

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING ON THE 2020 & 2021 AKWA IBOM STATE  
BUDGET, THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2020

**AGENDA**

1. Opening prayers
2. Introduction
3. Welcome remark by Permanent Secretary MED & IDS
4. Goodwill messages
  - Hon. Commissioner Ministry of Finance
  - Hon. Commissioner Min. of Local Govt. & Chieftaincy Affairs
  - Accountant General
  - Chairman, CSOs Forum
5. Address by Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Econ Dev. & Ibom Deep Seaport
6. Interactions
  - Feedback on amended 2020 budget
  - Inputs for 2021
7. Response
8. Vote of thanks by Permanent Secretary, Min. of Finance
9. Closing prayers

**MINUTES OF 2020 AKWA IBOM CITIZENS BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE AKWA IBOM STATE 2021 BUDGET – HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2020 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL.**

**1.0 ATTENDANCE:**

S/ No	NAME/ORGANISATION	S/ No	NAME/ORGANISATION
1.	Mr. Akan Okon, <i>Hon. Commissioner, MED &amp; IDS - Chairman</i>	2.	Mr Linus Nkan, <i>Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Finance</i>
3.	Mr. Effiong Ekpenyong, <i>PS, MED &amp; IDS</i>	4.	Mrs Eme-ette F. Imuk, <i>PS, MOF</i>
5.	Pastor Uwem Andrew-Essien, <i>Accountant General</i>	6.	Pham Mbuk E. Inyang, <i>P/S Min. of Local Gov't &amp; Chieftaincy Affairs</i>
7.	Mr Otu E. Asuquo, <i>Budget Office</i>	8.	Pastor Harry Udoh, <i>Chairman, AKSCSOF</i>
9.	Uwem E. Okopedeme, <i>Ika L. G. C.</i>	10.	Ekaette M. Toby, <i>Ukanafun L. G. C.</i>
11.	Matthew N. Jackson, <i>Orna L. G. C.</i>	12.	Godwin S. Effiong, <i>Itu L. G. C.</i>
13.	Sambo, O. Peter, <i>MED &amp; IDS</i>	14.	Emmeti A. Udosen, <i>Oron L. G. A.</i>
15.	Inyang J. Inyang, <i>Uyo, L. G. C.</i>	16.	Etop John Udo, <i>AG's Office</i>
17.	Dr (Mrs) Nsepong Udoh, <i>CPD, Uyo</i>	18.	Victor Edet, <i>Min. of Finance</i>
19.	Ebong Ekanem, <i>Policy Alert</i>	20.	Mmanti Umoh, <i>Purple Patch</i>
21.	Kingsley Atang, <i>YouthAlive Foundation</i>	22.	Nsebong U. Affiah, <i>AG's Office</i>
23.	Ekwere I. Eshiet, <i>State Budget Office</i>	24.	Prince Akaninyene Isidore, <i>IONAPWD</i>
25.	Patrick Ikotidem, <i>MLG&amp;CA</i>	26.	Emem Umoette, <i>AG's Office</i>
27.	Akaninyene Udoaka, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>	28.	Nkikak Ekpotu, <i>Esit Eket L. G. C.</i>
29.	Emmanuel Ekpoikong, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>	30.	Udoma S. Akpan, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>
31.	Idongesit Edet, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>	32.	Ruth Obot, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>
33.	Uduak Basse, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>	34.	Peter Akpan, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>
35.	Rose A. Odokwo, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>	36.	Dr Uduak Ekong, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>
37.	Samuel J. Inyang, <i>MED&amp; IDS</i>	38.	Mrs Enobong Okpongkong, <i>MED &amp; IDS -Secretary</i>

S/N	ACTIVITY	ACTION BY
2.0	<b>OPENING:</b>	
	The meeting commenced at about 12pm with an opening prayer by Pastor Mfon Udoma.	Pastor Mfon Udoma
3.0	<b>INTRODUCTION:</b>	
	Introduction of members of the high table and representatives of Civil Society Organisations was performed by the Information Officer.	Information Officer
4.0	<b>WELCOME REMARKS:</b>	
	The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Ibom Deep Seaport, Mr. Effiong Ekpenyong, welcomed the participants to the meeting and gave the assurance that all suggestions, opinions and inputs will be taken into consideration, as it will be held as the opinion of the generality of the citizens of the state.	Permanent Secretary, MED & IDS

S/N	ACTIVITY	ACTION BY
	He stressed that because of COVID-19 pandemic, all necessary guidelines will be complied with throughout the duration of the event.	
5.0	<b>GOODWILL MESSAGES:</b>	
5.1	<b>Mr Linus Nkan, Hon. Commissioner for Finance:</b> Explained that the concept of Citizens' Budget is about giving citizens of the State a voice in the preparation and evaluation of Government Budget in order to adequately reflect what the citizens actually want. He believed that the participants will engage in constructive deliberations. He also praised the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for being upbeat about representation of citizens interests.	Hon. Comm, MOF
5.2	<b>Pastor Harry Udoh, Chairman AKSCSO Forum:</b> applauded the establishment of Citizens' Budget Committee as a step in the right direction and praised the Governor for granting the permission for this gathering. He stressed that the Citizens' Budget forum is not a substitute for Open Government Partnership initiative, which has been assented to by many States. He further advised the State to embrace the Fiscal Responsibility Act as well as SFTAS (States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability) Program. He emphasized that the role of CSOs is to partner with the State and assist the Government in enhancing the welfare of the citizens.	Chairman, AKSCSO Forum,
5.3	<b>Pastor Uwem Essien, State Accountant General:</b> stated that one of the roles of Government is to ensure the welfare of the citizens, and the present Administration is all out to perform that role. He also pointed out that the Office of Accountant General is ever ready to play the crucial role of releasing of funds to aid the implementation of the budget.	Accountant General
6.0	<b>CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS:</b>	
	<b>Mr Akan Okon, Hon. Commissioner for Economic Development &amp; Ibom Deep Seaport:</b> noted that the main essence of this gathering is to obtain feedback necessary to appraise the revised 2020 budget and harvest inputs for 2021 budget. He was optimistic that the outcome of this meeting will provide the much-needed ideas for sustainable growth of the economy of the State.	Chairman
7.0	<b>INTERACTIONS:</b>	
7.1	<b>FEEDBACK ON AMENDED 2020 BUDGET:</b> <b>Pastor Harry Udoh, Chairman AKCSO Forum:</b> observed that citizens at the grassroots will not be able to track the projects allocated to their communities because projects were not listed on Local Government Area basis on the citizens budget leaflet. He also observed that recurrent budget items were embellished into capital budget, thus distorting the ratios.	Pastor Harry Udoh

