

THE REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND BUDGET AND THE PEOPLE OF OKITIPUPA, IRELE, ILAJE AND ESE-ODO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF ONDO STATE ON 2023-2025 MTEF AND 2023 BUDGET PREPARATION HELD AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT OKITIPUPA ON WEDNESDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER, 2022.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. In line with the Section 22, Subsection 2 (a) and (b) of the Ondo State Fiscal Responsibility Law (FRL), (2017) which stipulates that the people of the State must be consulted to harvest their inputs into the State's MTEF which ultimately leads to the yearly budget; a parley with the people of Okitipupa, Irele, Ilaje and Ese-Odo Local government areas on the 2023-2025 MTEF and 2023 budget preparation was held at Okitipupa Local Government secretariat on Wednesday, 21st September, 2022. The meeting was presided over by Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan, who is the Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget in the State.

2.0. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

2.1. The main objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- i. to project for scrutiny, the figures for the 2023–2025 MTEF which included the estimates for 2023 budget;
- ii. to harvest inputs of the people of Okitipupa, Irele, Ilaje, and Ese-Odo local government areas in order to include their inputs in the 2023 budget.

3.0. PARTICIPANTS

- 3.1. Ondo State officials at the meeting were the Honourable State Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan, Director Development Planning, Mr. B. J. Daisi, Director Budget, Mr. Stephen Aworere, Director Monitoring and Evaluation, Alhaji Adekunle, 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 are the members of the Traditional rulers, Chairmen Local Government, Head of Local Government Administration, Budget Officers, Representatives of Artisans, Farmers, Youths, Students, and Women groups.
- 3.3. The members of the Sector Planning Teams (SPTs) for the preparation of the 2023–2025 Medium-Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) were seated to observe and note the contributions of the people of Okitipupa, Irele, Ilaje, and Ese-Odo Local Government Areas of the State.

4.0. OPENING REMARK

- 4.1. The Director Development Planning Ondo State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. B. J. Daisi, welcomed the participants to the meeting. He remarked that the consultative meeting was organized to harvest the needs, desires and yearnings of the people as inputs into the year 2023 budget.
- 4.2. He appreciated the contributions of the people of Okitipupa, Irele, Ilaje, and Ese-Odo Local Government Areas on development of Ondo State, especially, in the areas of preparation and implementation of State Annual Budget which fetched

the State the first position in budget transparency among the 36 states of the country.

- 4.3. He restated that the meeting sought to examine the projections of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and brainstorm on how to generate adequate funds for the implementation of the 2023 budget. Government activities, according to the Director Development Planning, were to be appraised for better performance.
- 4.4. 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 Honorable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan, on behalf of the Executive Governor of the State, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, *SAN*, enthusiastically welcomed all the participants to the auspicious occasion. While acknowledging the presence of the People of Okitipupa, Irele, Ilaje, and Ese-Odo Local Government, he alluded to the fact that their constructive criticisms and contributions to the activities of the Ministry have enable the State to rank high in budget preparation and performance in the country.
- 5.2. Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan noted that the State has been organizing this type of forum since 2018, and that it might be tempting to see it as an ordinary routine, he appealed to the consciousness of the gathering to pay attention to the

peculiarity of each year as each year is significantly different in challenges and opportunities.

- 5.3. He mentioned that the policy thrust for AKETI's second term in office is captioned in the acronym "REDEEMED" which he said has been policy platform to deliver the campaign promises of the present government to the good people of Ondo State.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. 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 2023 budget.

6.0. BUSINESS OF THE DAY

6.1.0. PRESENTATION ON OVERVIEW OF 2023–2025 MEDIUM TERM

EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF) AND PREPARATION OF 2023

BUDGET

- 6.1.1. In his presentation, the Director Budget, Mr. S. R Aworere highlighted negative impacts of insecurity in Ondo State, rising inflation in Nigeria, non-functionality of the nation's refineries which had led to high fuel prices, the Russia/Ukraine war with its negative implications on food and energy prices, and inability of the State's

Internally Generated Revenue to finance its running expenses as critical factors that informed the 2023 budget figures.

