



**REPORT ON IMO STATE BUDGET
STAKEHOLDERS OPEN/PARTICIPATORY
TOWN HALL MEETING FOR 2019
BUDGET, HELD ON 15TH AUGUST, 2018 AT
ROCKVIEW HOTEL, OWERRI, IMO STATE**

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The Town Hall meeting was organized by Society for the Widows and Orphan (SOWIPHANS) in collaboration with Ministry of Planning and Economic Development with Civil Society Organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the State in attendance.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Jane Favour Chukwukere, Executive Director of the Society for the Widows and the Orphans, representing the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Mr. Anselem G. Okafor, Planning Officer in the Ministry of Imo State Budget and Planning representing the government on the other side.

Relevant government implementing ministries and agencies also attended the Town Hall meeting with key non-governmental institutions.

Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) and key government officials that graced the Town Hall meeting include;

- The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.
- Directors of Planning, Research and Statistics of all Ministries, Department and Agencies in the State
- Directors of Accounts of all Ministries, Department and Agencies in the State.
- Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
- Commissioner of Works.
- Commissioner of Finance
- Special Adviser to the Governor on Economic Affairs.
- Chairman, State House of Assembly Committee on Budget and Appropriation
- The Permanent Secretary of Planning and Economic Development.
- The Permanent Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs and Donor Agencies.
- Permanent Secretary of Public Utilities.

The following Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), and Non Governmental Organization (NGOs), as well as Community Based Organization (CBOs) were also in attendance;

- President Generals,
- Women Groups,
- Youth Leaders,
- Community Leaders from the three zones of the State,
- The media and other Stakeholders in the State.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING:

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development welcomed all the participants to the Town Hall meeting and informed all that we are here to discuss the Citizens participation in the budget process.

He thanked the organizers of the programme, Dr Jane Favour Chukwukere of Society for the Widows and Orphans and her team for assisting the state government to organize this important event. He said that there is a paradigm shift from the old way of preparing budget to the new way, hence the need for the Citizens to participate and own the budget.

Speaking further, he said that government understands that different communities have different needs and so there is need for the communities to bring up their projects according to what they want the government to do for them. He charged the participants to think of what they would want the government to do for them and forward same to the relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies to be captured in the budget.

OPENING PRAYER:

The opening prayer was said by the Director of Macroeconomic Planning Department in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Rev'd Reginald O. Udeh. This was followed with an opening remark by the Hon Commissioner of the Ministry.

He welcomed all the participants and said that the State wants to prepare an all inclusive budget whereby the Citizens will decide what they want the government to do for them. He advised them (participants) to take ownership of the budget, and in so doing, monitor the projects sited in their communities.

DISCUSSION:

The Coordinator of all the President Generals in the State Hon Barr Kennis Madukaji led the discussion. He thanked the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development and his staff for involving the citizens in the budget preparation process. He said that it is clear that this administration has the interest of the people at heart, hence the reason for involving us and asking us to bring up our projects and programmes according to the needs of our communities.

Speaking further, he stressed on the need for the State Government to fix all the urban roads in the three senatorial zones of the State. He said that being the Coordinator of all the President Generals in the State, his work spans across the State and he is speaking on good authority that the roads across the State are in deplorable condition.

Also speaking at the Town Hall meeting, the Coordinator of the President Generals in Okigwe zone, Nze Innocent Ajiem corroborated Hon Barr Kennis Madukaji on the poor conditions of the roads in the State. He said that roads in Okigwe zone are in bad shape and the Citizens go through a lot of stress when commuting and that has also

increased the economic hardship in the zone. He also made mention of the inter-zonal roads in the State saying that they are nothing but death traps. He cited the Okigwe-Umuna-Anara-Owerri roads as an example, saying that people now go through remote villages when trying to come to Owerri from Okigwe area of the State.

Speaking also at the Town Hall meeting, Dr Jane Favour Chukwukere, Executive Director of Society for the Widows and Orphans, from the Civil Society Organisation sector reminded the government that maternal, child Care and nutrition is paramount to the development of the State hence the need for massive investment in that area. She said that a child is the father of man and holds the future of any generation and so there is every need that we guide our future jealously. She then appealed to the government to invest in Maternal, Child Care and nutrition.

