

MINUTES OF THE CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON
THE REVIEW OF 2020
BUDGET HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 6TH JULY, 2020

OPENING: The meeting started with the welcome speech delivered by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Mrs. M. O. Adebisi who stated that this zoom meeting was a follow up to the bilateral meetings held with Ministries Department and Agencies where it was explained that the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic which led to shortfall in revenue to the Government was the basis for this budget review. She stated that when the 2020 Budget was being considered, Citizens were engaged and their inputs formed part of the Budget. Therefore, to review it, there is a need for the Citizens' inputs once again. She went further to explain that focus of the Government is geared towards the programmes that would militate against the negative effect of the Covid-19. She urged the participants feel free to offer suggestions that would be beneficial to the people within the available recourses.

Declaring the meeting open, the Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Barr. Adeniyi Farinto explained that the original 2020 Budget was N213B, but the present economic realities has made it difficult to implement the budget as passed. Therefore, since the expected revenue could not be realised there was this need to review the Budget downward. To do this, it is necessary to carry along the critical stakeholders who were involved at the inception of the budget process. He therefore urged the stakeholders to be objective in their advice on this issue.

Contributing, the Honourable Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Akinola Ojo stated that the State Government obtained the guidelines from the World Bank and Nigerian Governors' Forum which was based on the analysis of the global economic trend and taken into consideration the State budget performance between January and May 2020, there is no doubt that it is imperative that the budget has to be reviewed. He

however submitted that emphasis must be placed on Health, Education, Agriculture, Security and Infrastructure, so that the effect of the Covid-19 could be minimized.

Speaking for the Civil Society Organisations, Mr. Bangbose of JDPC appreciated the Government for considering it so fit to involve the Communities in the Budget process, he said this was no happening before in the State. He recalled that similar steps was taken when the original budget was being processed when the State Government invited everybody to have their say. He suggested that in the review budget, Government should focus on Health, Education and Water/Sanitation. He stressed the fact that with clean environment, right Education and access to Health Care, the negative effect of COVID-19 could be reduced.

In his own comment, Mr. Adeyemi Ademuyiwa observed that one of the factors responsible for lack of fund is low Internally Generated Revenue, he charged the Government to look for ways of improving on the Internally Generated Revenue. He stated that with improved internal revenue, it would not be difficult to get more fund to finance the developmental projects.

Alhaji F. A. S. Oloyede, a community leader in Ibadan South East Community Development Council was of the opinion that a secured community is a panacea to good government equally important is a clean environment. He advised that in the review of Budget, consideration be given to Security, Environmental Sanitation and Primary Health Care. He stated that improvement of the primary Health Centre would reduce the pressure on big hospitals.

Alhaji A. A. Ladiran another Community leader opined that road accessibility is very important when the issue of Covid-19 pandemic is being addressed. He urged the government to pay attention to maintenance of Roads especially those leading to Hospitals, so that when patients are being taken to hospitals they would encounter minimum discomfort. He concluded that Provision of Toilet facilities in the communities where they were not in existence and environmental sanitation in the State are vehicles that can militate against the spread of any communicable diseases

In the same vein, Mr. R. O. Alarape also a Community leader submitted that he observed that there was an organic fertilizer plant at Ayeye, Ibadan, which looked abandoned, though he was not sure whether the plant belongs to the Government or individual he suggested that if this plant becomes operational once again it would provide employment for the youth and bring in more revenue to the covers of the government.

Other contributors were unanimous their opinions that with the present global economic realities, there is no doubt that the original budget was no more practicable, they concluded that attention of Government should be on provision of Health, Education, Road Maintenance, Water and environmental Sanitation.

Concluding, the Permanent Secretary, Budget and Economic Planning thanked the participants for their time and contributions, she promised that their suggestions would be looked into when preparing the final Budget.

CITIZENS' CONSULTATION MEETING ON YEAR 2020 BUDGET REVIEW

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Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) Ibadan
2020 Budget Review Held via Zoom on the 6th June, 2020 @
Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) Ibadan

ATTENDANCE REGISTER OF PARTICIPANTS

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