

# **MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS INTERACTIVE SESSION ON ANAMBRA 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 HOSTED BY MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING (HC-MBEP)**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Stakeholders interactive session on the 2024 Budget with CSOs and other Stake Holders was organized by Anambra State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning on the 20th November, 2023 at the Hilton Leisure Hotel Awka. The meeting focused on the following:

- 2024-2026 Multi Year Budget Framework and its alignment with the State Budget;
- Draft 2024 Capital Budget Expenditure in line with the administration's Blue Print;
- Draft 2024 Recurrent Budget Expenditure to reflect the current economic realities in the State and country;
- Stakeholders interactive session in respect to Community Charter of Demand's inclusion into the Budget, challenges and way forward.

The meeting was attended by over 60 participants both State Actors and Non-State Actor amongst whom are:

- Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the Governor on Economic Planning, Senior Planning Officer of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, staff of other Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
- Traditional Rulers, representatives of Anambra State Association of Town Unions (ASATU), People with Special needs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Organized Private Sectors etc.

## **OPENING REMARKS**

1. The forum began at 11:00am with brief introductions by the participants.

In an opening remark, the Commissioner Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, welcomed participants and stated that the importance of the meeting was to get the inputs of the Non-State Actors into the 2024 Budget estimates as well as acquaint them with the plans of Government towards the development of the State. The Commissioner, Mrs Chiamaka Nnake also stated that Anambra State is the second state in Nigeria to have an automated budget system after Kwara.

The Commissioner mentioned that the meeting was to confirm that the key deliverable captured in the 2024 submission reflects the needs of Ndi Anambra.

The Commissioner for Tourism, Culture and Entertainment, Comrade Don Onyenye said that his Ministry will speed up all the projects in the sector such as the Solution Fun-City as well as other activities which will be geared towards promoting core Igbo values.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr Afam Obidike in his remarks said that his Ministry is targeting to consolidate success in the health sector and that they are purposely ensuring that there is a General Hospital in each of the local government areas of the State. Dr Obidike added that the budget will also ensure that there is at least one Primary Health Care centre in all the wards in the state while government will erect a Cancer Diagnosis Centre in the state which will increase the life expectancy of Ndi Anambra.

The Traditional Ruler of Neni community, Igwe Damian Ezeani in his contribution calls for more attention to be given to the issues of security to enable Ndi Anambra to come home and invest, which will help to raise the Internally Generated Revenue of the state. He asked that the state needs to have a high maintenance culture to improve the durability of the roads and other infrastructures in the State.

The permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs Stephanie Keri-Uzor, disclosed that a good budget preparation by the government depends largely on the stakeholders efforts, expertise and input. She then commended CSO's and the non-state actors for their participation and contributions in the bilateral discussion.

She maintained that the stakeholders interactive meeting is in line with all the elements of good governance which includes participation, inclusiveness, consensus, orientation, accountability, transparency and the rule of law. She emphasized that the budget is a public document which should not be shrouded in secrecy.

Okey Onyeka, a member of the Civil Society Organisation said that, government should use the budget to fulfill their campaign promises especially the Community Choose-your- Project Initiative. The Admin Secretary of the State Traditional Rulers Council, Mr Donatus Ojiika, commended the state government on One Youth Two Skills programme initiated by the Soludo administration and called for a social reorientation unit for the youths so they will know the negative effects of indulging and reviving idolatry, cultism etc. (MOI)

## **PRESENTATION:**

### **MACROECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET, MDAS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN**

2. The State Commissioner in an elaborate presentation on Medium Term Expenditure Framework Covering Period (2024 – 2026) & Draft 2024 Capital and Recurrent Budget Estimates said the 2024 draft annual budget expenditure outlay, other things being equal, is estimated at N410.1 billion. The increase in the budget size is N159.1 billion from the 2023 budget representing an 58.3 percent increase.
3. Further breakdown shows the recurrent expenditure is estimated at N96bn representing 23 percent of the budget size, while the capital expenditure is estimated at N313bn indicating 67 percent of the budget size, thereby implying that significant funds will be channeled to capital projects in the critical sectors of the economy.
4. The Hon. Commissioner Mrs. Chiamaka Nnake said that personnel costs are estimated at N30.0bn for the fiscal year 2024 compared with 2023 budgeted figure of N22 bn. This

figure accommodates new and important hires into the civil service, such as the replacement of retired teachers, promotions and a projected salary increment in line with new minimum wage. Total overheads are estimated at N35.0bn for the fiscal year 2024. This figure accommodates provision of subvention to new MDAs and other associated costs. Social Benefits and Contributions including (Pensions, Gratuities and group life insurance) are projected at N30.0bn in 2024.

5. In contrast, total budget revenue for the fiscal year 2024 is estimated at N123bn broken into N68bn for statutory allocation; N58bn for Value Added Tax; N50bn for Internally Generated Revenue; N6bn for Excess Crude/Other Revenue; N10bn for Grants; N22bn for other Capital Receipts while debt financing is N11bn.
6. The commissioner explained that the 2024 will focus on infrastructure, healthcare, Education. Agriculture amongst others. She stated that the budget will be financed from a combination of sources, including Internally Generated fund, Federal allocations and loans.
7. She also stated that the state has a N5 trillion economy and that its IGR has been increasing steadily. She mentioned that the 2024 budget includes a N120 billion concessionary loan that has already been approved by the Anambra State House of Assembly which is ring fenced to projects capable of paying back.
8. Madam Commissioner also spoke about a USD 200 million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement between the State Government and AFREXIM Bank for the development of the industrial city and mobilization of investors in the state. the Anambra International Cargo Airport and N18bn for the completion of strategic roads and bridges.
9. She also emphasized on the need to grow the IGR of the state by ensuring leakages are prevented.

#### **RESPONSES TO HC-MBEP's PRESENTATION**

10. The Chairman Civil Society Organization, Mr. Chris Azor expressed satisfaction on the 2024 increased budget size especially the Capital Expenditure. He stated the increase will pave way for more infrastructural development and inturn State development. He reinstated the need for Community based monitoring to minimize wastage and damage to state resources.
11. The Executive Director SIDEC; Mrs Ehiahunike Ugochi expressed satisfaction on the State's commitment through the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, under the leadership of the Honourable Commissioner Mrs. Chiamaka Nnake in ensuring

inclusiveness (State Actors and Non-State Actors) during bilateral discussions with MDAS. She canvassed for sustainability even in other administrations.

12. She commended the good work of the Honourable Commissioner in ensuring that communities submit their Charters of Demand timely in order to include it in the annual budget. She went further to state that they have been working with the ministry to ensure Communities develop and submit their charter of demand in order for it to be reflected in the annual budget.

13. The closing remark was given by Mr. Okey Onyeka Chairperson, Civil Rights Concern on behalf of the participants. He thanked the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning under the leadership of the Honourable Commissioner, Mrs. Chiamaka Nnake for the consultative forum to ensure the draft budget is discussed for all inclusiveness and prayed for sustainability.

14. The session ended at about 4:00pm with a closing prayer said by Mrs. Ugochi Ehiahunike.



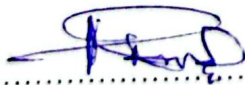
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**Hon Commissioner, MBEP**



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**Arthur Iweanya, Director, (Planning), MBEP**



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**Mrs. Ugochi Ehiahunike, Executive Director SIDEC**



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**Christy Akabua**

**EA to the Governor on Budget and Economic Planning**