARKS**

The Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Hon. Paul Maiwada, in a remark, welcomed stakeholders to the meeting. He commended the stakeholders for their interest in the meeting, saying many recommendations by the stakeholders at the last year's meeting in Lokoja had been implementing, promising to remain focused on implementing stakeholders' recommendations that would help strengthen the credibility of the budget process.

In his brief Presentation at the meeting, the Coordinator of State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) for Kogi State and former Director of Macro Planning in the Ministry of Budget and Planning, Mr. E.O. Bayode, highlighted the importance of stakeholders' engagement in budget formulation. He explained that the usual practice had been that, Budget formulation and execution was done top – down but with the advent of

participatory budgeting, it was now done bottom – up, underlining the involvement of key stakeholders in the process. According to him, without proper engagement of the stakeholders, it would be impossible to elicit the support and ownership of the people for the budget, which would affect the quality, percentage and timeliness of its implementation. He further emphasized that a participatory budgeting process engenders greater transparency and accountability for the use of resources, improves trust between people and government, strengthen information gathering and feedback, improve governance system including ensuring peace and stability in system. He concluded his presentation by commending the government for this laudable initiative which he said was consistent with best budgeting practices.

### **COMMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

In his contribution, a Traditional Ruler, Chief Fadile Yusuf, thanked His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Bello for his magnanimity in approving Kabba Town as one of the Venues for the year 2020 Town Hall Stakeholders' engagement. He appealed to the State government to look into the deplorable state of roads in the community with a view to renovating the bad ones while constructing new ones. Finally, he itemized some of roads that needed urgent intervention as follows;

1- Kabba-Egbeda-Kakun Road.

2- Ayede-Iyofi Road.

Also contributing, a participant, Chief Ajibade Peter informed the meeting of the prevailing poverty in the Community and requested Government to tackle it with seriousness. He said increased investment in agriculture would help to alleviate poverty in the community. He concluded by commending the government for the steps already taken to improve farming in the area, saying sustenance and improvement in it would enhance food security and reduce poverty in the area.

Chief Micheal Ojo, another Royal father, in his contribution, stressed the deplorable situation of roads in the community and appealed to Government for action on the following:

1-Fehinti-Oluwa(Omioko)(No.1)

2-Along Saint Paul's(Omigbo) (No.2)

3-Aporo River (No.2)

4-Along Bamisto Hotel (No.1)

In his contribution, a participant, Mr. Peter Reuben, advised Governments at all levels to concentrate on building infrastructure such as stadium that would productively engaged the youths. He also expressed concern on inadequate measures to combat open defecation, advising government to do more in building more public convenience (toilets).

A participant from Kabba Development Union(KDU), Mr. Mike appealed to Government to hasten the relocation of College of Education (Technical), Kabba to its permanent site and subsequent conversion to a university.

A Royal Father, who gave his name as The Oba Kabba R/G, advised government to put in place measures to safe guard lives and property of people in the community as well as to prioritize the payment of salaries, pension and gratuities.

In his response, the Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Planning explained that the Roads mentioned above had been captured in the 2020 Budget and that one of their sons in the person of the speaker of the State House of Assembly, RT. Hon. Prince Mathew Kolawole had drawn attention to some of the issues being raised, promising that the issues, even though could not be resolved during one budget cycle, would, however, be provided for in the Budget within the available resources to the state. Also responding, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. P. O Stephen, agreed that issues raised by the Royal Fathers were on Government priority list but maintained that Government was constrained with dwindling resources. He stressed that workers' salaries had been paid up to date while those with issues were being considered. He also advised the community to embark on self-help projects to actualized some of their developmental needs like Roads, Bridges etc

In a reaction to the Permanent Secretary's comment, one of the Royal Fathers observed that Salaries of Local Government Staffers, Primary School Teachers and Pensioners' had not been paid and advised government to make salary payment a priority.

On the issue of open defecation, Mr. E.O Bayode explained that Kogi state was among the states earmarked for UNICEF assistance, saying very soon positive development would be witnessed in the State.

A participant, Chief Bello A.F, commended the Commissioner for decentralizing the stakeholders' meeting on Budget, saying a public sector budget without active participation of the people undermined real growth and development. He called on Government to sustain the innovation as it would go a long in restoring public confidence in government. He also advised that a broad based Budget Monitoring Team be constituted to enable Government and the Community track Projects.

