

**REPORT OF 2019 BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING HELD ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018 AT  
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA HALL, MURTALA SQUARE KADUNA**

**1. OPENING**

The meeting commenced at 12:22pm with the arrival of the representative of the Governor in the person of Mr. Barnabas Bala Bantex the Deputy Governor and his entourage. This was followed with rendition of the National Anthem and opening prayer by representatives of the Islamic and Christian faith.

**2. OPENING REMARKS**

In their separate remarks, the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to Governor on Economic and Political Affairs and Chairman, Aid Foundation noted that the town hall meeting was convened as part of measures by the present administration to give citizens the opportunity to make their contributions by way of comments, observations and inputs into 2019 draft Budget.

The SSA to the Governor, Economic and Political Affairs informed participants that this administration has a strong commitment for an open government aimed towards strengthening accountability and transparency in all its processes for improved service delivery to the citizens.

Furthermore, the Chairman, Aid Foundation noted that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that operate in Kaduna State under the present administration enjoy a cordial collaboration and smooth interface in their various engagements on Government programmes and policies. He observed that amongst the primary objectives of CSOs is to ensure that the inputs of communities' are considered in the Budget process so that desired projects that will improve their socio-economic status are reflected in the annual budgets.

**3. 2019 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Key highlights of 2019 Budget presentation delivered by the Commissioner, Planning and Budget centered on the following:

- I. Kaduna State Government has subscribed to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) a platform that aims to secure concrete commitment from government to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.
- II. Beginning from 2016 Budget which has the theme "**Budget of Sacrifice, Restoration and Change**". It significantly reduced cost of governance and shift priority to capital investment. The recurrent expenditure witnessed reduction in personnel cost from **₦26.8b** in 2015 to **₦21.8b** in 2016 translating savings of over **₦5b** and the funds were re-allocated to Works, Education and Health Services.
- III. Audit of Civil Servants and Pensioners contributed to saving of Billions of Naira which was utilized to provide Public Goods to Citizens.
- IV. Total Capital investment in 2016 despite the recession was **₦62.2bn** compared to **₦27.6bn** in 2015.

- V. Private sector investment such as direct investment by Olam International, a leading Agri business company operating in poultry farming across value chain in 70 countries.
- VI. Investment in road infrastructure especially renewing and rehabilitation of local roads within Kaduna, Kafanchan and Zaria metropolitan areas.

#### 4. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions, seek for additional clarity or offer recommendations pertaining to presentations delivered by the Commissioner, Planning and Budget Commission. Various participants asked the following questions:

- I. What measures have been put in place to safe guard Government projects (boreholes, transformers, classrooms etc.) from vandalization?
- II. A contract for the repair and renovation of Government Day Secondary School Yar'kasuwa in Lere Local Government Area (LGA) was awarded, however, the work is yet to be completed. Relevant authorities were invited to look into the matter.
- III. A participant informed the meeting that the road linking Bakin Kogi to Chawai in Kuru LGA is beyond the financial capacity of the LGA, he therefore urged the State Government to intervene.
- IV. Another participant complained of rising unemployment among the Youth and Women, hence urged Government to empower women, create jobs and provide opportunities for youth.
- V. A participant made a passionate request for government to establish a Sports Institute in the State for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.
- VI. A participant observed that Persons with Disability were not considered in the budget.
- VII. A participant informed the meeting that a portion of the road linking Ungwan Shanu to Abakpa has been turned into a refuse dump site and called for the immediate intervention of Government to remedy the scenario.

#### 5. RESPONSE

The relevant Commissioners and Heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the meeting responded. Each of them took turns in addressing questions peculiar to their MDAs. They assured participants that all requests raised by them would be considered and reflected in the 2019 draft Budget.

To further reassure participants who raised comments around Youth un-employment ,Women empowerment, Sports and Persons with disabilities, they were invited to take a myopic scrutiny of the 2019 budget where a reflection of the Government's commitment towards the aforementioned areas, are highlighted in a number of budget items adequately provided for, the implementation of which is with a view to translating into the desired goal of dwindling the overall rate of unemployment and empowering both youth and women, tied to specific Ministries:

- Ministry of Education (Construction of 6 Science Secondary Schools),
- Ministry of Youth and Sports (Construction of Sports Academy and Youth Friendly Centers),
- Ministry of Women Affairs (Renovation and Equipping of 3 Women Skills Acquisition Centers in the 3 Senatorial Zones),
- Kaduna State Rehabilitation Board (Building of Three Integrated Community Centers for Persons with Disability across the State 1 for each Senatorial Zone),
- Industrialization and Micro Credit Board (Youth and Women Empowerment Programmes)
- Ministry of Commerce (Establishment of Business Support Centre),

The 2019 draft Budget initially had a budget size of **₦155,249,339,539.77** and to accommodate new requests given by participants it was raised to **₦157,449,001,861.15** accordingly.

**6. CLOSING REMARKS**

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Governor expressed appreciation for the cooperation and contribution of all stake holders which resulted in the success of the town hall meeting. He reiterated the commitment of the present administration towards providing improved service delivery to the citizens. The meeting was declared closed by the Deputy Governor at about 2:05pm.

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**Co-Chair (Government)**

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**Co Chair (CSO)**