Also speaking in the same vein, Mr. Chiadikaobi Umeh from Development Watch Initiative (One of the CSOs) stressed the need for the rehabilitation and renovation of public schools in the State as most of the public schools in the state are in state of disrepair. He appealed that government should not shy away from their responsibility of providing quality education to our young ones, arguing that quality education can only be gotten when the children have conducive environment.

On his own the Coordinator of President General in Owerri North Dr Nath Osuagwu lamented the high rate of unemployment in the State. He stressed the need to engage the youths and empower them to be more productive in life. He then appealed to the government to open up skill acquisition centres for the youths so that they will be creative and useful with their lives. He said doing so will reduce the rate of crime in the state.

Responding to all the requests, the Hon Commissioner of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development said that their entire request will receive deserved attention in the 2019 budget. He advised them to go back to their communities and carefully itemize them and put them in writing and forward to the relevant agencies to be captured in the budget. He promised that all the urban roads and inter-zonal roads will receive serious attention in the budget. He also warned them to talk to their youths, stressing that most of the time when the government wants to fix the roads, the youths will come to demand one thing or the other thereby becoming a threat to the development of the area.

Continuing, he said that provisions will be made for Maternal, Child Care and nutrition in the budget. He said that the ministry understands the importance of improved Health Care System in the rural communities and will try to capture it in the budget.

He also said that education will receive utmost attention in 2019 budget, arguing that the importance of education cannot be over-emphasized. He then promised that the

renovation and rehabilitation of schools across the state will be taken care of in the budget.

Responding to Dr Nath Osuagwu, the Commissioner promised that the State Government will try and make provisions for Skills Acquisition centres across the zones of the state depending on the availability of funds. He said that opening up Skills Acquisition centres across the state where our youths will learn on how to prepare many things will have positive multiplier effect on the economy of the State. According to him, it will make them useful, reduce crime rate and produce more responsible adults and most importantly increase the GDP of the State. He therefore promised that the Ministry will do all it can to make provisions for the youths in the 2019 budget.

REFRESHMENT:

Refreshment was served at the meeting.

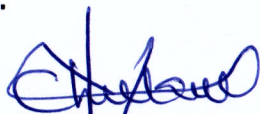
VOTE OF THANKS:

The vote of thanks was given by the Coordinator of the President Generals in Orlu zone, Chief Ikeri Desmond. He appreciated the organizers of the Town Hall meeting, the Society for the Widows and Orphans for bringing the government and the rural community people together to deliberate on budget processes which is an important aspect of our State economy. He thanked all the participants at the meeting and said that they are happy that the State is involving them in the budget preparation process. He said that they will do anything within their power to make sure that Imolites feel the positive impact of the State Government. He promised that they will engage extensively with the youths so that they will not be a stumbling block to the development of their communities. He charged all present to go home and do what is expected of them.

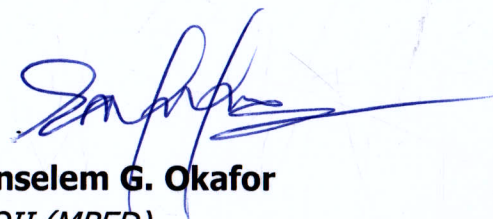
CLOSING PRAYER:

Closing prayer was said by the Secretary of Imo President Generals, Mr. Ifeanyi Nkwocha at 2:21pm and that brought the Town Hall meeting to an end.

Signed:



Dr Jane Favour Chukwukere
*Executive Dir, Society for the
Widows and Orphans*



Anselem G. Okafor
POII (MPED)

CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS DURING THE BUDGET CONSULTATIVE MEETING

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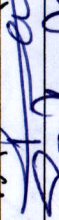
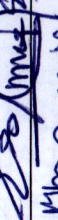


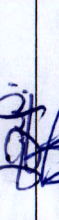


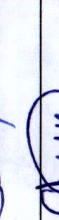



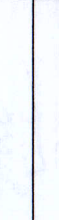
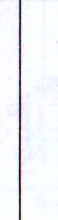




