

MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON THE ANAMBRA FY2021 ANNUAL BUDGET HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 HOSTED BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, BUDGET AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (HC-EPBDP)

Physical Attendance:

The Commissioner for Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners, Mr. Mark Okoye, Commissioner for Basic Education, Prof. Kate Omenugha and representatives of Commissioners for Works Mr. Emeka Ohuoha (Perm. Sec), Perm. Secretary Creative Economy and Youth Entrepreneurship, Senior Officers of the State Budget Team, Heads of the various State Ministries, Departments and Agencies, including the Civil society organizations – State Coordinator RoLAC, the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), the State Traders Association, Persons Living with Disability, Youth Associations, Association of Town Unions Representatives, Representatives from Ministries, Departments and Agencies among others.

Online attendance:

Representatives from the World Bank State and Local Governance Reform (SLOGOR) Project, the Department for International Development Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (DFID-PERL), States Fiscal Transparency Accountability and Sustainability (STFAS) Programme, the Nigerian Governors Forum and other development partners also joined the forum via Zoom.

Time: 11am – 3pm

Venue: Finotel Hotel Awka, Anambra State and virtually via Zoom.

OPENING REMARKS

1. The forum began at 11:00am with brief introductions by the participants.
2. In an opening remark, the Director of Planning Research and Statistics and officer in charge of the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners, Mr. Arthur Iweanya, welcomed the participants to the forum, stating that the forum forms part of the budget preparation process in the State budget calendar. He affirmed that Ndi Anambra's views and contributions drive the State Government's decision-making in planning and budgeting for critical infrastructural, economic and social development.
3. The Director of Planning and officer in charge of the ministry stated that the objectives of the meeting were (i) To have an overview of the 2021 draft Annual Budget and ensure that the inputs from communities and CSOs are included in the Budget, (ii) To

deepen understanding of the Budget process and to understand the steps taken by the state to achieve a realistic budget which meets international best practice.

4. Also, in a brief remark, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners, Mr. Obiora Obiabunmo, stated that the forum was necessary amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in ensuring that the immediate inputs and development challenges of Ndi Anambra are captured in the 2021 annual budget.
5. Goodwill messages were presented by select representatives of the CSOs and other non-state actors, including the EU-RoLAC, State representative etc., Mr. Chris Azor, Chairman, International Peace and Civil Responsible Centre (IPCRC) and also co-chair OGP spoke on behalf of the CSOs in the State. He commended the State Government for organizing the forum and ensuring that communities demands are discussed for inclusion into the 2021 budget.
6. Mr. Chris Azor also expressed his appreciation to the State Government for instituting the board of the Public Procurement Agency, hopes that the 2021 draft budget speaks to the needs of critical sectors, including Education, Health and Infrastructure.
7. Ms. Josephine Onah representing EU Rolac in her message congratulated the Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget for his giant strides and hopes that other states will follow accordingly in line with the international best practices. She canvassed for Ministry of Justice and Women Affairs to work in addressing the issue of gender-based violence and sexual molestation and ensure that culprits are brought to book and victims are rehabilitated.

PRESENTATION:

MACROECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL BUDGET, MDAs CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

8. The State Commissioner in an elaborate presentation on Medium Term Expenditure Framework Covering Period (2021 – 2023) & Draft 2021 Capital and Recurrent Budget Estimates said the 2021 draft annual budget expenditure outlay, other things being equal, is estimated at N140.8 billion. The increase in the budget size is N25.9 billion from the 2020 revised budget of N114.9 billion representing an 18.3 percent increase.

9. Further breakdown shows the recurrent expenditure is estimated at N52bn representing 37 percent of the budget size, while the capital expenditure is estimated at N86.24bn indicating 63 percent of the budget size, thereby implying that significant funds will be channeled to capital projects in the critical sectors of the economy.
10. Mr. Mark Okoye said that personnel costs are estimated at N18.0bn for the fiscal year 2021 compared with 2020 revised budgeted figure of N17.4bn. 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 N22.0bn for the fiscal year 2021. This figure accommodates provision of subvention to new MDAs and other associated costs. Social Benefits and Contributions including (Pensions, Gratuities and group life insurance) are projected at N12.0bn in 2021 compared to N10.4bn as revised in the 2020 budget.
11. In contrast, total budget revenue for the fiscal year 2021 is estimated at N130bn broken into N46bn for statutory allocation; N20bn for Value Added Tax; N36bn for Internally Generated Revenue; N0.68bn for Excess Crude/Other Revenue; N10bn for Grants; N10bn for other Capital Receipts. For debt financing, Mr. Mark Okoye said the State provided N11bn in domestic debt financing, comprising of single digit concessionary program lending for interventions in Agriculture, Manufacturing and Youth Entrepreneurship.
12. The commissioner drew special attention to the draft 2021 capital expenditure of key MDAs affirming that N35bn has been earmarked for Works. "As the 2021 budget will be the last full fiscal budget year it will implement, the State Government is prioritizing the completion of critical projects across numerous sectors of the economy. Thus, N15.6bn has been earmarked for the Anambra International Cargo Airport and N18bn for the completion of strategic roads and bridges.
13. Continuing, Mr. Mark Okoye emphasized that the State is focused on ensuring improved fiscal sustainability and intends to achieve this by increasing Internally Generated Revenue. Findings show that Anambra State is ranked 2nd on the 2020 Budget Fiscal Transparency Index Rankings from 9th in 2016, 6th in 2017, 11th in 2018 and 5th in 2019 based on three criteria vis-a-vis (i) State ability to meet their recurrent expenditure and independently of the Federal Government; (ii) State ability to meet their recurrent expenditure with both IGR and FAAC; and (iii) How long it will take for the state to pay off their total debt.
14. The Commissioner stated that the state achieved the ranking due to her relative lower expenditure, excellent fiscal management which ensures that financial inflows (IGR &

