

**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 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019, AT  
UNDERGRADUATE HALL AUDITORIUM, FEDERAL  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OKENE**

Courtesies:

I am pleased to welcome you all to Kogi Central Stakeholders Town Hall meeting on year 2020 Budget. You will recall that we held a similar one in Lokoja recently. Only yesterday, we had the meeting for Kogi West at Kabba. We also plan to hold the meeting for Kogi East at Anyigba in the coming days.

As you know, we started this meeting last year, where stakeholders from the 21 LGAs were invited to Lokoja. At that meeting, many recommendations made by the stakeholders are being implemented. One of such recommendations was the need to decentralize this meeting. That is why the meetings are being held at the Senatorial level. We had also implemented some other recommendations such as holding the stakeholders meeting outside a restricted government facility, publishing of Budget Call Circular on State official website for ease of public access as well as production of Citizens Budget.

More importantly, some of the projects recommended at the last year's stakeholders' meeting have been captured in the Budget proposals submitted to the State Budget

office by the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

Let me inform you that our objective for this meeting is to discuss and know what the people are saying in terms of their development needs with a view to capturing them in the State Development Plan and Budget.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have started the process of engaging the people on budget formulation. We intend to build on it in the period ahead, for the overall good of the State.

Thank you and I wish us a robust engagement.

God bless Kogi State, God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria