

REPORT ON ZAMFARA STATE NORTH ZONE TOWNHALL MEETING, HELD ON 10TH – 17TH NOVEMBER 2020, AT KAURA NAMODA SECRETARIAT.

1.0 Preamble;

The ministry of Budget and Economic Planning on the 10th November 2020 started its median zonal Town Hall meeting with community representatives and Opinion Leaders across the state to discuss the state 2021 Fiscal Year Budget.

1.1 Objective of the Town-Hall Meeting;

The primary objective of holding the meeting with citizens was first to present the draft 2021 Fiscal Budget submitted by the executive to the State House of Assembly for their familiarization and second brainstorm on the budget and to collate views and opinions that will ultimately be submitted to Honorable members representing these areas as well as the Zamfara state House Committee on Appropriation to factor in their deliberations on next year's budget.

Even though the events were conducted rather late, it's nonetheless reasonable and important considering that it is a first of its kind in the state and secondly that it brought together members of the house of assembly as people's representatives, LGA Chairmen, Special Advisors, LGA Councilors, Traditional Heads, Ulama's, citizens of rural communities, the media, Civil Society Groups and budget and planning Officers of both state and LGA levels in a common platform to discuss the budget and how the budget affects them.

On the overall the event was a success as it achieved on the objectives of "creating awareness on the budget, eliciting people's views and opinions plus sending the outcome of the event to the

House of assembly for possible review or inclusion”.

1.2. ZAMFARA NORTH ZONE TOWNHALL MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH NOVEMBER 2020:

The event started with an opening prayer led by Nasiru Muhammad, Director of Agriculture, Zurmi Local Government Authority (L.G.A) at about 11:15am.

1.3. WELCOME REMARK:

Sequel to this the member representing Zurmi L.G.A, Honorable Sale made a welcome remark. In his remark, the Hon. Member informed participants that the objectives of the meeting were to improve the quality of our Local Government citizens’ participation in the budget as well as to improve citizens’ welfare and accelerate development in the state.

1.4 PRESENTATION ON NORTH COMPONENT ZONAL PROJECTS (2021 CAPITAL PROJECT):

The Director of Budget, Alhaji Hamza Salihu of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (MoBEP), informed participants that, prior to this moment the budget environment in Zamfara was not citizens participatory, especially for those at the grassroots or Local government level. This has however been modified to incorporate their views and concerns on things that promote development across various levels in the state and affect their lives. It as a result of this that the MoBEP arranged to conduct Townhall meetings across all three (3) senatorial zones starting with the North holding in Kaura Namoda LGA. The activity is slated for community representatives of the 4 LGAs viz:

- i. Birnin Magaji
- ii. kaura
Namoda iii
- Shinkafi and
- iv. Zurmi.

He further informed that, we are here today to discuss with participants activities earmarked for their zones in the 2021 budget. At the end we expect to collate people's observations as representatives of their L.G.As. In the end, the organizers will forward the observations to the Zamfara State House of Assembly for their guide and possible input or review on the proposed budget. He noted that, been the first of its kind and in view of our lateness in conducting the activity we may not expect much to change, even though the onus is on the Zamfara Assembly to do what it deems best for the citizens of the state.

He then presented the zone's component projects in the 2021 budget. The presentation centered on sectors like the administration, agriculture, water, health, education and others.

Participants raised concerns around the presentation and these are featured in the feedback column below.

1.5. PRESENTATION ON ZAMFARA STATE 2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Presentation on the overall state capital component 2021 budget was done by the Director Economic Planning in the person of Mal. Dalhatu Musa Morai, who informed the Participants to feel free and ask questions, make observations and Input on the presentation as this is the main purpose of this gathering. He made a presentation on all sectors of the capital budget which in turn generated arguments and general observations. All these are presented below.

1.6 FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS, QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

Hon. Sule Bako Zurmi, Chairman Zurmi Local Government Progressive Association appreciated MoBEP on their tremendous effort towards including grassroots representation of communities in matters affecting the state particularly the budget.