ATTENDANCE LIST AT THE 2018 REPORT ON IMO STATE BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS

OPEN/PARTICIPATORY TOWN HALL MEETING HELD ON 15TH AUGUST, 2018 AT ROCKVIEW HOTEL,

OWERRI, IMO STATE

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION/OFFICE	PHONE NUMBER	SIGN
1	Rev Udel R.O	Director Main Eco. PL	09025445743	
2	Okereke Victor	Director of Budget	08060506676	
3	AMAKUTE GORSE C-N	DIRECTOR (SAP)	08064043291	
4	Mbajunwa Chika C (MR)	Director General (Procurement)	07064441907	
5	EJYKA REGINA CHINYERE	CHIEF CL-OFFICER MPED	07038891386	
6	Akwabiri Magnus E.	Higher Executive Officer (GD)	08064748608	
7	Kick-Inegbu S. C	Point - Director Process Officer I	08037089082	
8	Duru Ikenna	MPED	08030514872	
9	Okoro Anselm C.	HOD M&E MPED	0806031753	
10	Dr. Jene F. Chukwura	ESD. Secretary for Nidans & Orphanages (SONIPHAS)	0803334	
11	Chinye Chyoke	SONIPHAS	08030886826	
12	Chief Iken Desmond	PG. Odu Zone	08037211079	
13	Okere Jorakim	Budget & Accountant	08034183176	
14	Okoro Rosemary		08033635991	

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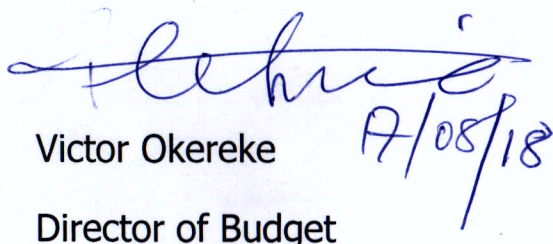
S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION/OFFICE	PHONE NUMBER	SIGN
1	Dr Carice Madukiny	P.G. Imo state	08034726956	Madukiny
2	Heany Nkwede	P.G.	08033323690	P.G.
3	John Ikeh	P.G.	0803797268	P.G.
4	Dr Nath Ovwagwu	President General	08037767514	Ovwagwu
5	Sir Iwunze Ifeanyi J.	President General	08024942617	Ifeanyi
6	Chief Uzizue Ike	P.G.	070345834553158	Ike
7	Hon Dora Benjamin	Co-ordinator P.G. State	080345834553158	Benjamin
8	Edmond Anyasodo	P.G. OBI	080345834553158	Anyasodo
9	Nze Agiem Imiolant	Co-ordinator O.K. Igwe P.G.	080345834553158	Imiolant
10	Mrs. Chibuzo Nweta	Executive Director (DDAF)	09095885692	Nweta
11	Chadukobi Uweh	Development Watch Initiative	08035190334	Uweh
12	Mrs. Heoma Emeribe	Grassroot Community Support Foundation	08035832421	Emeribe
13	Opara Sandra	Program Officer, Centre for the	08145606936	Opara
14	Lilian Anadi	Geodora Samaritan	07030593784	Anadi
15	Onumayuru Jessica	Program Manager (FARAD)	09037092509	Onumayuru
16	Uwagwu Chisomagu	Afri Health Optimal association	08146799546	Uwagwu
17	Udoaka Eguh	CODIC - Youth Officer	08160907620	Eguh
18	Tochukwu Oyenunke	Habitat Care	07067042174	Oyenunke
19	Osondu Israel	Forward Africa	09134731614	Osondu
20	Okonkwo Morgan	Next Generation IDig	07036924137	Okonkwo
21	Arinnuka Adobugbo	Development Dynamics	08039344779	Arinnuka
22	Nwaogu Keesochukwu	Awaka go forward	08141843000	Nwaogu
23	Oyiniyechi Ogadinma	Sorez Nigeria	08166093691	Oyiniyechi
24	Joseph Anadi	Rural Health Foundation	08030742610	Anadi

Ag PS (MBEPS)

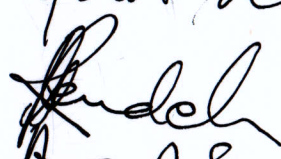
You may wish to kindly recall your directive to conduct Citizens Budget engagement with the relevant stakeholders as required under the Imo State Law.

2. Consequently, the Citizens Budget engagement was carried out. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Jane Favour Chukwukere, Executive Director of the Society for the Widows and the Orphans, representing the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Mr. Anselem G. Okafor, Planning Officer in the Ministry of Imo State Budget and Planning representing the government on the other side.

3. Accordingly, find the report of the engagement wide pages 1-19 for your perusal and further necessary directive please.


Victor Okereke
Director of Budget

7/08/18

Hon. Wm
Pl. for your information

AG PS
18/08/2018