

**REPORT OF ZONAL STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE
PREPARATION FOR 2020 BUDGET HELD AT KONTAGORA, SULEJA AND BIDA
ON 29TH JUNE, 6TH JULY AND 13TH JULY, 2019.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The zonal stakeholders' consultative meeting on 2020 budget preparation organized by Niger State Planning Commission (NSPC) in collaboration with Niger State Open Government Partnership (OGP) was held at the three (3) Senatorial Zones (A, B&C) of the State. The meeting of Zone 'C' was held on 29th June, 2019 at Multi-purpose hall of Federal College of Education, Kontagora. In Zone 'B', the meeting held at Suleja Palace Suites on 6th July, 2019. While in Zone 'A' the meeting held at the Auditorium of Academic Staff Union, Federal Polytechnic (ASUP), Bida on 13th July, 2019.

The meetings attracted large turnout of stakeholders including Speaker Niger State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Barrister Bawa Wuse, Members of the State House of Assembly, the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Ibrahim Ahmed Matane, Local Government Caretaker Chairmen, Permanent Secretaries, Royal Fathers, State Coordinator, Secretary and Co-Chair of the State OGP, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Representatives of Students' Unions, top State and Local Governments functionaries among others.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- i. Serve as a platform for bringing together State and non-State actors in an atmosphere of mutual respect and responsibility for the betterment and transformation of Niger State.
- ii. Provide an avenue for people at the grass root to express their hopes, aspirations and expectations from the government.
- iii. Highlight the achievements of government
- iv. Highlight the priority sectors of 2020 budget and seek for input from the stakeholders.

3.0 WELCOME ADDRESS BY CARETAKER ZONAL CHAIRMEN OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS

The Caretaker zonal Chairmen welcomed stakeholders to the meeting and commended NSPC and OGP for the honour and opportunity granted the zones to host the apex coordinating and planning body of the state. They said the zonal consultations on budget formulation is a welcome development as it demonstrates clear commitment of the Government to carry along the citizens in exercising their civic rights. This exercise according to them would go a long way in answering some questions by the citizens in the quest to satisfy their yearnings and aspirations on the activities of the government. They informed the meeting on the readiness of the third tier of government to hold similar meetings at the ward levels to articulate peoples' needs. The acting Chairmen called on NSPC to sustain the initiative because of its immeasurable benefits to humanity in general.

4.0 OPENING REMARKS BY USMAN MUSA DALAU PERMANENT SECRETARY, NIGER STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Permanent Secretary in his opening remarks commended the stakeholders for attending the meeting which he said is a strong testimony of total commitment and demonstration to contribute individually and collectively to the betterment of the society. He informed the meeting that it is pertinent for the citizens to have adequate knowledge of what government expects to collect as revenue and the plan to spend what is generated. He also stressed the importance of involving the citizens in the process of budget formulations.

He noted that the occasion marked the beginning of a new dawn in the history of budget formulation in the state as this is the first time stakeholders' meeting is held outside the State Headquarter. He said as one of the OGP participating states, the present administration is committed to strengthening fiscal transparency and accountability through the implementation of the fiscal sustainability plan. He concluded that inputs from the discussions will form part of the budget and thus urged the participants to use the opportunity to make contribution towards taking the state economy to the next level.

5.0 GOODWILL MESSAGES

Good will messages were delivered by some top functionaries of the State and non-State actors including Member representing Borgu, Honourable Bala Mohammed Abba, Permanent Secretaries, Ministries of Information and Economic Affairs, Member Niger State Independent

Electoral Commission, Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu Tungan Wawa among others. They all commended the laudable initiative by NSPC in bringing together State/non-State officials and people of the grass-roots to discuss what is called ‘demand-driven budget. They pledged their supports and contributions towards the success of the exercise.

6.0 REMARKS BY SOME TOP FUNCTIONARIES OF THE STATE:

6.1 SECRETARY TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT (SSG), ALHAJI IBRAHIM AHMED MATANE,

The SSG welcomed stakeholders and commended NSPC for involving citizens in budget process. He said budget is about the people and the preparation has to start with them. He stated that government effort will be on agriculture, human capital development, health and youth development among others. He called for concerted efforts toward increase revenue generation to achieve people’s aspiration sustainably.

