

**MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDERS TOWNHALL MEETING ON YEAR 2021 BUDGET
HELD ON 10TH, SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT IDRINANA HOTEL, PHASE 2, LOKOJA, KOGI
STATE.**

1.0.0 PREAMBLE

1.0.1 Stakeholders Townhall Meeting continued after the successes recorded from preceding meetings in the last two years with main objectives of ensuring accountability and inclusiveness in the Budgeting process. The ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning had acted on many of the suggestions from the preceding Meetings. Key among the suggestion was the decentralization of the meeting to the three senatorial zones of the State, which is why the year 2021 Budget Stakeholders Town hall Meeting took place in Lokoja, Kogi Western Senatorial District.

2.0.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

2.0.1 The Meeting commenced at 10:42AM and Mr. Peter Adejoh, who moderated the session said the meeting was aimed at bringing the stakeholders together to discuss and make their inputs into the 2021 Budget.

3.0.0 OPENING REMARKS

3.0.1 The Hon. Commissioner of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mukadam Asiwaju Ashiru Idris, who welcomed participants to the meeting, underscored the importance of creating a platform like this, in which the stakeholders would discuss and submit their needs for inclusion into the State Budget. He informed the meeting that, His Excellency, Alh. Yahaya Bello, strongly believed in participatory budgeting process, which was the reason he gave a standing directive for this meeting to be made a critical part of the annual budgeting. According to the Commissioner, the era of government deciding for the people in the annual budget was gone. Therefore, the people would be consulted in key government activities and their priorities would be factored into policies, programs and projects, in order to ensure that government priorities were fully aligned to people's priorities in the State Development Plan, to be implemented gradually through the annual Budget within the limit of the available resources.

3.0.2 The Commissioner remarked that, over the past 3 years, some progress had been made in the budgeting process including public disclosure (State website) of

documents of Approved Budget, Revised Budget, Citizens Budget (in English, Yoruba, Epira and Igala), Audited Financial Statements, MTEF, MTSS for 9 pilot MDAs and quarterly Budget performance reports.

3.0.3 Speaking on the 2020 Revised Budget, the Commissioner said, the State revenue was significantly challenged over the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic, saying within the first quarter of the pandemic, the assumptions that informed the preparation of the 2020 Approved Budget could no longer endure, as the oil benchmark of \$57 Dollars per barrel upon which the Budget was prepared oscillated between \$17 and \$30 Dollar per barrel. At the same time, the exchange rate, projected at N305/\$ rose to N360/\$. All other assumptions showed very bad signals such as inflation rates, GDP growth rate, unemployment. Under that difficult situation of a heavily plummeted revenue, Government had no option but to revise the Budget from the originally approved N176 Billion to N102 Billion, after due consultations with critical stakeholders.

3.0.4 On the effects of COVID-19, Commissioner Asiwaju said, the Pandemic had a very devastating effects on the health sector and the overall economy with obvious consequences on the projected revenue as a result of the significant fall in the price of crude oil, lock down and other restrictive policies associated with COVID-19 Precautionary measures. He said the Budget had to be revised in order to manage the situation in a manner that reduced to the barest minimum, the impact of COVID on the people. He continued that, in revising the 2020 Approved Budget, Overhead cost was cut down, the earlier planned recruitment exercises had to be suspended, admitting only critical pro-poor capital projects while provision were made for the completion of ongoing projects and maintenance of existing ones. He also said that provision was also made to grant tax reliefs to vulnerable businesses as well as increased allocation for the health sector, to cater for Personal Protective Equipment, Medical allowances and health insurance. Provision were also made to support rural agriculture, social safety net support, livelihood support, public workfares support, all of which were provided for under the COVID-19 CARES program which was expected to take-off soon and continue in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

3.0.5 The Hon. Commissioner stated that, as part of efforts of deepening transparency and accountability, Kogi State emerged 2nd in the World Bank SFTAS

program. On 2019 assessment, he said the State Government had invested so much to do even better. He continued that, the 2020 Budget had been revised in line with the effect of COVID-19, and the World Bank report indicated that the State Budget was in line with best practice, which would attract to the State, a grant of \$5,000,000 Dollars. On the credibility in tax administration and other key areas, a grant of \$2.5Million Dollars was also awarded to the State by the World Bank while in May, 2019, the state was awarded as the best State in North Central in Accountability and Transparency.