S/N	ACTIVITY	ACTION BY
	<p><b>Mr. Ebong Ekanem, Policy Alert:</b> canvassed for mass production of the citizens budget booklet in order to achieve the maximum possible reach. He reiterated the importance of the State to sign on to Open Government Partnership program so as to enable the State access some grants.</p>	Mr. Ebong Ekanem
	<p><b>Prince Akaninyene Isidore, JONAPWD:</b> made a presentation on the need to include programmes and activities which are tailored to meet the needs of the disabled in the society, which have been overlooked for sometime. He stated that the disabled are among the poorest of the poor and they are usually not carried along in the budgeting process. Consequently, he called for the inclusion of specific budgetary provisions for the disabled citizens, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Design and develop special facilities and instructional materials in designated schools, including provision of Ramps,</li> <li>➤ Design/Adapt a universally acceptable model of inclusive/accessible school environment that will meet the requirements of the disabled,</li> <li>➤ Develop/implement a legislative framework (policy) on inclusive education</li> <li>➤ Recruit Special education teachers, Braille, Sign Language instructors for each level of learning per school</li> </ul>	Prince Akaninyene Isidore
	<p><b>Ms Mmanti Umoh, Purple Patch:</b> emphasized the importance of carrying the youths along in government programs and policies because the youths are the loudest complainers especially in aspects of job opportunities, grants, etc. She called for calculated actions by Government officials that will endear them to the youths and earn their trust.</p>	Ms. Mmanti Umoh
7.2	<p><b>Response by Mr. Akan Okon, Hon. Commissioner for Economic Development &amp; Ibom Deep Seaport:</b> He reminded the participants that Citizens Budget is not a substitute for, but is only a simplified form of the main budget. He clarified that the main budget, which contains full details/description of projects along with their location is concurrently available for citizens to access.</p> <p>He equally stated that the limited copies of the citizens budget was due to budgetary constraints and will surely increase in quantity in subsequent publications.</p>	Chairman
7.3	<p><b><u>INPUTS FOR 2021 BUDGET</u></b></p> <p><b>Pastor Harry Udoh,</b> Chairman of AKCSO Forum spoke on the need to go out and meet the citizens and obtain a list of their requirements - as a measure of guaranteeing a truly citizens' budget. He further suggested the participation of CSOs during the budget bilateral discussion sessions in order to enable the CSOs observe the process.</p>	Pastor Harry Udoh

S/N	ACTIVITY	ACTION BY
	<b>Mr Ebong Ekanem</b> , Policy Alert, questioned whether the Local Government Areas budget are available/accessible and also, whether they are IPSAS compliant.	Mr Ebong Ekanem
	<b>Mr Kingsley Attang</b> , Youth Alive Foundation, requested for the modalities for harvesting citizens inputs/data for the citizens budget process. He equally stressed the need for release of results of monitoring and implementation of the previous budget to enable the CSOs and citizens evaluate the extent of Implementation of their submissions.	Mr Kingsley Attang
7.4	<b>Response by Mr. Akan Okon, Hon. Commissioner for Economic Development &amp; Ibom Deep Seaport:</b> assured all that digital platforms will be made available for citizens to make their contributions, suggestions and inputs, while physical contacts will occur when necessary. The Hon. Commissioner promised to study all the valuable contributions made by various speakers and take appropriate steps to satisfactorily address them.	Mr. Ottobong Sambo
8.0	<b>VOTE OF THANKS:</b>	
	<b>Mrs Eme-ette Imuk, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance</b> complimented the participants for the impressive attendance and the various speakers for their invaluable suggestions and contributions.	Mrs Eme-ette Imuk
9.0	<b>CLOSING:</b>	
9.1	<b>Dr. (Mrs.) Nsekpong Udoh (Secretary, AKSCSO Forum)</b> , offered the closing prayers and the meeting closed by 01:24pm.	Dr. (Mrs.) Nsekpong Udoh

  
 Mrs. Enobong Okpongkpong  
 Secretary

  
 Pastor Harry Udoh  
 Chairman, AKS CSOs Forum

## ATTENDANCE SHEET

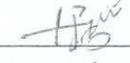
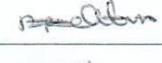
### STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING ON THE AKWA IBOM STATE 2020 AND 2021 BUDGET

DATE: THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2020

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE

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34.	Rose A Odobwo	F	MED & IDS	Accountant		08029600703	
35.	Uduak Ewong	F	MED & IDS	HOD (Inf. Com)		08023385396	
36.	SAMUEL J INYANG	M	MED & IDS	HOD (Admin/Sup)		08023340499	
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38.							
39.							
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