- a. He also advised Zamfara state government to establish a Works Schools for the Youth. This he said has a lot of contributions in both generating revenue, addressing poverty as well as keeping them busy, eliminating security challenges and ultimately add more value to the state.
- b. Abba Isah Kaura, Secretary General, Kaura Namoda Development Union, similarly, appreciated Zamfara State government together with Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning for bringing a wonderful program. He advised the government to focus on education and provision of Rural road network in the area.
- c. The district Head of Kurya Madaro, Alh. Mahmud Muhammad also appreciated the government for giving community representatives the privilege of participating in Zamfara state 2021 Budget and requested government intervention on Poverty Eradication among the youth and the entire populace as well as arresting the menace of current security challenges in the area. In addition to the above, government should grant farmers access to modern farm implements and credit. This will give farmers an opportunity to produce food in mass.
- d. Sani Galadima (Hon, Chairman Shinkafi LGA) showed his gratitude and wished well for Zamfara State Government and the program organizers. He also pleaded that government to

- consider reconstruction of the Jangero – Badarawa – Kware road as well as the Shinkafi – Shanawa roads in the 2021 capital Budget. He again called for a massive program on youth employment plus Skills Acquisition program in the state.
- e. Hassan Mai Fanta Shinkafi, second Imam Shinkafi Jumuat Mosque stated that, we are here today to have firsthand knowledge on our state Budget activities. That they are glad that government has found it worthwhile to incorporate their views on activities that will be carried out in promoting development of their areas. He then pleaded with government to put to an end the security issues affecting the state particularly, Shinkafi LGA and the rehabilitation of Rural Roads.
 - f. Alh Sule Gabake, PDP Chairman, Kaura Namoda LGA, appreciated the present regime of His Excellency, governor Mohammed Bello Mattawalle, and the MoBEP for their excellent vision in bringing about the event, he then advised the communities and their representatives to give full support to the government, as it is of paramount importance and will bring about additional dividends of democracy to the populace and success in this journey.
 - g. Hajiya Umma Abdullahi Kaura, an NGO representative appreciated the organizers of this event and then advised the MoBEP to concentrate on training of youths and women on Skill acquisition.
 - h. Alh. Rilwanu Musa Zurmi also showed his gratitude, and stated that, it is a good thing that Zamfara state Government and the MoBEP came together to educate Zamfara Citizens on its Budget activities. He later advised the Ministry to be conducting assessment and Monitoring the Projects given by the government, he also added that there is need for the ministry to

conduct surveys in Villages to see what the communities really need before budgets are sent to the assembly.

1.7. Response:

The Director of Budget responded that, this is the first time we are holding this townhall meeting at Zonal levels thus has a lot of learnings to do. He informed also that the ministry of Budget and economic Planning is undergoing a Program called NASSP/SOCU, jointly supported by the World Bank and the Federal Government, in conjunction with the state government on establishing a State Social Register (SSR) the Poor and Vulnerable Households (PVHHs) in the state. The program has so far covered between 85 - 90% of communities in the State. The program does a community survey on each community and thus has a large store of Data on infrastructure on community-by-community basis. All these will be brought to bear in identifying infrastructural gaps of communities, Wards, LGAs and the state at large.

He concluded by thanking the all participants for attending the first session of the zonal townhall meeting whilst appreciating their contributions and time.

On his part the Director Economic Planning was glad with the participants feedback, and informed them that, the purpose of this meeting is to create an awareness to the citizens and forward their feedback to the government, he also appreciates people's attention and wished them well and safe journey back to their domains.

1.8. CLOSING PRAYER:

In the absence of further discussions, the meeting was closed with a closing prayer led by Hon. Ibrahim Abdullahi Zurmi, Special adviser from Zurmi Local governments at 2:23pm.

Attendance to the townhall meeting is here attached.

2.0 REPORT ON ZAMFARA STATE CITIZENS BUDGET ZONAL TOWNHALL MEETING, HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020, AT BUNGUDU CONFERENCE HALL.