3.0.6 He equally stated that the Stakeholders engagement is considered important by Government, which was why key representatives of MDAs were part of the State team, to address the concerns of stakeholders in the different sectors and to liaise with stakeholders to obtain their inputs. He also informed the meeting that, Call circulars issued to MDAs required them to consult with the stakeholders and accommodate their inputs into the 2021 Budget proposals. Where this had been done good, he said, this interface would provide another opportunity for stakeholders' inputs to be obtained. He urged all the participants to actively participate in the process in order to achieve the objectives of His Excellency's inclusive governance.

3.0.7 In conclusion, He enjoined the good people of Kogi State, both at home and in diaspora, to heartily congratulate His Excellency, Alh. Yahaya Bello, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, over the strong affirmation of his victory at the polls by the Supreme Court as the duly elected Governor of Kogi State and assured that with this victory and the continued support of the people, His Excellency. Yahaya Bello, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, would continue to review his development agenda in consultation with Stakeholders in order to significantly improve the quality of life of the people.

3.0.8 The State SFTAS Coordinator (World Bank Assisted), Mr. E.O Bayode, who spoke on the benefits of stakeholders' engagement in the Budgeting process, said stakeholders' engagement was critical to the credibility of the budget. He explained that Budget, as an estimation of revenue and expenses of government over a specified future period of time, usually one year, was the most important public agency activities of government. He defined a stakeholder as any person or group that had a legitimate interest in a specific project or policy decision of government

and who may be affected directly or indirectly by the decisions of the government. According to SFTAS Coordinator, Stakeholder engagement had become increasingly part of governance and was being used to improve communications, obtain wider community support or buy-in for projects. Stakeholders engagement provided critical information on needs and priorities of the citizenry to government, thereby strengthening policy choices and enhancing budget efficiency and effectiveness.

3.0.9 Mr. Bayode elaborated further that, Stakeholders engagement strengthened openness, transparency and accountability, thereby improving the credibility of government decisions. The engagement provided a wider opportunity to gather information and feedback to guide the decisions of government; The information gathered from stakeholders' engagement, he said, would enable government to prove to the citizens that the decisions that were made in the budgeting process were intended to meet the desires, needs and priorities of the people; Stakeholders' engagement ultimately leads to improved governance system and inclusion of people from all backgrounds. The more views gathered in the process of budget formulation, the more likely the final product of the budget would meet the most needs and address the most concerns possible; Trust would be built between the people and Government through stakeholders' engagement. Collecting ideas and inputs from stakeholders across all areas would engender peace and stability in governance leading to less agitations from the citizenry and finally Stakeholders involvement in the budget process engenders their ownership of the budget.

In conclusion, he stated that the Stakeholders Engagement affirmed His Excellency's desire to institute a culture of Transparency, Accountability and Openness in the governance system of the state. He commended the State Governor, for the laudable initiative which, if sustained, had the ingredients of building trust and partnership with the people for the accelerated growth and sustainable development of the State.

4.0.0 REMARKS FROM REPRESENTATIVE OF CSOs

Speaking on behalf of CSOs, Mr. Hamza Aliyu-Executive Director, Initiative for Grassroots Advancement (INGRA) commended participatory nature of the budget. He stated that, a situation in which people and leaders they elected sit on the same platform to discuss issues of development was quite commendable. He advised

that politicians should do the right thing and they would be appropriately rewarded.

Mr. Hamza Aliyu charged Government to take budget implementation as seriously as it had taken budget preparation, saying budget implementation monitoring was imperative in order to achieve the desires, needs and priorities of the people. He explained that, at the end of the day, the final accolade would not come from World Bank but from the citizens for whom the budget was prepared to serve.

5.0.0 REMARKS FROM REPRESENTATIVE OF MAIGARI OF LOKOJA

Alhaji Aliu Jiya Lawal, the Maiyaki of Lokoja, who led the representatives of the Maigari of Lokoja, His Royal Majesty Alhaji (Dr) Mohammed Kabir Maikarfi III, thanked the State Government for the initiative of consulting with the people, saying the Maigari sent his deep appreciation. He said the objective of the meeting, which was to harvest citizens' inputs into the budget was very laudable, saying it underlined the importance the government attached to the views of the people in the governance systems. He said for any government to truly succeed, it must secure the confidence and support of the people, requesting government to keep it up and improve on it. Accordingly, the following list of projects was submitted to be captured in the State Development Plan and to be implemented gradually through 2021 Budget and subsequent ones;