- 6.1.2. While giving an overview of the 2022 budget performance, Mr. Aworere explained both the recurrent and capital budget implementation performance as at June 2022. He stated that total revenue expected for the Mid-Year 2022 was ₦99.641 billion while the actual total revenue received for the period was ₦78.014 billion, recording a shortfall of about 22%.
- 6.1.3. On the expenditure side, he explained that about 56.86% of the ₦99.64 billion was expended on recurrent expenditure while the remaining 43.14% was spent on capital projects.
- 6.1.4. Speaking on the 2023-2025 MTEF, the Director Budget briefed the meeting that, in 2023, the National Inflation forecast to be 17.16%, Real GDP to have a growth rate of 3.75%, Oil Production Benchmark is projected to be 1.6900 mbpd and the Oil Price benchmark of \$70.00. The State is proposed to have a total ₦116.893 billion for recurrent revenue and a total budget size of ₦151.523 billion for year 2023. He mentioned that the transfer to the capital account is having a negative figure of ₦13.474 billion meaning that the total revenue expected in the year 2023 is ₦13.474 billion less than the budgeted recurrent expenditure of ₦151.523 billion.
- 6.1.5. The table below shows the details of the sectoral capital allocation.

2023-2025 SECTORAL CAPITAL ALLOCATION

Capital Expenditure by Sector		Non-Discretionary Funds		
No.	Sector	2023 Allocation	2024 Allocation	2025 Allocation
1	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	0	0	0
2	AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	10,224,300,000	5,714,300,000	2,214,300,000
3	EDUCATION	1,695,000,000	1,695,000,000	1,695,000,000
4	ENVIRONMENT AND SEWAGE MANAGEMENT	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000
5	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	0	0	0
6	HEALTH	1,800,000,000	1,900,000,000	2,000,000,000
7	INFORMATION	0	0	0
8	INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT	17,360,400,000	13,115,400,000	9,755,400,000
9	LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION	0	0	0
10	PUBLIC FINANCE	240,000,000	252,000,000	264,600,000
11	REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	7,399,808,939	8,213,787,923	8,788,753,077
12	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	0	0	0
13	TRADE AND INDUSTRY	0	0	0
	Total	39,719,508,939	31,890,487,923	25,718,053,077

6.1.6. Mr. Aworere explained that the sectoral capital expenditure was divided into two: Discretionary Funds and Non-Discretionary Funds. ₦39.720 billion for non-discretionary fund which the State does not have outright control over. Concluding his presentation on the 2023–2025 MTEF, he stressed that the State needs more revenue in order to continue to prioritise the needs of the people of Ondo State.

6.1.7. Commenting on the Macro-economic fundamentals of the 2023-2025 MTEF and preparation of 2023 budget, the Honourable Commissioner, Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan reiterated that Nigeria was affected by the impacts of the global economic shocks occasioned by the measures put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. He explained that Nigerian economy was not the only one witnessing a rise in inflation which was put at 19.6% by the National Bureau of Statistics, he affirmed that Europe had witness inflation rate risen to 10.2% for the first time in 40 years.

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 2023 budget. They, however, commented/reacted as follows:

- i. Olu of Igbokoda observed that projects executed were unevenly distributed amidst local government areas, but mostly concentrated in Akure the State capital;
- ii. He further escalates the deplorable status of the Araromi town in Ilaje Local Government and implored State government to prioritize rural access roads for economic activities and improvement in the life of the people;
- iii. Also, he raised a concern on the threat of the sea incursion and surges that needed urgent attention;
- iv. Lack of health infrastructure in Ilaje local government, where the only General hospital is poorly equipped to give basic health attention life threatening health challenges;
- v. Lack of portable water for the people of Ilaje due to the nature of the area. He expressed displeasure on the neglect of Aboto Dam. He noted that, if the Dam could be reticulated, it is capable to meeting the need of the communities and also serve as revenue sources for the State;

- vi. Poor waste management in ilaje area, and if effectively managed could serve as revenue source to government;
- vii. Oloja, Traditional chief of Lipaanu in Irele Local Government Area complained about the lackadaisical attitude to revenue collecting agents in the area;
- viii. Bad road networks in Ayadi-Gbogi-Idogun-Atoranse;
- ix. Disconnection of Irele Local Government from the National grid led to total black-out in the area;
- x. Consistent attack on the bank in Irele led to closing down of the bank and left the people without an option;
- xi. The representative of Agadagba traditional ruler raised a concern on the menace caused by flooding in Ese-Odo communities, slowing down social and economic activities in those communities;
- xii. Poor maintenance of the water courses covered by the water hyacinths;
- xiii. Poor portable water in Ese-Odo communities of the state and urgent intervention to reticulate the available dam for supply of portable water in the area;
- xiv. Lack of infrastructures in Government schools (Primary and Secondary) caused inconvenient academic learning environment for pupils and students;