FAAC e.t.c) are invested in activities that improve the economy like agriculture, manufacturing and industrial sector also infrastructure. He stated that Anambra Small Business Agency (ASBA) have given out about N3Billion in the last 2 years with over 85 percent recovery.

15. He also emphasized on the need to grow the IGR of the state by ensuring leakages are prevented.

16. Mr. Mark Okoye further noted that the State is committed to diversifying the economy by prioritizing investments in health, education, agriculture, MSMEs, youth empowerment and tourism that would help cushion post COVID-19 effects on Ndi Anambra.

OTHER REMARKS

17. The Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Basic Education Mrs. Kate Omenugha expressed joy for being part of the forum where issues bothering on communities and geared towards the development of the State are discussed. She spoke about re-modeling of some schools, providing conveniences, capacity building for Teachers on ICT, Staff quarters for rural areas like Anaku, Nzam, School fencing and working towards all inclusive education system where children with disabilities are accommodated.

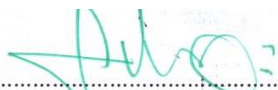
18. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works, Barr. Emeka Ohuoha representing the Honorable Commissioner of Works informed the audience about the status of the Anambra Cargo Airport project restating the State Government's resolve to complete the project by April 2021 due to its strategic importance to the state's economy. He also stated that the Ministry of Works will focus on completion of ongoing road projects and rehabilitation of damaged spots on existing roads.

19. The General Manager, Community Social Development Agency (CSDA) Mr. Chudi Mojekwu in his remarks highlighted the poverty mapping for interventions and how the Group Development Plan was produced which showed the needs of the community and how micro projects that affect the communities are handled directly.

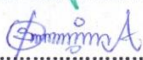
RESPONSES TO HC-EPBDP's PRESENTATION

20. The State Coordinator of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (EU-ROLAC) Programme, Ms. Josephine Onah, made a case for increased capital expenditure allocation to the Law and Justice Sector.

21. The Program Manager JPDC Nnewi, Mrs Ehiahunike Ugochi expressed satisfaction on the State's commitment through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, under the leadership of the Honourable Commissioner Mr. Mark Okoye in ensuring inclusiveness (State Actors and Non-State Actors) during bilateral discussions with MDAS. She canvassed for sustainability even in other administrations.
22. She commended the good work of the Honourable Commissioner in ensuring that communities submit their Charters of Demand timely in other to include it in the annual budget. She went further to state that they have been working with the ministry to ensure Communities develop and submit their charter of demand in other for it to be reflected in the annual budget.
23. The closing remark was given by Mr. Ojiakor Chairperson, Societal Values and Community Development Initiative (SVCDI) on behalf of the participants. He thanked the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budgets under the leadership of the Honourable Commissioner, Mr. Mark Okoye for the consultative forum to ensure the draft budget is discussed for all inclusiveness and prayed for sustainability.
24. The session ended at about 3:00pm with a closing prayer said by Mrs. Ugochi Ehiahunike of JPDC Nnewi.

 21/10/2020


Hon Commissioner, MEPBDP

 22/10/2020


Arthur Iweanya, Director, (Planning), MEPBDP

 22/10/2020


Obiora Obiabunmo, SSA to the Governor on Economic Planning & Budget
State SFTAS Focal Person


 22/10/2020

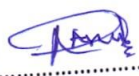
Josephine Onah, State Coordinator, the European Union Rule of Law
and Anti-Corruption (EU-ROLAC) Programme

 22/10/2020

Nkala Iyke, Representative, Anambra State Association of Town Union (Asatu)

 21/10/2020
Mrs. Ugochi Ehiahunike, Program Manager, JPDC Nnewi.

 22/10/2020
Francis Uje Dibie, Representative BudgIT Foundation

 23/10/2020
Christy Akabua
Planning Officer, Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget
And Development Partners.

CROSS-SECTION OF PICTURES FROM THE STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE FORUM





Participants (9)

Panelists (2)

Attendees (7)

- GM** GREG MADU
- HO** Helen Okeke
- HO** Henry Omokhaye
- JO** Joan Okwuogu
- N** NgeneUzoamakaEsther
- ON** Okoye Ngozi Lovina
- ON** Okoye Nkiruka