1. ROAD PROJECTS

<u>S/N</u>	<u>ROAD PROJECT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1	SARDAUNA JUNCTION LEADING TO ANGUWAN KURA-ANGUWA HAMZA ROAD	THESE TWO ROADS ARE MEANT TO DECONGEST TRAFFIC ON MURTALA-NEW MARKET ROAD
2	MARINE-GADUMO ROAD	WORK ON MARINE-GADUMO ROAD WAS INITIATED BUT LEFT UNIMPLEMENTED
3	EID LAYOUT ROAD LEADING TO ARMAJIRI PRI.SCHOOL BUILT BY UBEC BEHIND KOGI STATE POLYTECHNIC	
4	SARKIN-NOMA-FELELE ROAD THROUGH SARKIN NOMA	THIS ROAD WILL CREATE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR LIGHT

		VEHICLES TO MOVE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES ESPECIALLY WHENEVER THE ABUJA-LOKOJA ROAD IS FLOODED
5	300 METERS ROAD LEADING TO CEFN CHURCH FROM THE GANAJA JUNCTION MOTOR PARK REQUIRES URGENT REPAIR AND DRAINAGE	WATER DRAINAGE WAS DIVERTED TO THIS ROAD DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LOKOJA-GANAJA ROAD, THIS HAS CREATED A GULLY WHICH IS STILL EXPANDING

2. STREET LIGHT FACILITIES

S/N	STREET LIGHT	REMARKS
1	MURTALA-TAFAWA BALEWA ROADS (POST OFFICE TO NEW MARKET)	MOST OF THE STREET LIGHT ARE NOT FUNCTIONING
2	OLD MARKET UP TO MAIGARI PALACE	NO STREET LIGHT
3	PAPARANDA SQUARE TO NTA ROUND ABOUT	NO STREET LIGHT
4	ALHERI JUNCTION TO CROWTHER MEMORIAL COLLEGE	NO STREET LIGHT

3. GULLY EROSION CONTROL

S/N	GULLY EROSION CONTROL	REMARKS
1	RIMI ROSION GULLY, CLOSE TO THE CENTRAL MOSQUE	
2	FROM KPOROKA BRIDGE TO NASARA PRI. SCH. ALONG NEW MARKET ROAD	
3	EID LAYOUT GULLY BETWEEN KOGI POLY AND EID LAYOUT BESIDE ALMAJIRI SCHOOL	

4. CONSTRUCTION

S/N	CONSTRUCTION	REMARKS
1	PROVISION OF CLASSROOMS TO GOVT.GIRLS SEC. SCHOOL, SARKIN-NOMA	NO CLASS ROOM WAS BUILT BY KOGI STATE GOVT.SINCE IT ESTABLISHMENT IN 2002.THE EFFORT OF PTA AND NGOs NEEDS TO BE COMPLEMENTED

5.WATER SUPPLY

S/N	WATER SUPPLY	REMARKS
1	MOST PART'S OF LOKOJA ARE NOT CONNECTED TO THE GREATER LOKOJA WATER PROJECT ESPECIALLY ANGUWAN PAWA, MADABO, ANGUWAN KURA ETC	THE OLD PIPES SERVING MOST OF THE AREAS WERE LAID IN 1953.THEY ARE NO LONGER FUNCTIONING

6.RENOVATION

S/N	RENOVATION	REMARKS
1	RENOVATION OF THE FIRST PRIMARY SCHOOL IN NORTHERN NIGERIA LOCATED IN THE PREMISES OF BISHOP CROWTHER LGEA SCHOOL, LOKOJA	THE BUILDING IS IN A DEPLORABLE AND PITIABLE CONDITION.IT NEEDS URGENT RENOVATION

In conclusion, His Royal Highness, commended His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello, the Executive Governor of Kogi State for the reforms so far implemented to reposition the State for better service delivery.

6.0.0 REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE OF OHIMEGYE-IGU KOTON-KARFE

The representative of His Royal Majesty, the Ohimegye-Igu Koton-Karfe, Chief Dr. Abdullahi M. Bako the Ohimozi-Ogbani of Igu-Koton-Karfe, congratulated the State Government for the initiative of organizing the Stakeholders Town-hall meeting. He said for Budgeting and Planning to be effective, proper Monitoring and Evaluation should be carried out with the involvement of Stakeholders. He stated the main challenge in his domain was insecurity and unemployment, requesting Government intervention in terms of Funding and Logistics. The representative also brought to light the plight of Farmers who were confronting insecurity due to activities of bandits and kidnapers, terrorizing villages. He also spoke of lack of farm inputs like fertilizers and pesticides and pleaded for Government assistance to arrest all issues raised (insecurity, unemployment and farm inputs).