Another participant, Mr. Bello Omolayo advocated the revival of the functions of Sanitary officers, Health Officers, and Local Government Works Department especially as it concerned the cleaning of Streets, Drainages, Markets etc. He also advised Government to resolve the disparities between State and Local government salaries.

The Director of Budget, Mr. Sanni H.M, observed that the essence of the meeting was to provide opportunity for stakeholders to freely air their views on government policies and programs as well as to contribute to the budgeting process. He said when issues were frankly discussed including criticizing certain government policies, such would provide government with a clearer views of the various needs of the people and bridge government-people gap for the overall good of the society. He said all the issues raised underlined the thinking of the people, saying the key essence of the meeting was to ensure that Government priorities were aligned with the people's priorities in order to achieve to achieve the through essence of the budget, which to prepare a budget that would address the needs of the people within the available resources.

In his response, the Commissioner for Budget and Planning explained that the issue of Local Government salary was complex and historical but promised it would soon be solved.

The Director of Planning, Mr. Omokore Joe commended the Royal Fathers for their effort in attending the meeting, saying it demonstrated their passion for the development of their community. He explained that Government investment in Agriculture was to create Job opportunities for the citizens.

Mrs. Josephine, from the Zonal Hospital, Kabba appealed to Government to put in more effort at improving the state of the hospitals in the State. She said that hospitals needed to be equipped with Beds, Mattresses, Drugs, qualified Medical Personnel etc. In his response, the Director of Budget, Mr. Sanni H.M, agreed with the view for Government to improve the state of hospitals in the State. He added that while such steps were very desirable, the officials of public hospitals needed to up their commitment to service delivery, citing instances in which Medical Doctors and other key health professionals in public hospitals were not only playing lukewarm attitude to their work but sometimes abandoned it for private practice. He recalled a particular issue in Okene General hospital, where his mother was hospitalized for stroke related issues and the Dr. that was supposed to be on duty abandoned his duty for his private hospitals, leading to avoidable complications and, in some other cases, death. He said on that occasion, he had to put a call to Lokoja to report the case before the Dr. in question was contacted and warned in respect of his abandoned duty. He said cases of this nature were rampant in public hospitals and called for a change of attitude.

In response to the issues raised, Mr. Abraham Ahmed from the Ministry of Agriculture, explained that the state government has collaborated with CBN to engage and empower over 2000 youths on Aquaculture, Rice and Cassava Production. He equally explained that the state government had paid Counterpart Fund for the APPEALS program (World Bank Assisted) and promised to do same for all World Bank Assisted Projects in the State.

A representative from the Ministry of Rural Development, Mr. Usman Mohammed, in his contribution, explained that Government had paid Counterpart Fund for RAMP (another World Bank Supported Project) to facilitate access to rural roads, , bridges, electrification etc.

The Director of Budget, Mr. Sanni H.M said the essence of the meeting had been achieved. He advised stakeholders to always take timely steps to liaise with the relevant MDAs for the purpose of forwarding their priorities to them, to enable such to be captured in the Budget Proposals from MDAs. He said this was the reason for inviting the big spending MDAs to be part of this meeting such as Ministries of Education, Health, Water Resources, Agriculture, Works and Rural Development.

## CLOSING REMARKS

In his vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and Planning, Mr. P.O Stephen, on behalf of the Ministry of Budget and Planning, expressed appreciation to Okun Traditional Council for sending high powered representatives. He also thanked the Guest Speaker, representatives from MDA's and all participants. He promised that next year's meetings would start early for the greater achievement of the essence of the meeting. The meeting closed at 1:03PM with a prayer by Mrs. Serah Ocheja



HON. P.Z MAIWADA

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COMMISSIONER OF BUDGET

AND PLANNING.

(CHAIRMAN)



MRS GIFT OMONIWA

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

(REP CSO)



HAMZA ALIYU

05/04/19

INITIATIVE FOR GRASSROOT

ADVANCEMENT

(REP.CSO)



MIKE FRIDAY (JP)  
(KDU-REP)

5-11-19



SANNI H.M

5/11/19

AG. DIRECTOR BUDGET

(SECRETARY)