# MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDERS INTERACTIVE SESSION/MEETING ON THE 2022 BUDGET HELD WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021 AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING INTER-AGENCY BOARD ROOM, AWKA.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION:

- The Stakeholders interactive session on the 2022 Budget with CSOs and other Stake Holders was organized by Anambra State Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at the Ministry's Inter-Agency Board Room, Awka. The meeting focused on the following:
  - 2022-2024 Multi Year Budget Framework and its alignment with the State Budget;
  - Draft 2022 Capital Budget Expenditure in line with the administration's Blue Print;
  - Draft 2022 Recurrent Budget Expenditure to reflect the current economic realities in the State and country;
  - Stakeholders interactive session in respect to Community Charter of Demand's inclusion into the Budget, challenges and way forward;
- > The meeting was attended by about 30 participants both State Actors and Non-State Actor amongst whom are:
  - Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners represented by the Director (Planning), Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the Governor on Economic Planning, Senior Planning Officer of the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners and others;
  - Representatives of Anambra State Association of Town Unions (ASATU), People with Special needs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
- The meeting started with an opening prayer by Mrs. Jenniffer Okafor, at 11.00am, followed by self-introduction by participants. In the opening remark, the Commissioner Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners welcomed participants and stated that the importance of the meeting was to get the inputs of the Non-State Actors into the 2022 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 apologized for the restriction on the no of participants in the 2022 budget forum citing the different variants of Covid-19, IPOB sit at home orders, Herdsmen-Farmers clash which has been ravaging the South East in which Anambra State is not an exception, also insecurity as a result of the Gubernatorial election slated to hold in the later part of the year.
- > He mentioned the significance of participatory budgeting process as it ensures that the budget will be based on actual needs of the citizens (bottom top) and not based on what the government thinks the people need (top bottom).

- > He stated that the Budget of the state should be demand driven which is the wish of the people than supply driven.
- He spoke about the several consultative meetings held with Association of Town Unions (ASATU), Judiciary Arm, Executive Arm before and after the draft budget was produced. He emphasized that the essence was to ensure citizens understand the policy direction of Government and the demand/request of citizens captured.
- ➤ He thanked 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.
- > He tasked the CSOs to participate fully in the budget process in other to effectively monitor projects in the communities they are working in.
- ➤ The Hon. Commissioner MEPBDP ably represented by the Director Planning made a presentation on the 2022-2024 Multi Year Budget Framework and how it aligns to the 2022 State Budget Estimate.
- > He also made a presentation of the draft 2022 Capital Budget Expenditure in line with the administrations Development Plan.
  - Find below assumptions used to arrive at the 2022 Budget estimates:
- Statutory Allocations: Crude oil price benchmark averaged above \$59.07 for the past year and average \$62.26 for the last 6 (six) months of the current fiscal year translating to N45.94 billion in 2022 compared with N45.3 billion of 2021;
- Value Added Tax revenue is projected at N19.9bn in 2022 compared with 2021 budgeted figure of N15.5bn. This is as a result of the Projection by the Federal Government (MTEF guidelines) for Federation Revenue Projections and flagship of Anambra State International Passengers and Cargo Airport, International Conference Centre and associated commercial activities that will boast our VAT;
- Internally Generated Revenues (IGR) is projected at N40.29bn (N3.35bn monthly) for 2022 compared with N36.6bn (N3.05bn monthly) in 2021 budget. This is as a result of reforms instituted in the state, increased economic activities as a result of the Anambra State International Passengers and Cargo Airport and International Conference Centre;
- Other Capital Receipts (including grants, counterpart funds, aid, concessionary funding and FG refunds) is projected at N19.38bn compared with N20.9bn in the 2021 budget;
- Personnel costs are estimated at N18.0bn for the year, a slight increase in 2021 budgeted figure of N17.6bn. 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 N23.8bn for the year compared with N24.0bn of the 2021 budget. 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 N14.87bn compared to N12.79bn in the 2021 budget;
- Debt financing: We have provided for N3.45bn for internal and external debt financing. This
  is comprising of single digit concessionary program lending for interventions in Agriculture,
  Manufacturing, Youth Entrepreneurship and other DFI initiatives.

# 2.0 COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Prince Chris Azor -OGP Co. Chairman- He thanked the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners for constantly ensuring that the interactive budget forum holds yearly especially this year's own which had several challenges ranging from South East sit at home to kidnapping and the election fever. He stated the need for the interactive session and the 2022 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 and seee that the budget reflects the needs of Ndi Anambra.
- ➤ He also expressed appreciation to 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.
- ➤ Mr. Arthur Iweanya-The Director Planning- In his presentation of the MTEF 2022-2024, 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.
- > Iyom Tina Igbasi 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. Eucharia Anekwe 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. She pleaded with the Government to intensify the fight against illegal revenue collection activities in the State. Also to provide job for the teeming youth in other to curb violence.
- Mr. Umeokwonna Bonaventure, Representative, National Association of Persons Living with Disabilities (JONAPID) praised the Governor for sponsoring the reform in the budget process as they are always been invited to be part of the budget interactive session.
- He thanked Governor, His Excellency, Dr. Willi M. Obiano for his inclusiveness by providing employment to people living with disability.
- ➤ He stated 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, reduced rural —urban migration. He further stated that Agriculture should be made attractive to the youths using mechanization method.
- > He also advocated for a Disability Commission in the State.
- Mr. Nwofia, Ezebuilo James, Representative, SEJUP, Umuerri Community, Anambra East mentioned the need to ensure the CCD request of communities are not just captured in the Budget butimplemented to as it will bring development and restore confidence in Government.
- > There is also the need to harmonize the CCD and Community Choose Your Project.

### 3.0 RESPONSE BY THE COMMISSIONER:

- The Hon. Commissioner, Mr. Mark Okoye through the Director Planning thanked the participants for making out time to be part of the interactive session despite all odds. He stressed that the interactive session is an integral part of the budget process which must be maintained for greater development of the State. He also charged the CSOs to follow up with budget implementation process to ensure full performance of the budget.
- 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 the state has started publishing the quarterly Budget Implementation report (unaudited) which is part of State Fiscal Transparency Accountability (SFTAS) criteria.
- On IGR, he encouraged Ndi Anambra to always pay their taxes and levies to enable the State Government to continuously bring development to the people.

➤ He promised that the 2022 Budget performance will be better than the previous years as effective monitoring mechanism will be instituted.

## 4.0 CLOSING:

The vote of thanks was given by a member of the CSO, Prince Chris Azor. The copies of the 2020 Citizens Budget and 2022 Draft budget estimates were distributed to participant and a closing prayer said at 3.30 pm by Mrs Ngozi Madechesi to mark the end of the Stakeholders Budget Interactive Session.

Hon Commissioner, MEPBDP

Dr. Daniel Ezeanwu, Permanent Secretary, MEPBDP

Chris Azor, Representative, Civil Society Organization

Hon. IKechukwu Offorkansi, PG Ofemili, Awka North, Anambra Central Senatorial Zone

Obiora Obiabunmuo, SSA Economic Planning MEPBDP

Arthur Iweanya, Director (Planning) MEPBDP

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