The Royal Majesty, Ohimegye-Igu Koton-Karfe said that, after due consultation with his people, he submitted the following list of projects and programme, on behalf of his area:

- 1. Construction of Okpareke-Adingere-Orudu Road**
- 2. Fencing of Government Science Secondary School, Koton-Karfe**
- 3. Rehabilitation and Resuscitation of Gegu-Egba Basic Health Center**
- 4. Completion of 40 Bed-space Cottage Hospital at Okpareke**
- 5. Construction and Channelization of Isi-Igu, Koton-Karfe Drainage**

6. Provision and Extension of Electricity to Okofi-Ette-Adangere/ugwo, Omoko, Achara, Kpokpolobi Communities
7. Rehabilitation/Renovation of Examination Hall at Government Science Secondary School, Koton-Karfe
8. Completion of Koton-Karfe Water Scheme
9. Kogi State Government to take over Ohiogbani Fishing Festival, Koton-Karfe
10. Grading and Upgrading of Traditional Chiefs
11. Rehabilitation of Koton-Karfe-Adengere Road
12. Construction of Ahoko-Tanahu-Nyaba-Aseni Road
13. Rehabilitation of Koton-Karfe-Osuku-Achara-Tawari-Gegu-Beki Road
14. Rehabilitation/Renovation of Staff Quarters at Government Science Secondary School, Koton-Karfe
15. Establishment of a Campus of any of the State Higher Institutions in Kogi-Koton-Karfe LGA
16. Provision of Adequate Security
17. Provision of Agricultural Inputs to Farmers
18. Provision of Adequate and Quality Academic Staff to both Primary and Secondary Schools in the Area

7.0.0 REMARKS BY THE LEADER OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITY

The Chairman Joint National Association of Person's with Disability, Kogi State Chapter, Hon. Solomon Yahaya expressed felicitation with the Government and good people of Kogi State over the victory of the Executive Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello at the Supreme Court. He informed that section 25 of the National Disability Law specified that 5% of employment should be reserved for the disable and advised the State Government to implement the law. He stressed the need for the speedy take-off of the office of persons with disability in order to cater adequately for the welfare of the people with special needs.

8.0.0 REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE OF C.A.N

The representative of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Reverend S.B Owolabi said the Town-hall Meeting was a laudable initiative and appreciated the Government for extending invitation to CAN.

Rev. Owolabi advised Government to ensure that the decisions of the meeting were not reduced to mere rhetoric but implemented for the good of the people. He equally drew attention to the deplorable state of roads in the State, especially Ganaja Road and advised Government to endeavor to put the road in order. Finally, he congratulated the Hon. Commissioner of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning on the success of the programme and prayed God to give him more wisdom to pilot the affairs of the State.

9.0.0 REMARKS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNCIL OF ULAMAS

The representative of the Council of Ulama's, Mallam Zakariya Z.A, commended Government's effort at organizing such innovative meeting and called for its sustenance. He continued that, Stakeholder's Town-hall meeting would offer citizens the opportunity to forward their desires, needs and priorities based on available Government resources. Zakariya Z.A also drew attention of Government to the following areas;

1. Rehabilitation of Primary Schools; he stated that most of the public Primary Schools were in deplorable condition, therefore Government needed to reconstruct and equip classrooms, provide teaching aids, employ qualified teachers and train the existing Teachers.
2. Health Care Facilities (F.M.C. Lokoja); He said Government had the responsibility to cater for the health needs of the citizenry. Therefore, the onus rest on it to construct new health facilities, rehabilitate and equip the existing ones, employ Medical Doctors and provide Drugs. He also advised Government to wade into the issue of closure of FMC Lokoja with a view to finding an amicable settlement and the resumption of activities in the Facility.
3. Welfare of Workers and Pensioners. He advised Government to passionately look into the payment of Salaries and Pension especially those at the Local Government Areas.

In conclusion, Mallam Zakariya Z.A, advised citizens to play their parts and Government to sustain the stakeholders meeting in subsequent years and to ensure that Professionals were involved in planning, implementation and evaluation of Government programs and projects.

