

## ***ANNEXURE 1***

### **A COMMUNIQUÉ ON A ONE-DAY BUDGET BRIEFING/PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 BUDGET ORGANIZED BY THE AKWA IBOM STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE, HELD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL, AKWA IBOM STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY COMPLEX ON TUESDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2020.**

#### **1.0 PREAMBLE:**

In a constitutional democracy such as ours, budgeting requires citizenship participation in the budget process. The participation by stakeholders and constituents facilitate their identification and involvement in undertaking oversights and monitoring the implementation of the budget.

Inputs from both the formal and informal sectors of the economy are sought, obtained, collated, evaluated and incorporated into the government annual budgets. Such participatory approach makes the budget people-oriented and results in effective implementation and better outcomes. In order to achieve this objective, the Appropriations and Finance Committee, on Tuesday 3rd November, 2020, organized a Public Hearing on the Bill for a Law to Appropriate Monies out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and Capital Development Fund to the Service of Akwa Ibom State Government and for other

matters connected. Therewith to garner inputs from the public on the 2021 Akwa Ibom State budget, presented by His Excellency, the Executive Governor, Mr. Udom Gabriel Emmanuel on 20th October, 2020 and christened "Budget of Economic Reconstruction".

Groups such as: The National Association of Nigerian Students, Nigerian Labour Congress, Nigerian Bar Association, Civil Liberties Organization, Policy Alert, Chartered Institute of Taxation, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Christian Association of Nigeria, Religious Bodies, Nigerian Union of Journalist, Nigerian Medical Association, Political Parties, etc, attended and made inputs.

## **2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

The main objectives of the Public Hearing were:

- (i) To provide a forum where the people of the State would be fully briefed on the 2021 Budget Proposals;
- (ii) To provide an avenue where different shades of opinion and views from the people of the State (as individuals, organized groups, etc) are contributed for the State to achieve its objectives of rapidly transforming it into a prosperous, fully industrialized, highly educated and technology-driven pace-setting entity within the Nigerian Federation;

- (iii) To provide opportunity for stakeholders from within and outside government to impact on the 2021 budget via their inputs.

### **3.0 PRESENTATION OF MEMOS:**

Memos were presented by Nigeria Labour Congress, Policy Alert, Civil Liberty Organization, Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria, National Association of Nigerian Students and Nigeria Bar Association.

### **4.0 RESOLUTIONS:**

The robust engagement of stakeholders, including the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary arms of government during the Public Hearing resulted in the adoption of the following resolutions:

- (i) That the revenue base of the State should be diversified and expanded through increased collaboration with MDAs, automation of tax collection machinery, intensification of tax awareness and sensitization programs, focus on maritime and oil companies and capturing of the informal sector into the tax net.
- (ii) That Legislative Funds Management Bill, Fiscal Responsibility Bill, Health Insurance Bill and College of

Science and Technology Bill sent to the Governor for assent should promptly be signed into Law in order to make for speedy development of the State.

- (iii) Increased allocation in 2021 budget should be made to Education, Health and Agriculture sub-sectors.
- (iv) That Government should make adequate provision for the prompt payment of pensions and Gratuities including all arrears in this respect, for the welfare of Akwa Ibom State "senior" citizens.
- (v) That Government should provide incentives to Medium Small Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) in the State through tax holidays and soft funding facilities.
- (vi) That the cost of governance be reduced, by a reduction of the recurrent expenditure and the savings made ploughed back into financing capital programmes;
- (vii) That the Legislature should step up its budget oversight of the MDAs to ensure transparency, accountability and effective service delivery;
- (viii) That Government should initiate programmes/activities that would reduce morbidity and mortality rates to the barest minimum and significantly embark upon these programmes and activities that would increase life

expectancy and quality of life of the people of Akwa Ibom State.

- (ix) That Government should increase the funding of the Rural Communities Development Programmes and provide social amenities, services and economic opportunities and invest in rural infrastructure, health and education;
- (x) That the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the State should be put in place as the annual budget should be derived from it, in order to ensure effective and value-for-money implementation.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION:**

The Communiqué Committee sincerely thanks the Chairman and members of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly Committee on Appropriations and Finance for the opportunity given us to serve in this capacity.

  
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**STATE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING**

  
**BARR. ANIETIE EKA**  
**SECRETARY**

  
**PASTOR HARRY UDOH**  
**CHAIRMAN CSO FORUM**

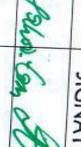
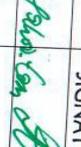
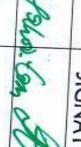
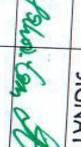
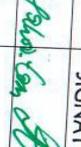
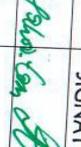
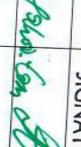
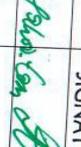
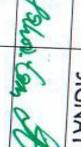
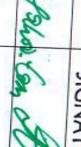
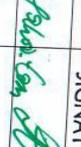
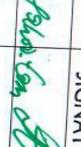
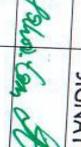
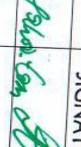
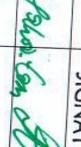
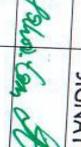
ATTENDANCE SHEET

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 APPROPRIATION BILL

DATE: TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020

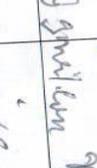
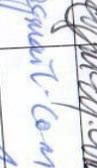
VENUE: OLD CHAPEL, AKS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, UDO UDOMA AVENUE, UYO

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