



Delta State of Nigeria

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SENSITIZATION MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS ON THE REVISED 2020 BUDGET HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

ATTENDANCE

A total of 68 were invited to participate in the virtual meeting convened by Dr. Barry Gbe, the Hon. Commissioner for Economic Planning on behalf of the Delta State Government to discuss the emended Delta State 2020 budget. The participants were essentially representatives of Civil Society Organisations, President-Generals and Leaders of Communities, Professionals bodies and other critical stakeholders in Delta State. The list is as shown below:

S/NO	NAMES	POSITION/OFFICE/LOCATION	EMAIL/PHONE
01	HRM. Mike Omeru (JP)	Ovie of Agbon Kingdom	08036724068
02	HRM Pere S. P. Luke	Pere of Akugbene Kingdom	08036679312
03	HRM Obi (Dr) E. Efeizomor	The Obi of Owa	08033595014
04	Prince Igwe Nzekwe	Chairman PG Forum Delta State	07062603105
05	Chief Larry Onyeche	PG Agbor	08033771807
06	Prof Epiphani Azinge	PG Asaba	08033432971
07	Chief Austin Ukuwrere	PG Uvwie	08038394444
08	Chief Sir Emmanuel Okumagba	PG Okere – Warri	08037311710

09	Hon Areh Nicolas	PG Ozoro	08031518634
10	Engr Felix Enwenode	PG Uzere	08035378843
11	Chief Monday Ogheneruona Itoghor	Head, Environmental And Rural Mediation Centre (Envirumedic)	08030945108; 08023296640 envirumedic12@yahoo.co.uk
12	Mrs. Martha Onose	Community Empowerment & Development Initiative	08034725982 cedingo@yahoo.com cedingo1@gmail.com
13	Angela Onwaeze	Executive Director, Society for Rural Women and Youth Empowerment	08033288690
14	Edewor Ogedegbe	Value Rebirth and Empowerment Initiative	08069475030
15	Mrs. Uvietesivwi Elliana	Strategic Outcomes Community Initiatives	07064599456 oekakitie@yahoo.com
16	Dr. Collins Adjekuku	Vice Chairman, Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria, Delta Branch	08037111026
17	Mrs Caroline Usikpedo	Executive Director, Noble Delta Women for Peace	08068107046 nobledeltawomen@gmail.com
18.	Engr Lucky Esimike	PG Obiaruku	08130990872
19	Chief Omonode A.	PG Idjerhe	08036097040
20	Col. (Chief) O .C. Akporokah Rtd	PG Mosogar	08033225565 oakporokah@gmail.com
21	Mrs. Nancy Adigwe	PRO, NACCIMA Business Women Group	07068367071
22	Dr. Victor Amuwah	Nigerian Institute of Management Asaba Chapter	08037118684 vamuwah@gmail.com
23	Mr. Patricia Udiakhoa	President, Warri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mines and Agriculture	08069843304
24	Bamidele Ayodele	WACCIMA	08033361766
25	Akporowho Paul	Town Planners Association of Nigeria	08184447888
26	Rev Ohis Ohiorenoya	Resident Pastor, Church of God Mission, Warri	08038749782

27	Ven. Augustine Azuh	Vicar, St Andrew Anglican Church Okpanam	08036177377
28	Nohwo Fred	Budget Committee Group	07067625519
29	Enegide Lucky	Coordinator, Budget Committee Group	08037094551
30	Anuwo Morris	Chairman, Ogbudugbudu Community National Council, Warri North	08037799017
31	Eric Ajagidi	Chairman, Itagbene Progressive Union	08033673487
32	Dr. Peter Obakponovwe	PG Agbon Kingdom	08023835391
33	Dr. Austin Izagbo	PG Ibusa	08036682335
34	Comrade Rex Anighoro	Delta Civil Society Forum	08027894632
35	Chief Kenneth Iwhewhe	PG Ughelli	08033790101
36	Mr Godwin Okotie	CDC Tebu	08033582550
37	Kess Edu	Youth Leader, Otokutu	08138635597
38	Engr Lucky Esimike	PG Obiaruku	08130990872
39	Pharm. Ambrose Abanum	PG Emu	08037178777
40	Engr Joel Oshiegbu	PG Ute – Okpu	08035461807
41	Comrade Jones Ufunne	PG Ubulu Uku	08068980951
42	Chief Believe Akri	PG Oleh	08064400105
43	Chief Engr Jerry Okokowa	PG Iyede	08060327055
44.	Hon. Matthew Akpofa	PG Ofagbe	07018673110
45	Ayo Okotie	Coordinator, Neferok Development Initiative	07064993747
46	Agbor Uzezi	Executive Director, Community Peace Dev. Initiative	08032748533
47	Prof Akpotu	Isoko Development Network	08089921818
48	Okezi Odugala	ED, Eziodu Initiative for Sustainable Environment	08030803803

