

**THE REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH CSOs, NGOs, CBOs
AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ONDO STATE ON 2020 -2022 MTEF
AND 2020 BUDGET PREPARATION HELD AT BABAFUNKE AJASIN HALL,
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, IGBATORO
ROAD, AKURE ON TUESDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2019.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pursuant to Section 22, Subsection 2 (a) and (b) of the Ondo State Fiscal Responsibility Law (FRL), (2017) which provides that public consultation be made with the citizens and their representative with a view to harvesting their inputs into the State's MTEF leading to the yearly budget, a parley with CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, and People with Special Abilities on the 2020-2022 MTEF and 2020 budget preparation was held at Babafunke Ajasin Hall, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development on Tuesday, 3rd September, 2019. The meeting was presided over by the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Pastor Igbasan Emmanuel.

2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING

2.1 The main objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- i. to present the 2020 – 2022 MTEF which included the projections for 2020 budget;
- ii. to harvest inputs of the CSOs, NGOs, CBOs and Person with Disabilities or their representatives in order to include them in the 2020 budget.

3.0 PARTICIPANTS

3.1 The meeting had in attendance the Honourable Commissioner, Ondo State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan; the Permanent Secretary, Ondo State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Bunmi Alade; Director Budget, Mr. Aworere Stephen; Director Technical Assistance & Aid Coordination, Mr. Adebusey Monday; Director Monitoring and Evaluation, Alhaji Adekunle L. A; Deputy Director, PASS, Mrs Ayeni, R. K.; Deputy Director Budget, Mr. E. O. Apata and a host of other members of staff of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget.

3.2 Also, present at the meeting were the members of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), representatives of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and representatives of People Living with Disabilities.

4.0 OPENING REMARKS

4.1 The Permanent Secretary, Ondo State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Bunmi Alade, welcomed the participants to the all-important occasion. He remarked that the consultative meeting was organized to discuss the needs, desires and yearnings of the people as inputs into the year 2020 budget. He stated that the meeting sought to ask how the people perceived the activities of government – what the State is doing; what it should do and what it should stop doing. Concluding his remarks, he enjoined all stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to the discussion of the meeting so as to have a robust, people-oriented budget.

5.0 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- 5.1 Giving his keynote address, the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan, enthusiastically welcomed all the participants to the auspicious occasion. While acknowledging the presence of the people with disabilities, he regarded them as people with special abilities.
- 5.2 He commended Arakunrin for the life-impacting projects he had embarked upon since the inception of this administration. He made mention that the objectives of the meeting were to appraise the programmes and projects of the Government; to position the people to maximize the benefits of the Government's programmes and projects; and to draw the attention of the government to issues of dispersion (performance or non- performance of Government activities). He further stated that, in line with global best practices, the State had taken a radical, bottom-up approach to budgeting process and that the engagement was necessary to foster relationship between the Government and the people, and for the people to take ownership of the process.
- 5.3 Commenting on the issues raised at the last year's town hall meeting by the CSOs, NGOs, and CBOs that there had been poor publicity of Government's programmes, he said he was pleased to inform the meeting that government had taken actions that led to the upgrading of the Government's media houses – OSRC TV, Sunshine FM. He said jingles on Government's activities were aired in all the Radio and TV stations in the State (both public and private). Other issues which included opacity in government's businesses, need to accelerate the implementation of Ondo State Public procurement Law, need to free more funds from recurrent expenditure to capital

expenditure, low budget performance relative to budget figures and low Internally Generated Revenues had all been duly addressed and positive changes had emerged on those issues.

- 5.4 Also addressing the issues raised last year by people with disabilities that they were not considered in Government's planning process, he said the consultative meeting was to harvest their inputs, hopes, needs and yearnings in order to include them in the budget. He pointed out that the fact that they matter to the Arakunrin Oluawarotimi Akeredolu – led administration made the Governor to appoint one of them – Princess Folashade Arise – a Special Adviser to the Mr. Governor for affairs of People living with Disabilities. Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan also affirmed that their request for constitution of a Board for People living with Disabilities had been granted. He said the Board had been duly constituted and programmes meant for the physically challenged would be made to pass through the association.
- 5.5 While concluding his address, he enjoined the participants to speak dispassionately and make insightful contributions, as their aspirations, desires, requests and feedbacks would be presented to Mr. Governor to see how many of those desires would be accommodated in the 2020 budget.

6.0 BUSINESS OF THE DAY

6.1.0 PRESENTATION ON 2020 – 2022 MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF)

- 6.1.1 In his presentation, the Director Budget, Mr. Aworere S. R. highlighted the 2019 budget component figures and explained both the recurrent and capital budget implementation performance as at June 2019. He stated that total revenue expected for the 2019 Mid-Year was N96.950 billion while the total

revenue received for the period was N56.067 billion, recording a shortfall of 49.6%.

6.1.2 Speaking on the 2020 - 2022 MTEF, the Director Budget briefed the meeting that, having taken into cognizance all macroeconomic indices and also considered all sources of revenues to the State in the coming year 2020, the State had proposed a total budget of ₦176.112 billion for year 2020. He made mention that the 2019 budget had been radically structured to focus allocations to thirteen (13) sectors in the State. The table below shows the details of the sectoral capital allocation.

