

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE HON. COMMISSIONER FOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING, HON. P.Z. MAIWADA, ON
THE OCCASION OF CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT ON YEAR
2020 BUDGET, HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER, 2019, AT
IGBO HALL, DADA ONICAR JUNCTION, KABBA**

Courtesies:

Let me welcome you to this important aspect of our Budgeting process, of the stakeholders' engagement on year 2020 Budget. You will recall that we held a similar one in Lokoja recently and we are going to hold the subsequent ones in Okene and Anyigba respectively.

You will recall that we started this stakeholders' meeting last year, where stakeholders from the 21 LGAs were invited to Lokoja. Some of your comments and suggestions at the last year's meeting that have been acted upon is the issue of decentralizing the meeting, to hold at the senatorial level. The meeting also advised that stakeholders meeting should held outside government facility, which is the reason this meeting is being held outside government facility.

You also suggested the need to publish Budget Call Circular on the State official website, to enable the public access and use it to prepare their inputs into the Budget. This has since been done too.

In addition, this meeting, last year, recommended the need to prepare Citizens' Budget. This has since been prepared and published on the State website.

I must assure you of our resolve to continue to implement your recommendations, particularly the fact that we realized, as a Government, that the people for whom budget is meant to serve must be part of the process leading to the formulation of the budget.

Thank and I wish a robust engagement.