49	Amb. Dr Eris Jewo	ED Working Fingers International	08033921292
50	Mrs. Caroline Usikpedo	Noble Delta Women for Peace and Development	08068107046
51	Barr Israel Ojei	Nigeria Barr Association (NBA)	08033417871
52	Julius Olomukoro		08033688169
53	Anthonia Ogbeide okojie	Gosulcares foundation	07033356922 Gosulcaresfoundation@gmail.com
54	Gibson Pinnick	Ministry of Finance	
55	Hon. Okenmor Tilije	Ministry of Finance	
56	Chidinma	Open Government Partnership (OGP)	
57	Okpunor Chuks	Amb for Dev and Aids	08062068496 okpunorchuks@gmail.com
	Emmanuel Ashinze	PG Ogwashi Uku	08036696979 ndimmanuel@gmail.com
58	Hon. Emma Okoro		08038840408 nuelkoro@gmail.com
59	Mrs. Oruma Debby	Deb Assist Intl Ltd	deb@debassist.com 08060246262
60	Khama Wilson	Community Youth Advocate	okeoghenekhama@yahoo.com 08068477977
61	Mrs. Hope Okonkwo		08038668082
62	Bright Ebinepe		07089243787
63	Karo Adas		08037858181/07053353351
64	Ayovuta Courage		08066500739
65	Princewill Liberator		09034889762/08122302453
66	Chief Godwin .J. Notoma	PG, Udu Kingdom	08033391764/g.j.notoma@hotmail.com
67	Nwose Christian		08066023459
68	Anthony Omaenikun		08023432865

OPENING

2. The meeting commenced at 11.20am with opening prayer said by Dr. Alexander Ighoro. The moderator, Emeka Okonkwo, Assistant Director, Budget, Ministry of Economic Planning explained that the purpose of the meeting was to bring the citizens upto speed with the recent developments in the State's 2020 budget. Specifically it was to inform the citizens of the 2020 amended budget and the basis for the amendment as well as the implications for the citizens of the State. He added that the reason behind the virtual meeting is that Delta State has subscribed to Open Government Partnership (OGP) and therefore gives unhindered access to the State budget document. The participants were informed that participatory budgeting helps government improve performance and fiscal transparency. Thus, citizens interested in the development of the State should be interested in the budget.

PRESENTATION BY THE HON. COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING

3. The Commissioner informed participants the engagement is part of the series of stakeholders meetings leading to the preparation of the 2021 budget. According to him, in the wake of the global pandemic occasioned by the outbreak of Coronavirus, the originally approved 2020 budget was amended and the overall budget size was adjusted downward from N395bn to N282bn. Some new projects and programmes were introduced into the amended budget to fight the pandemic while other non-essential expenditures were either removed or had their allocation reduced.
4. The other highlights of his introductory remarks are as follows:
 - Economies around the world are fighting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic including Delta State.
 - Nigeria is still dependent on oil, so the current crash in oil prices is adding to the effect of COVID-19 impact where the spending capacity of the people has been drastically reduced.
 - In addition to the impact on health, there is also a significant economic impact being felt worldwide including Delta State.

