MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDERS INTERACTIVE SESSION/MEETING ON THE 2020 BUDGET HELD ON TUESDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 2019 AT BEST WESTERN MELOCH HOTEL, AWKA.

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

- The Stakeholders interactive session on the 2020 Budget with CSOs and other Stake Holders was organized by Anambra State Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners on the 13th August, 2019 at Best Western Meloch Hotel, Awka. The meeting focused on the following:
 - 2020-2022 Multi Year Budget Framework and its alignment with the State Budget;
 - Draft 2020 Capital Budget Expenditure in line with the administrative Blue Print;
 - Stakeholders interactive session in respect to Community Charter of Demand's inclusion into the Budget;
- The meeting was attended by over 74 participants both state actors and non state actors amongst whom are:
 - Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners, Special Adviser (SPARD) –Budget, Officer in Charge of the Ministry and Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the Governor on Economic Planning;
 - Representatives of Anambra State Association of Town Unions (ASATU), People with Special needs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
 - Organized Private Sectors.
 - Representatives from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).
- The meeting started with an opening prayer by Mr. Arthur Iweanya, The Acting Director (Planning) and Officer in Charge of the Ministry at 10.30am, followed by self introduction by all participants. In the opening remark, the SPAD-Budget welcomed participants and stated that the importance of the meeting was to get the inputs of the non-state actors into the 2020 Budget estimates as well as acquaint them with the plans of Government towards the development of the State. He mentioned the low budget implementation and projection of revenue without recourse to averages over the years.
- He noted the importance of participatory budgeting process as it ensures that the budget will be based on actual needs of the citizens (bottom up) and not based on what the government thinks the people need (top down).
- He also appreciated the Governor, His Excellency, Chief Willie Obiano for providing a level playing ground for effective budgeting process in the State and thanked the CSOs for their roles in making the budgeting process worthwhile.
- The SPAD Budget made a presentation on the 2020-2022 Multi Year Budget Framework and how it aligns to the 2020 State Budget Estimate.

He also made a presentation of the draft 2020 Capital Budget Expenditure in line with the administrations development plan.

The following assumptions used to arrive at the 2020 Budget estimates were presented:

- Statutory Allocations: A Crude oil price benchmark of US\$55/bbl and an average daily production of 1.9m barrels average (*against FG production benchmark of 2.18mbpd*), translating to a projected annual FAAC of N43.7bn as against the 2019 budget figure of N40bn;
- Value Added Tax revenue is projected at N15.6bn; representing a 46.2% growth rate on the 2019 figure of N10.6bn;
- Internally Generated Revenues (IGR) is projected at N30.0bn (N2.5bn monthly) for 2020 as a result of comprehensive reforms instituted in the state; compared with N36.0bn (N3bn monthly) in 2019 budget.
- Other Capital Receipts (including grants, counterpart funds, aid, concessionary funding and FG refunds) is projected at N30.0bn compared with N46.8bn in the 2019 budget.
- Personnel costs are estimated at N22.8bn for the year compared with 2019 budgeted figure of N20.0bn, representing an 14% increase. This figure accommodates new and important hires into the civil service, such as the replacement of retired teachers, promotions and a projected salary increment in line with new minimum wage;
- Total Overheads are estimated at N22.3bn for the year, representing a 11.2% decrease on 2019 Budget figure of N25.1bn. This figure accommodates provision of subvention to new MDAs and other associated costs;
- Social Benefits and other CRF charges including (Pensions, Gratuities and group life insurance) are projected at N13.6bn compared to N20.4bn in the 2019 budget;
- Debt financing: We have provided for N16.0bn in domestic debt financing. This is comprising of single digit concessionary program lending for interventions in Agriculture, Manufacturing and youth entrepreneurship.