Capital Expenditure by Sector		Total Capital Envelope	
S/N	Sector	% 2020	2020 Allocation
1	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	3.3%	2,134,545,758
2	AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	14.2%	9,140,445,517
3	EDUCATION	4.1%	2,610,501,530
4	ENVIRONMENT AND SEWAGE MANAGEMENT	2.3%	1,488,898,967
5	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	1.4%	897,761,679
6	HEALTH	13.3%	8,552,053,436
7	INFORMATION	0.2%	143,299,684
8	INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT	46.1%	29,711,058,102
9	LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION	2.3%	1,497,789,753
10	PUBLIC FINANCE	1.3%	820,222,758
11	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	8.5%	5,494,386,600
12	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	1.7%	1,070,564,718
13	TRADE AND INDUSTRY	1.3%	863,000,334
	Total	100.00%	64,424,528,837

6.1.3 Mr. Aworere explained that the sectoral capital expenditure was divided into two: Discretionary Funds and Non-Discretionary Funds. He further stated that N8.006 billion was for Discretionary funds and N56.419 billion for non-discretionary fund which the State does not have outright control over. Concluding his presentation on the 2020 – 2022 MTEF, he stressed that the State Government would continue to prioritise the needs of the people of Ondo State.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS/REACTIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

7.1 In reactions to the presentation, the participants appreciated the effort of the State Government for organizing the consultative meeting as a platform for them to air their views and make their requests with a view to including them in the 2020 budget. They, however, commented/reacted as follows:

- i. That the People living with Disabilities were not given free health care despite Mr. Governor's approval to that effect;
- ii. That the People living with Disabilities earlier given employment by Mr. Governor had not been given their appointment letters;
- iii. That the People living with Disabilities in the State were no longer enjoying scholarship and feeding grants as before;
- iv. That the State Government should revisit the Health Assistance programme for the People living with Disabilities in the State;
- v. That walkways for People living with Disabilities were not being considered in the construction works ongoing in the State;
- vi. That People living with Disabilities have no access to public buildings such as Hospitals, Banks, and other corporate business buildings in the State;

- vii. That the 18-seater bus earlier approved for the Agency for the welfare of People living with Disabilities had not been procured;
- viii. That the Hall in the building for the Agency for the welfare of People living with Disabilities was in a deplorable state;
- ix. That the Secretary of the Board be upgraded to the status of a Permanent Secretary;
- x. That the allocation to Information sector was still abysmally low;
- xi. That the activities of the State Government were grossly underreported;
- xii. That the members of the Board for the People Living with Disabilities should not be on part-time basis;
- xiii. That the allocation to the Agency for the Welfare of People living with Disabilities was grossly inadequate;
- xiv. That the Woman-Farmers had no accessibility to the Agri-business women funds;
- xv. That Mr. Governor should appoint a Special Adviser on Civil society matters;
- xvi. That the children of the deaf had not benefitted from Free health care, Scholarship programmes of the State Government;
- xvii. That there had been strong stigmatization against Albinos in the State;
and
- xviii. That the Deaf in the State had no means of being communicated to, in most of the Government functions in the State.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The followings were the recommendations:

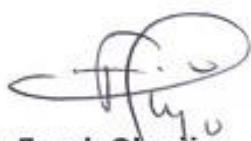
- i. that State government should implement free health service for People Living with Disabilities;
- ii. that the letters of appointment be given to the 30 People Living with Disabilities earlier employed by Mr. Governor;
- iii. that the State Government should resuscitate the scholarship and feeding grants programme earlier enjoyed by the People Living with Disabilities in the State;
- iv. that State government should consider making walkways for People living with Disabilities in the ongoing road construction works in the State for ease of movement;
- v. that State government should implement capacity building programme for People Living with Disabilities in the State;
- vi. that State government should provide subvention to NGOs for better sensitization of the public on government activities;
- vii. that State government should release funds for the procurement of 18-seater bus for the Agency for People Living with Disabilities in the State; and upgrade the Secretary of the Agency to the status of a substantive Permanent Secretary;
- viii. That the State Government should mandate Corporate businesses in the State to provide walkways in their buildings for ease of movements for People Living with Disabilities in the State;

- ix. that State government should upgrade the rehabilitation department of the Agency of people with special abilities, give full time appointment to make the board members and increase the budget of the Board;
- x. that State government should intensify effort on the drive to publicize the Government's programmes and activities ;
- xi. that the State Government should provide enabling environment for the women in Agriculture to access Agri-business funds;
- xii. that there is need for State Government to appoint a Senior Special Assistant to Mr. Governor on Civil Society Matters from CSO groups mainly;
- xiii. that State government should assist the children of people living with disabilities with scholarships;
- xiv. that State government should enact a law against stigmatization and abandonment of the Albino people;
- xv. that State government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and other Education Regulatory Agencies to accord special treatment to Albino Pupils/Students in State public schools;
- xvi. that State government should engage the service of interpreters to communicate to people with hearing impairment in all Government functions;
- xvii. that State government should ensure adequate security for people living with Disabilities.

9.0 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Honourable Commissioner appreciated the participants for their contributions, comments and suggestions at the meeting. He promised them

that the State Government under the leadership of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, *SAN*, would continue to hold trust for the people, service them and give them their desired expectations.



Mr. Frank Oloriju
Chairman, Coalition Civil Society
08068495196



Mr. Alo Martins
Upline Centre for Development
08032153120



Hon. Folasade Arise
S. A. to Mr. Governor on Special Persons
07060405607



Mr. S. R. Aworere
Director, Budget Department
Min. of Economic Planning & Budget
08035307218



Mr. Bunmi Alade
Permanent Secretary
Min. of Economic Planning & Budget
08033527357