He remarked that there would be paradigm shift in the way government is managed by this administration and bottom-up approach to planning issues will be promoted. He called on Planning Commission to carry out the review of 2019 budget so as to establish the level of performance and also serve as inputs to 2020 preparation. He further informed the meeting that quarterly performance review of MDAs activities will be institutionalized to ascertain progress, identify challenges and chart a way forward.

In his conclusion he called on all the local governments to maximize their comparative advantages for the betterment of their people.

6.2 RT. HON. SPEAKER, NIGER STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, BARRISTER BAWA WUSE

The Rt. Hon. Speaker applauded the initiative and also commended NSPC and OGP for the laudable efforts. He pledged the support of Legislature in ensuring speedy passage of the budget and called on the Executive to ensure full implementation of the budget. He equally promised to put in place necessary legislative framework to ensure revenue generation.

6.3 DEPUTY SPEAKER, NIGER STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, HON. ALFA KASIM

Honourable Alfa in his submissions called on the participants to maximize the opportunity by making meaningful contributions as it is a real occasion for them to express their feelings to the government. He also pledged the support of the State House of Assembly in facilitating budget processes.

6.4 REPRESENTATIVE OF TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

The representative of the Chairman traditional Council, Alhaji Shehu M. Kobo expressed gratitude for the gesture. He stressed that the meeting is timely in view of the anxiety of the citizens seeking for avenue of reaching out to the government. He assured the meeting that the traditional council will make the best out of the opportunity, but called on the government to ensure implementation of projects that will impact positively on the citizenry.

7.0 PRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR OF BUDGET ON 2020 BUDGET PREPARATION 2019 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The Director Budget, NSPC, Hajiya Aisha T. Usman made presentation on the score – card of 2019 Budget. She stated that the Commission has the mandate of coordinating planning and budgeting activities in the State. She further remarked that budget is about revenue expectation from various sources and how government plans to expend it, which are usually guided by development plans, Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) and Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

She maintained that before now, budget process has been top-down, but now bottom-up which entails involvement of the citizens right from conception, implementation and monitoring. Some areas of focus of 2019 Budget were highlighted to include: - Agriculture, infrastructure / construction of access roads, water and sanitation, Education, women and youth empowerment, security etc.

The Director also stated that revenue sources through which government activities are financed include: - Internal Generated Revenue (IGR), Federation Account (SA), Commercial Bank Loans, Bounds and Draw-Down from Development Institutions/Partners. She further highlighted some developmental projects carried out in year 2019 as follows:

- **Infrastructure**
 - i. Rehabilitation/construction of state and township roads, bridge and culverts across the State
 - ii. Electrification of towns and villages as well as provision of transformers and accessories.

- **Water and Sanitation**

Rehabilitation /maintenance of water works and drilling of boreholes across the State

- **Agriculture**

Procurement and distribution of farm inputs, development of grazing reserves, tractor hiring services and agricultural value added activities.

- **Education**

- i. Whole schools development approach across the zones and establishment of School of Nursing Sciences in Kontagora.

- **Health**

Establishment of Basic Health Centers, renovation of existing General Hospitals, provision of hospital equipment and consumables etc

- **Women and Youth**

Skill acquisition programme for women and youth across the zones and strengthening of State security apparatus.

The Director concluded her presentation with highlights of 2020 Budget Focus which are Agriculture, Infrastructural Development, Water Supply, Health and Education. Others are women and youth empowerment as well as security.

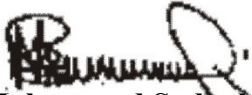
8.0 GENERAL DISCUSSIONS, COMMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND INPUTS BY THE STAKEHOLDERS

The stakeholders during their discussions applauded the initiative by NSPC in carrying along the people in the formulation and implementation of budget. The forum according to the participants was an opportunity for their voices to be heard and a means through which their yearnings and aspirations will be met. The contributions/inputs by the stakeholders are attached herewith as Annex A, B and C for Kontagora, Suleja and Bida zones respectively:

9.0 VOTE OF THANKS:

The State Coordinator, OGP, Alhaji Sirajo Saeed delivered the vote of thanks. He thanked the stakeholders' for their participation and contributions. He stressed that the meeting was an innovation in governance which brings together opinion leaders, CSOs, government and non-government officials as well as students for their inputs into government plan towards a better

society. He assured the meeting that NSPC and OGP will ensure that some of their contributions are considered under long, medium and short term plans of government for implementation.



Mohammed Saduaki
Ag Chairman



Samuel S. Yisa
Co-chair Non State Actors