10.0.0 REMARKS BY THE COORDINATOR OPEN KOGI ALLIANCE

The Coordinator Open Kogi Alliance, Mr. Tijjani Abdulkareem commended the Ministry for organizing the Stakeholders Town-hall meeting and stated that the meeting was consistent with openness and inclusiveness in the way and manner Government should carry out its activities. Mr. Abdulkareem also advised that the Fiscal Transparency Bill should be passed and implemented, so that other processes that encouraged openness and inclusiveness be sustained even after the tenure of the current Government. He continued that Government should sign-on to the OGP where all its activities could be freely accessible by Citizens. He informed the meeting that, with the adoption of OGP, citizens should be able to have free access to Government records like Financial Statements, Audit Reports etc. and that, as part of the OGP mandate, each participant was responsible for disseminating the report of the Stakeholders Meeting to the Citizens.

11.0.0 REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN KOGI YOUTH ADVOCATE CLUSTER

The Chairman Kogi Youth Advocate Cluster, Mr. Aminu Okwutepe requested for a Commission to be put in place to advocate for the rights of the youths, saying, as part of achieving that, a Budget line should be created for it to function effectively. Finally, he commended the Ministry for organizing the Stakeholders meeting.

12.0.0 REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE OF MARKET WOMEN

Mrs. Amina Oyiza, representing the Market Women, remarked that Motorable Roads was top in the demands of market women. This would facilitate the movement of farm produce from the farms to the various Markets. She called for more investment in electricity, to improve its availability and accessibility to assist preserve perishable goods. In conclusion, she said if Government was able to provide all these, Market women would not just be traders but big employer of Labour.

13.0.0 REMARKS BY ABANIWO NATHANIEL (ED/SC)-RECAN/AONN

Mr. Nathaniel Abaniwo remarked that the Budget line that aims to end violence against Children, Women and the Vulnerable kept recurring in the annual Budget without cash-backing. He called on Government to sustain project on Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Mr. Abaniwo informed the meeting that, the Child Right Act was currently domiciled in the Ministry of Justice instead of Ministry of Women

Affairs, with a meager allocation of five (5) Million Naira only. He concluded by advising that the Act be domiciled in the Ministry of Women Affairs, which was the best practices.

14.0.0 REMARKS BY MR IDRIS MILIKI(ED)-CHRCR

Mr. Idris Miliki reiterated the importance of Budget, calling on Government to sustain the town-hall meeting. He expressed concern that the, Budget Document was not widely distributed to the people, saying the fact that it was publicly available on the website was not enough reason. He called on Government to use the State Printing Press to mass produce the Budget for distribution to the public. Mr. Miliki emphasized on the need for Kogi State to Establish a State Television Station and suggested that the Stella Obasanjo Library building be used for take-off. The essence of the Television Station, according to him, was to promote the culture of the people of the state. On the issue of Housing, Mr. Miliki suggested more synergy between Kogi State Government and Dangote Cement Company in order to establish a GYB Housing Scheme. Finally, he stated that 2021 Budget should focus more on Housing.

15.0.0 REMARKS BY EUNICE ABIMBOLA (ED)-CHALLENGED PARENTHOOD INITIATIVE(CPI)

Mrs. Eunice Abimbola commended the Ministry for promoting inclusiveness by organizing a Stakeholders Town-hall meeting on Budget 2021. She informed the meeting that, Women and the Girl Child needed to be protected. Therefore, it was important to provide safe spaces for them, saying COVID-19 had open up important issues on Gender-based violence like Rape etc. In order to address this issue, CPI urged the passing of Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill (VAPP) into law, to ensure that perpetrators of this crime were prosecuted. She pleaded with the stakeholders to ensure the success of the public hearing on the Bill, to ensure it was passed by the Legislature and assented to by the Governor. Finally, she advised Government to address the deplorable roads in Lokoja as well as develop the tourism sector to attract investment to the state.

16.0.0 REMARKS BY DIRECTOR (PRS) MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Director who spoke on the office of Public Defender and Citizens Right Commission, advised Government to make provision for the take-off grant of the Commission.

17.0.0 REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN PERMANENT SECRETARY'S FORUM

The Chairman, Mr. Okeme Jibraila commended the State for the stakeholders meeting initiative. He said, despite the logistics issues, the State Government had worked creditably and pledged loyalty to Government vision, policies.