- Delta State 2020 original Budget was predicated on some assumptions, among others, that the crude oil will sell at an average of \$57 per barrel. The oil price plummeted by about 60% following the spread of the global pandemic.
- As the oil sector accounts for the bulk of Nigerian government revenue, this collapse in oil commodity price had profound implications for the budget as the projected revenue became unrealistic.
- The sharp drop in oil price impacted negatively on the FAAC returns to States, and also drop in the internally generated revenue (IGR). In effect, the assumptions underlying the 2020 original budget were no longer sustainable, hence the need to go back to the House of Assembly with an amended/ revised 2020 budget.
- The Delta State Approved 2020 Budget has been amended to respond to recent developments, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The scarce resources have been reallocated to ensure implementation of required health and emergency measures as well as mitigate the negative socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

REASONS FOR AMMENDING THE 2020 BUDGET

5. The Hon. Commissioner gave the following narrative as the basis for budget amendment:
 - Delta State original Budget was based on certain fiscal/macro-economic assumptions which the State has been compelled to revisit given the emerging economic realities.
 - Following the impact of the pandemic, the Brent crude oil price crashed to an all-time low of \$19.13 per barrel in the month of April 2020 while oil production in 2020 year-to-date has dropped significantly below 2.0 million barrels per day. 2020.
 - Though oil price hovers around \$41/barrel as at 30th June, Government has been compelled to revise the benchmark oil price for 2020 to \$25 per barrel to be able to absorb any shocks in case of an eventual misfortune in the sector.
 - Oil production was adjusted from 2.18 million barrels per day in the original assumptions to 1.9 million barrels per day noting that with the global economy picking up gradually, the market for the product will remain viable.
 - The official exchange rate has also been adjusted upwards to N360/ US\$1 by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) hence the adjustment made in the

assumption from N305/dollar to N360/dollar. This is because it was projected that there will be capital inflow as export of commodity (oil) increase in the coming months, and also it is expected that the FDIs inflow will resume.

- The 2020 Delta State revised budget is tailored after the Federal Government’s macro-economic framework which key assumptions are:

Macro-Economic Framework

Item	Original 2020 Budget	Revised 2020 Budget
National Inflation	10.32%	14.13%
National Real GDP Growth	3.60%	-4.42%
Oil Production Benchmark (MBPD)	2.18	1.90
Oil Price Benchmark	\$57.00	\$25.00
NGN:USD Exchange Rate	305	360
Other Assumptions		
Mineral Ratio	34%	27%

6. The Hon. Commissioner went further to list the impact of the pandemic on the State economy as well as the strategies adopted by Government to respond to the challenge.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ECONOMY OF DELTA STATE

- (i) Revenue from statutory allocation dropped by about 60%
- (ii) The Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) dropped as economic activities became very low
- (iii) The purchasing power of the ordinary citizen of the State dropped drastically as many businesses have closed shop following the policies of Government to shut down some segment of the economy like hotels, mass transportation, schools, etc
- (iv) Meeting payment of salaries and allowances became difficult
- (v) Health facilities became over stretched
- (vi) The Health workers became afraid to put their lives on the line

- (vii) The frontline health workers do not have sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect themselves from infection
- (viii) The isolation centres do not have sufficient facilities
- (ix) Construction companies threatened to lay-off workers
- (x) Drop in business cash flows
- (xi) Liquidity and profitability of businesses impacted
- (xii) Readjustments in contract payments obligations

STRATEGIC OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES:

- (i) Government has to first amend the budget to align with current realities as the original assumptions were no longer achievable
- (ii) The revised budget reallocated resources to critical expenditures that will help ameliorate the impact of the pandemic;
- (iii) Government provided funds for the procurement of hospital equipment especially for the isolation centres, provide PPEs and provide drugs
- (iv) To motivate the frontline workers, Government has to provide special allowance for health workers
- (v) In order to keep the local economy working and keep construction workers on their jobs, Government will continue to fund major construction projections.
- (vi) More funding is being provided for social security to enable Government reach out to the needy in the society and provide palliatives for the ordinary citizens.

COVID-19 RESPONSIVE EXPENDITURES

7. According to the Commissioner, some expenditures have been classified as COVID-19 expenditure. These lines of expenditure were aimed at responding swiftly to the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic. Some of these expenditure line are as shown on the table below:

Activity	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Revised Budget	COVID -19 Expenditure	MDA
Contributory Health Scheme	1,200,000,000	1,200,000,000	1,200,000,000	Health
Immunization Activities, cold chain management	67,250,000	68,265,511	68,265,511	Health
Delta State Contributory Health Commission	1,200,000,000	804,366,000	804,366,000	Health
Corona Virus Outbreak Activities (COVID-19)		2,000,000,000	2,000,000,000	Health
Provision of Personal Protective Equipment		300,000,000	300,000,000	Health
Medications		200,000,000	200,000,000	Health
Maternal and Childcare Centre & Ekpan	180,000,000	125,654,900	125,654,900	SSG
Training for Health care workers		100,000,000	100,000,000	Health
Insurance cover for health works		100,000,000	100,000,000	Health
Social Security	1,000,000,000	2,000,000,000	2,000,000,000	Govt House
Job Creation Programmes	1,580,909,939	1,380,000,000	1,380,000,000	Govt House
Construction of Isaba/Aladja DSC Road (10.3km) in Warri South West LGA	750,000,000	500,000,000	500,000,000	Works
Dualisation of Ughelli-Asaba Road, (Sector A).	1,250,000,000	1,200,000,000	1,200,000,000	Works
Widening of Warri/Sapele Road. Phase I: from Effurun Roundabout to Enerhen Junction (Warri Bus Rapid TRansit (BRT) Project)	800,000,000	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000	Works
Construction of Kwale-Beneku bridge and approach roads in Ndokwa West and Ndokwa-East LGA	800,000,000	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000	Works
Completion of the Dualisation of Ughelli-Asaba Road (Sector C2)	1,650,000,000	2,000,000,000	2,000,000,000	Works
Completion of the Dualisation of Ughelli/Asaba Road (Sector C1: Km 92 + 000 to Km117 + 000, Ossissa to Kwale Junction, Ogwashi-Uku)	1,650,000,000	1,500,000,000	1,500,000,000	Works
Construction of Roads in Delta North Senatorial District	2,500,000,000	3,510,061,614	3,510,061,614	Works
Mindset Programme & Evaluation Programme	60,000,000	65,000,000	65,000,000	Youth
Rural Youth Skill Acquisition Programme	670,600,000	742,000,000	742,000,000	Youth
Students Entrepreneurship Programme	400,000,000	240,000,000	240,000,000	Youth
Social Investment Programmes (Cash Transfer, Safety Nets, e.t.c.) (CARES).	Nil	1,500,000,000.00	1,500,000,000	MEP
Small Scale and Medium Enterprises Support Programme	Nil	1,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000	Micro Credit

8. Aside from Government's role of preparing and executing the budget, the Commissioner disclosed that citizens also have roles in making the budget a realistic plan. He listed a few of these roles as follow:

- Monitoring of Government projects and reporting observations that require government attention.
- Protection of public facilities including oil and gas installations.
- Provision of relevant information to security agencies to maintain law and order.
- Reporting of community needs to government through the relevant government agency or the Ministry of Economic Planning.
- Channeling of grievances to appropriate government agencies instead of taking laws into their hands.

9. FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

(i) **Chief Monday Itoghor**, Director, Environmental and Rural Mediation Centre (**ENVIRUMEDIC**) was of the opinion that the 2020 budget is almost used up. He advised that Government should concentrate on planning for the 2021 fiscal year. He further remarked that he did not see the budget for water supply and sanitation, when we know that water is key to fighting COVID-19. Presently, the USAID E - WASH program is supporting in the area of water with a commitment term of Government reaching certain milestones. He opined that there is the need to utilize the opportunity to make water accessible for all.

RESPONSE: Responding, the Commissioner noted the advice. He however explained that the purpose of the meeting was to bring the citizens up to speed with what has happened to the 2020 budget. This according to him will form the basis for discussing and making a realistic 2021 budget.