2.1. OPENING PRAYER:

The meeting started with an opening prayer by Alh Kabiru Garba (CSO representative) at exactly 11:13am.

2.2. WELCOME REMARK:

Hon Nasiru Lawal Bungudu (Hon. member representing Bungudu), in his remarks welcomed members and community representatives for sparing time to attend the meeting, and stated that, the purpose of this meeting is to bring together budget and planning officers, legislators, local government representatives, and community leaders to discuss on the state budget, to understand its objectives and how it will impact on community beneficiaries as well as brainstorm and proffer ways of promoting development in various localities in the state.

2.2. PRESENTATION ON 2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS:

The State Director of Economic Planning in person of Mal. Dalhatu Musa Morai made an excellent presentation on the 2021 capital projects. His presentation focused on projects in the central zone. The central zone comprises 4 L.G.As, these

are:

- i. Bungudu.
- ii. Gusau.
- iii. Maru and
- iv. Tsafe respectively.

The discussion focused on areas like education, agriculture, administration, security, water, health etc. he noted that, these sectors are of paramount Importance to our livelihoods.

2.3. FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS, QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION:

- a. Hon. Kabiru Hashimu Dan-Sadau (Hon. member Maru south) reminded that, we are here to represent our people, we are allowed to ask question and make an observation at the end of the presentation, therefore he urged MoBEP to ensure that the needs of Zamfara citizens must always be in the budgets.
- b. Hon Nasiru Lawal Bungudu (Hon. member representing Bungudu) informed that, honorable members of the assembly as representatives of the people are saddled with the responsibility of selecting the projects and activities that impact most on people's lives.
- c. Mal Rabe Dan-Sadau advised the MoBEP to seek citizens opinion on their needs before compiling the budget, he also pleaded with government focus more on construction of rural roads as well as rehabilitating existing roads that need attention. He also appealed to the government to put more effort on eradicating the issue of insecurity in communities around Dan-Sadau. He also pleaded with the government to fence the secondary schools of Dan-Sadau, he added that government should ensure that, there is proper and constant Monitoring of government projects.

- d. Abdullahi Suleiman Dan-Kurmi also complained on the situation of Insecurity in Dan-Sadau axis of the state. He also opined that there is an acute shortage of schools/classes and teachers in Dan-Kurmi ward. He pleaded with government to build a senior secondary school in Dan-Kurmi, and again advised government to consider linking Dan-Kurmi - Kebbi with road in the 2021 capital budget.
- e. Alh Auwal Usman Wakilin Marafan Ruwan Doruwa (Dan-Madamin Ruwan Doruwa) highlighted that, it is a good thing that the government through the MoBEP involved citizens in the discussion of state budgets particularly the 2021 budget. He however complained that, Primary Healthcare Centre's (PHCs) have been neglected for far too long in Zamfara communities. This is because they are the first reference points in healthcare for the common man. He thus pleaded with government to provide both medical practitioners and health facilities. This will give the community members the opportunity to have an easy access to good health and contribute their quota to the state and national economy. Similarly, he advised government to provide cars to community /District Heads, and also train Youth on skill acquisitions. Lastly, he advised MoBEP to create a means of communication with the communities in forwarding their needs. He also showered his appreciation to government and wish it success.
- f. Mal. Imam Musa Kura thanked government for its tremendous effort in involving its citizens in this journey of openness and transparency.
- g. Hajiya Asma'u Halilu Anka appealed with the government to give women more attention, inclusion and empower them contributing to state economy.

h. Aliyu Umar Wanke stated that, Gusau – Dan/Sadau and Dan-Kurmi road is a state of disrepair and thus needs government attention.

2.4. Response:

The director of Budget reminded that part of the meetings mandate is to collate views of the people on the Zamfara state budget and requirements to promote rapid development in the state.

That the State Operation Coordinating Units (SOCU) program that is currently on-going under the National Social Safety-Net Coordinating Office (NASSCO), is jointly being used to target poor and vulnerable people. The project has so far covered almost 30,000 communities and that it captures the status all infrastructure of communities and this can be used in developing a master plan of infrastructural gaps in different communities and zones of the state and thus structure a plan of government interventions to address identified shortfalls.