18.0.0 REMARKS BY MATTHIAS OKPANACHI (ED)-YAWHEP

Mr. Matthias Okpanachi, a member of the Committee on Public Finance of Agriculture remarked that Government should prioritize the funding of small Women Farmers Groups because they make up a significant proportion of the farmers' population and contributing significantly to total Agricultural production in the State. He said Maputu Declaration of 10% of the State total Budget Allocation to Agriculture was yet to be achieved. The State Total Allocation to Agriculture, he said, was currently about 6%. He advised Government to improve the total Allocation to 8% in the 2021 Budget.

19.0.0 REMARKS BY MRS HAUWA YUSUF, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

In response to the remark by Nathaniel Obaniwo of RECAN/AONN, Mrs. Hauwa Yusuf, Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary Ministry of Justice, affirmed that the Child Right Act domiciled in the Ministry of Justice, had not obstructed the functionality of the Act, saying, her Ministry worked closely with the Ministry of Women Affairs, to achieve the objectives of the Act.

20.0.0 REMARKS BY ALH. IDRIS ABDULRAMAN-THE HAKIMI OF LOKOJA''A''

Alh. Abdulraman said, the stakeholders meeting was a welcome development to the people, especially the Traditional Institution. According to him, it would serve as an avenue to interface with Government. He commended the renovation of

some Schools, saying classrooms were now conducive for learning. He, however, appealed to Government to urgently employ teachers, to fill the teachers gap in schools, charging Government to prioritized employment of teachers in the 2021 Budget. He also called for the welfare of Traditional Rulers to be prioritized.

21.0.0 REMARKS BY CHIEF REGISTRAR HIGH COURT

Mr. Bamidele Aina, the Chief Registrar of the High Court commended His Excellency, Alh. Yahaya Bello on the laudable initiative of a Stakeholders Townhall Meeting. He affirmed the necessity for a Feedback system especially in the Judiciary and the need for more resources for effective and efficient administration of justice. He also stressed the need for application of ICT in the Justice sector in line with global practice, saying Court proceedings were no longer done manually but computer-aided. The Chief Registrar commended the synergy between Ministry of Justice and Women Affairs and informed that though the Child Right Act was domiciled in the Ministry of Justice it was, by no means, less effective in operation. In this regard, the necessity for a foster home cannot be overemphasized. Finally, he advocated for the use of Mediation, Arbitration and other Hybrid forms of conflict resolution instead of Litigation.

22.0.0 REMARKS BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL BUREAU FOR LANDS

Hon. Nazir Ochi Yusuf, DG for Bureau for Lands, expressed appreciation to the Hon. Commissioner for Finance, Budget and Economic Planning for organizing the Stakeholders Town-hall Meeting. He said Citizens were the beneficiaries of Government Programmes and activities while Government needed funds to carry-out development programmes. Hence the meeting had created an opportunity for Government and Citizens to strategize on the development of Kogi State. The D.G emphasized training and development of MDA Staff was very crucial to realizing Government development objectives. He encouraged Citizens to process their land documents at a highly reduced cost, saying the cost of obtaining Certificate of Occupancy (CofO) had been cut by 50%. On Housing, he said, the State was already in investment talks with the Federal Government, expected to be concluded by the end of the year.

23.0.0 REMARKS BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL PENSION COMMISSION

Mrs. Mariam O Abedo, the Director-General, Pension Commission informed the meeting of the merging of the Bureau for State and Local Government into the Pension Commission. She said civil servants with less than 5 years in service would be treated on the subsisting arrangement while those with 5 years and above, would move to Pension Contributory Scheme. Finally, on the issue of Gratuity, she said discussions were at advanced stage to review it upwards, saying a negotiated decision would soon be announced.

24.0.0 RESPONSE BY HON COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING.

Hon. Mukadam Asiwaju Ashiru Idris commended the stakeholders, particularly the Traditional Rulers, Elders, people with special needs, for their time and patience. He commended their constructive contributions, assuring that all the issues raised would be addressed.

On the issue of Gratuity, the Commissioner said he was looking at the possibility of negotiating with some Financial Institutions, to secure a long-term facility to clear outstanding gratuity now at a discounted rate while the State Government would gradually repay the facility at an agreed monthly source deduction.

On the issue of Promotion without cash backing, he informed the meeting that, the financial implication of the accumulated promotions would be factored into the 2021 Budget, in order to finally address the issue.