- xv. Representative of the Traditional ruler from Apoyi lamented on lack of portable water in their communities and requested for urgent intervention of reticulating the Dam in the area;
- xvi. Weedy waterways and the need to clear the watercourse;
- xvii. Dilapidated state of L.A Primary school building in Lipanu's;
- xviii. Deplorable state of roads in Ilaje Local Government area with a plea to rehabilitate (patch pot holes and clear sides ways, if roads cannot be constructed due to paucity of fund);
- xix. Lack of provision of basic amenities was responsible for non-tax compliance in Ilaje communities;
- xx. Lack of nearby schools in Ilaje caused pupils to trek distance before getting to schools, hence UBEC to build school in the communities;
- xxi. Poor road network between Okitipupa–Igbobini hampered smooth socio-economic activities in the area;
- xxii. Technical training/ economic empowerment workshops to be organized and to be midwife by the government. Resuscitation of the recycling factory was raised as an option to alleviate poverty;
- xxiii. Neglect of Alape–Araromi road under construction by contractors;
- xxiv. Waste collection and disposal at Ilaje local government area was reported to be hazardous to people in that environment;
- xxv. Poor health facilities at Ese-Odo local government where people did not have access to basic health care;

- xxvi. Low government budgetary allocation on education as compared to other sectors;
- xxvii. Government had neglected giving scholarship to students which had affected students living with Disabilities;
- xxviii. Most public buildings are constructed to be People living with Disabilities' friendly;
- xxix. The Irele market women complained about dilapidate market shops and stores;
- xxx. Lack of electric power supply at Irele local government had thrown the area into total black-out;
- xxxi. Incessant vandalization of electricity facilities in Irele Local Government; and
- xxxii. The existing tax regime in the state was suggested to be unfriendly and long overdue for a review.

8.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1. The followings were the recommendations:
 - i. Even distribution of projects among Local Government areas in the zone;
 - ii. Government should prioritize construction of rural access roads for vibrant economic and social activities;
 - iii. Urgent intervention to mitigate the threat of the sea incursion and surges;

- iv. Establishment of Basic Health Centres and sufficiently equipped to provide health services to people;
- v. Reticulation of Aboto Dam for distribution of portable water in the Local Government area;
- vi. Recycling of waste as a source of revenue generation;
- vii. Transparency and discipline on the part of revenue collecting agents;
- viii. Construction of good road networks in Ayadi-Gbogi-Idogun-Atoranse;
- ix. Reconnection of Irele Local Government to the National grid for provision of stable electricity;
- x. Provision of securities that would enhance the resuscitation of a bank branch in Irele Local Government;
- xi. Immediate intervention to curb flooding in Ese-Odo communities;
- xii. Improved maintenance of the water courses and weeding of water hyacinths;
- xiii. Provision of portable water in Ese-Odo communities of the state;
- xiv. Construction of classroom blocks that would enhance serene academic learning environment for pupils and students;
- xv. Provision of portable water communities in Apoyi land;
- xvi. Maintenance of waterways and clearing of the watercourse;
- xvii. Construction of new classroom blocks in L.A Primary school in Lipanu's;
- xviii. Construction of roads in Ilaje Local Government area;
- xix. Provision of basic amenities as incentive for tax compliance in Ilaje communities;


- xx Construction of schools by UBEC in the nearby communities in Ilaje that will eliminate pupils trekking distance before getting to schools;
- xxi Construction of roads that link Okitipupa to Igbobini for robust socio-economic activities in the area;
- xxii Resuscitation of the recycling factory as a means to alleviate poverty;
- xxiii Contractors should be mobilized to resume back to work on Alape–Araromi road under construction;
- xxiv Waste collection and disposal at Ilaje local government area should be properly managed to avoid been a life threatening to the people and environment;
- xxv Provision of health facilities at Ese-Odo local government where people could have access to basic health care;
- xxvi Good budgetary allocation should be given to education;
- xxvii People living with Disabilities should be considered by Government when giving scholarship;
- xxviii Contractors should factor in People living with Disabilities in construction of public buildings;
- xxix Renovation of market shops and stores in Irele market;
- xxx Installation of transformers at Irele local government for easy distribution of electricity;

xxxi Securing of electricity facilities in Irele Local Government to avoid incessant vandalization; and


xxxii Review of the existing tax regime in the state to be friendly.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 The Permanent Secretary 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.

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