(ii) **Chief Ndikanwu Emmanuel Ashinze**, President General Ogwashi Uku Development Union posited that the pandemic is a blessing in disguise as meetings via webinar will give more citizens the opportunity to contribute to happenings in Government. He noted that primary education in the state

is not receiving sufficient attention. According to him, primary education is the foundation for our children which should not be toyed with. He advised that Government should declare a state of emergency on primary education in order to give it the desired attention. He emphasized that enough budgetary allocation be made to Primary education.

- (iii) **Karo Adas**, Youth Leader, Isi Community in Isoko North LGA drew the attention of Government to the security problems in Isoko land. According to him, there is currently pipeline vandalization in the land as well as some level of criminality.

RESPONSE: The Commissioner for Economic Planning disclosed that the State Government is already aware of this chaos in the Isoko area and series of security meetings have been held with the appropriate security outfits in the State. Speaking further, he said that Government has sent delegations to the companies in the area and to the affected communities too, Government is not sleeping over the situation, he assured.

- (iv) **Dr. Victor Amuwah**, Representative of Professional Bodies noted that Government has not sufficiently funded some key sectors of the economy including Agriculture and Information Technology. He advised that these are the productive sectors that need adequate funding so that less attention will be given to oil revenue.

RESPONSE: The Commissioner disclosed that Government is mindful of the need to fund other productive sectors so that the fluctuations in the oil market will not affect the running of Government. He mentioned that the sum of N2.0bn was earmarked as special agricultural intervention programme in the amended 2020 budget, this according to him speaks to the prominence Government is giving Agriculture in recent times. He added that the budget is also giving attention to the deployment of ICT in the education sector.

- (v) **Chief Dr. Austin Izagbo**, President General of Ibusa Community noted that the problem with Government budget is execution. He recommended that Government should set up Monitoring and Evaluation Department in the Ministry of Economic Planning to monitor Government projects and programmes during budget implementation.

RESPONSE: The Commissioner disclosed that there is a department of Monitoring and Evaluation already in existence in the Ministry. As a new

department, Government is working towards strengthening the department to perform maximally.

- (vi) **Barr. Israel Ojei**, Legal Practitioner advised that Government should increase its budgetary provisions for contingency as unforeseen occurrences like the COVID-19 pandemic can always come. He was of the opinion that with a well-funded contingency vote, the issues of budget amendment may be unnecessary.
- (vii) **Mrs. Oghenerukevwe Uvietesivwi** Coordinator, SmarteGic Outcomes initiative, thanked the Hon Commissioner for the platform that enables stakeholders to understand the state of the economy and the Government's plan. She opined that focus should be on job creation programmes and pro-poor social interventions.

According to her, over the years, their engagements with communities have revealed that who really need access to these programmes to improve their livelihoods are excluded from these programmes. She further posited that most beneficiaries of these programmes are not committed to the process as they sell off their start up kits almost immediately after the programme. She recommended that more effective systems should be established to ensure that the appropriate beneficiaries are targeted and included in the programmes with very clear results of what the programmes are meant to achieve. Similarly, strong monitoring systems should be in place to ensure that deviants are sanctioned.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner thanked all participants for the sacrifice of time to be in the virtual meeting. He added that the outcome of the meeting and the feedbacks received so far will be a guide in the making of the subsequent Government budgets. He also advised that citizens can visit the Ministry of Economic Planning at any time with their advice and recommendations on issues of public good. On behalf of all the participants, Dr. Austin Izagbo thanked the Commissioner for this initiative of the stakeholders meeting and advised that such meetings should be organised regularly.

CLOSING

The meeting came to an end at 1.05pm with prayers said by Dr. Austin Izagbo.

Dr. Barry Gbe

Hon. Commissioner
Ministry of Economic Planning

Frank O. Isume

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Economic Planning

Prince Igwe Nzekwe

Chairman, Forum of President-Generals

Okpunor Chuks

Amb. for Dev and Aids
For: CSOs

Barr. Israel Ojei

Legal Practitioner

Emeka Okonkwo

Budget Department
Recorder