On synergy with CSOs, he commended the CSOs for their constructive criticism, which had helped to improve our systems that attracted stakeholders' commendations. He said a budget line would be created to facilitate their good work in the state. He assured the meeting that, Government would continuously improve on the Budgeting process, saying Government achieved 75% Budget performance while 80% was being targeted for 2020.

On Security, the Commissioner said Government had approved increase in allocation to fight insecurity. He commended Traditional Rulers for their support and untiring efforts in combating criminal elements in their domain, especially along Gegu-Abuja Road.

On lands, he advised that individuals should availed themselves of the opportunity to get title on their Lands. He continued that KOGIS was deploying a sophisticated

system of feedback to the Government. This had been Approved and funds released for its implementation.

The Commissioner also informed the meeting that, Fiscal Responsibility Commission had been established and operational. On Government Printing Press, he said efforts were on top gear to overhaul the Printing Press and bring it back to life. On the creation of a State Television Station, the Commissioner stated that the item would be captured in the 2021 Budget.

Commenting on the deplorable state of Roads in the State Capital, he explained that most of the roads were Federal Roads awarded to Dangote, saying the Federal Government was no longer ready to make refunds on Federal Roads constructed by State Government. Nevertheless, the State Government had been carrying out maintenance work on the roads as well as mounting pressure on the contractor, to hasten action on the roads.

On the merger of TSC and STEEB, the Commissioner said the two Agencies had been merged to form STETCOM. He explained that any issue concerning the merger of the Agencies would be resolved.

On Health matter, he said all outstanding issues with the State Resident Doctor had been resolved and their requests granted. On the issue of Disability Office for Persons Living with Disability (PWD), the Commissioner stated that Government was treating as priority project. In conclusion, the Commissioner expressed appreciation to the participants, especially the Traditional Rulers, Senior Citizens and people with disability. He wished them safe trip back to their destination.

25.0.0 CLOSING REMARKS

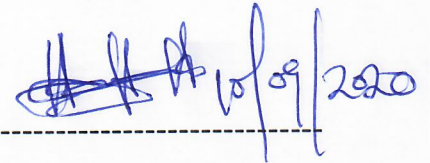
The Director of Administration and Finance (DAF) Mr. Emmanuel Achimugu on behalf of the Permanent Secretary commended the Stakeholders for the quality of their contributions to the meeting, saying the meeting was a practical demonstration of Government effort to ensure inclusiveness in the governance system. He said all views expressed by Stakeholders at the meeting would be carefully documented and captured in the 2021 Budget within the available resources.

26.0.0 CLOSING PRAYERS

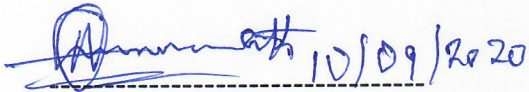
The meeting close at 1:56 PM after a closing prayer by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Hauwa Yusuf


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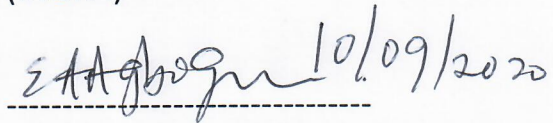
Mukadam Asiwaju Asiru Idris
Commissioner of Finance Budget and Economic
Planning


10/09/2020

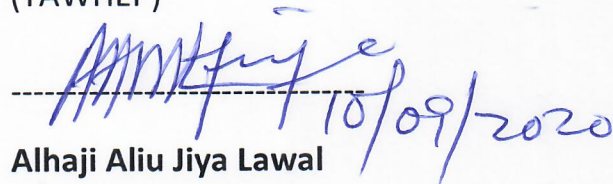
Hamza Aliyu
CSO
Executive Director
(INGRA)


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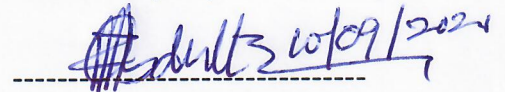
Mr Matthias Okpanachi
CSO
Executive Director
(YAWHEP)


10/09/2020

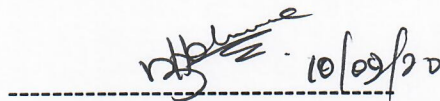
Eunice Abimbola Agbogun
Executive Director
Challenged Parenthood
Initiative (CPI)


10/09/2020

Alhaji Aliu Jiya Lawal
Maiyaki of Lokoja


10/09/2020

Chief Dr. Abdullahi Bako
Ohimozi-Ogbani of Igu
Koton-Karfe


10/09/20

Mr. Olajide Samuel
Director Budget
MFBEP