All concerns will be forwarded to the state house of assembly for attention.

2.5. CLOSING PRAYER:

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Abdullahi Suleiman Dan-Kurmi at about 2:55pm.

3.0 REPORT ON ZAMFARA STATE CITIZENS BUDGET ZONAL TOWNHALL MEETING, HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2020, AT ABDU GUSAU POLYTECHNIC CONFERENCE HALL, TALATA MAFARA.

3.1. OPENING PRAYER:

The meeting started with an opening prayer by Hon. Abubakar Musa Mainasara (SA) at exactly 11:13am

3.2 WELCOME REMARK:

The SA welcomed members to the meeting and sought Allahs guide during the conduct of activities slated. He informed that the purpose of this Meeting is to discuss with the Legislators, Local Government Representatives, and Community leaders to discuss on the state budget component, to understand it is objectives and what is expected from the participant at the end of the day.

The Hon. Commissioner, Budget further highlighted that His Excellency directed his ministry to conduct an awareness session to citizens on the 2021 budget, as well as to collect their views and aspirations for government's action.

3.3. PRESENTATION ON 2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS:

The presentation was done by Hajia Safiya Ibrahim a senior planning officer, who took participants through the 2021 capital projects earmarked for the zone.

The discussion focused on areas like water supply, general services, education, Agriculture, administration, Security, water, health etc. She informed that, these sectors are of paramount Importance to mankind.

3.4 FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS, QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION:

- a. His Royal Highness, Alh. Muhammad Bello Muhammad Emir Talata Mafara, thanked Allah SWA for granting us this opportunity, whilst appreciating the present regime and the MoBEP for making this rapport session a reality. He pleaded with the administration to consider the region in its construction of 10,000 housing units. He advised that to make education succeed there is need to provide shelter for teachers and a Government Teachers College in the state.
- b. An SA to the governor, called for the construction of road to Gadar Koko

- c. Alh. Ahmed Balarabe Hon. Sole Administrator Anka LGA, called for a strengthened efforts to tackle insecurity. He further called for the construction of road connecting Damri – Bakura – Anka – Mafara – Anka.
- d. Alh. Abubakar M. Damri SA called for the construction of Damri Bridge to open up farming communities in Bakura, Anka, Gummi and Mafara LGAs.
- e. Alh. H. Shaaya Mafara rector Abdu Gusau Polytechnic praised government on its efforts at making governance a transparent thing. He called on government to improve the content of delivering services on Education, water, Health, Security and empowerment for all citizens a priority across different section of the state. Whilst calling on people to support government in its efforts in securing people’s lives and providing services.
- f. Sarkin Yamman Bukuyuum Alh. Sagir Junaidu, thanked Allah, His Excellency as well as MoBEP for putting together this forum, and advised that the process should be sustained in the future. He called on government to address the construction of Gurussu – Anka road.

3.5. Response:

The HC of Budget in his response said his ministry has collated people’s views and concerns and that these will by Allahs grace be forwarded to the Zamfara State house of Assembly as a first step and to other MDAs in the state for noting and urgent action.

He informed that though government has very meager amounts coming into its coffers due to global economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic it is still doing their best in addressing problems in the state. He called on Tax payers and other philanthropist to assist in pushing addition developmental projects and activities to grassroots.

The HC informed that already there is an ongoing program of Cash Transfer in the state with over One Hundred and Thirty Thousand people of Zamfara benefiting with Five Thousand Naira monthly.

Additional programs of SOCU will be rolled out to support people to cushion the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, he highlighted of a new World Bank assisted project in the state CARES. This he said will touch on the lives of the common man.

3.6. CLOSING PRAYER:

The meeting was concluded with a closing Prayer by Adnan Rilwanu at 1:55pm.

Hamza Salihu

Ministry of Budget and Planning
Gusau

Kabiru Mohammed

Ja'afar Humanitarian Foundation
UK-AID