2.0 COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Prince Chris Azor -OGP Co. Chairman- He buttressed the need for the interactive session. He stated that the 2020 budget has the input of the CSOs and the people at the grassroots through the Community Charter of Demand (CDD) whose desk is domiciled at the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners. He enjoined the stakeholders present to ensure they make meaningful comments to ensure that the budget reflects the needs of ndi Anambra.

- He also expressed appreciation the Governor of Anambra State for making sure that the CSOs are carried along in the governance of the State.
- He tasked the Commissioner for Local Government and the Local Government Civil service Commission to ensure that CDD is functional at the Local Government areas, also to ensure institutionalization.
- > He urged the Ministry to strengthen the Joint State/Local Government Planning board.
- Hon. Melie Onyejepu- SPAD-Budget- In his presentation of the MTEF 2020-2022, he said that the Fiscal Responsibility Law 2011 gave legitimacy to the MTEF for the State. He stated that the MTEF covers the Economic and Fiscal Update, Fiscal Strategy Paper and Budget Policy Statement.
- He expressed concern over the poor budget implementation and the projection of revenues without recourse to averages over the years hence, the introduction of the MTEF which will ensure realistic budget process.
- Mr. Ide Godwin Eze-COMEN Secretary applauded the present administration for ensuring that the budget is demand-based rather than supply-based and enjoined government to ensure more of the communities request are accommodated in the budgets and implemented for effective development of the State.
- Mrs Okoye Chioma Lillian from COMEN- also thanked this administration for ensuring that the ratio of Capital Expenditure to Recurrent Expenditure is strictly maintained and it will definitely lead to increased development of the State. He praised the mobile court initiatives of the state.. He also charged the Government to intensify the fight against illegal revenue activities in the state.
- Mr. Ugochukwu Okeke Ernest, Treasurer National Association of Persons Living with Disabilities (JONAPID) praised the Governor for sponsoring the reform in the budget process as this year as persons living with disabilities were also invited to be part of the budget interactive session.
- Mr. David Okpaleze from Media Right Initiatives complained that economic activities should not be the only motive for constructing roads for rural communities. He further explained that road construction can improve social activities in rural areas leading to crime reduction, rural –urban migration. He further stated that Agriculture should be made attractive to the youths using mechanization method.

3.0 RESPONSE BY THE COMMISSIONER:

The Hon. Commissioner, Mr. Mark Okoye stressed that the interactive session is an integral part of the budget process and that this year's budget is an improvement over the last year's budget process as many stakeholders were part of this year's meeting. He also charged the CSOs to follow up with budget implementation process to ensure full

- In response to the issue raised on agriculture, he explained that it is a revenue generating sector and classified under Economic Sector for budgeting purposes. He further explained that this administration is working towards maximizing the comparative advantage the state has in some crops like Rice, Cassava, Vegetable, Fish etc.
- On the releases to Ministries, he said that allocations to ministries are published and that from next year, the state will start publishing the quarterly Budget Implementation report (unaudited).
- On the issue of debt Servicing, he stated that the state has the lowest Budget/Debt ratio, which is less than 4% compared to the National Debt servicing estimated at 35% and 20% for Lagos state and that the state made adequate provisions for debt servicing in the proposed budget.
- On IGR, he called on Ndi Anambra to always pay their taxes and levies to enable the state Government continue to bring development to the people.
- He agreed that the current skill acquisition programme in the state are mundane and the right skill sets for the future in the line of modern technologies will be encouraged. He also added that 2020 budget has a provision for ICT hubs where young persons will be trained on the right IT skills to make them self sufficient in preparation for the fourth industrial revolution.

4.0 CLOSING:

The vote of thanks was given by a member of the CSO and a closing prayer said by 4.56pm to mark the end of the Stakeholders budget interactive session.

Hon Commissioner, MEPBDP

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Director, (Planning), MEPBDP

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Chris Azor, Representative, Civil Society Organisation

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Anakwe Eucharia, Representative, Advocate on Gender Budget Perspective and Social Development Centre

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Christy Akabua, Planning Officer, MEPBDP

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