

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A TOWN HALL MEETING FOR INCLUSIVE BUDGET, WHICH WAS ORGANISED FOR WARRI CLUSTER STAKEHOLDERS BY THE NIGER DELTA BUDGET MONITORING GROUP (NDEBUMOG) AT EXCEL HOTEL, EFFURUN, WARRI, DELTA STATE ON WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY, 2015.**

At an Inclusive Budget Town Hall Meeting for Warri Cluster Stakeholders, organized by NDEBUMOG with support from Oxfam in Nigeria on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, we the participants made the following **observations**:

1. That much attention should be paid to issues of over-bloated budgeting, which has impacted negatively for service delivery within the Warri Cluster and the Niger Delta in general.
2. That poor material utilization and supervision of capital projects has contributed to huge infrastructural deficit, irrespective of the fact, various MDAs still draw envelopes for Monitoring and Evaluation of their own projects, which is abnormal and should be handled by independent bodies outside the implementing MDAs, who should not be judges in their own case.
3. That inadequate waste management plans and lack of equipment for effective waste management, is one of the setback confronting Warri and the clustering towns

4. Lack of community input in budget conceptualization, planning, implementation and execution has greatly reduced beneficiaries' impact, hence communities should be integrated henceforth, in all the processes of budget circles.
5. That duplication/triplication of same projects at various FYs does not portray the government as fiscally responsible, hence it should be stopped.
6. That there should be transparency and inclusion in the formulation of community projects across the Warri Cluster Communities
7. That budget monitoring should start from community level, L.G.A, State and Federal.
8. Prioritization for government buy-in into Community Budget and Blueprints is fundamental to bridging the budgetary gaps.
9. There must be need assessment of any project from the community to the Local Governments and into the State Budget within every fiscal year.
10. There should be public orientation/awareness of all budgetary frameworks concerning all tiers of government.
11. Communities should ask for projects' BOQ at the commencement of every project around and within their communities.

12. Sign post/labeling of government agencies/contractors/consultants handling project should be erected in areas of project (site).
13. That project should also be tracked through news, electronics and print media to create public awareness and promote transparency.
14. That Radio and Television programs accompanied with jingles should be created to discourage sycophants/public officers whose intent is to defraud public funds through budgeting.
15. That picture of capital projects under execution should be uploaded via social media platforms, including the cost to enable experts form judgment on the end product for such capital expenditure.
16. That there should be quarterly newsletters published by the Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group concerning capital votes and projects execution for the entire region.
17. That CSOs and CBOs should take a leading role to create awareness in secondary schools and communities on budget monitoring.
18. All Community Development Committees (CDCs) doing budget monitoring within their communities must harmonize their role with various communities' heads/royal fathers.

19. Community stakeholders should be involved in budget processes, from the MTSS to approval and implementation.

20. That the Freedom of Information Act as enacted by the Federal government be domesticated by the States as the FOIA is not enforced in Delta State.

21. That the need to re-orientate and re-organize this Town Hall Meetings from bottom top approach in communities as an enlightenment tool is very necessary.

### **Conclusion**

Participants expressed their appreciation for the Town Hall Meeting organizers for broadening their scope of horizon on budget tracking, monitoring and implementation. Participants have been made to realize that they have the democratic right to question community leaders, public officers and government agencies on budget tracking, monitoring and implementation processes.

Finally, CDCs, CBAs NGOs, CSOs, CBOs and Government officials should take community projects as developmental projects for all and not a medium for the siphoning of public funds for personal aggrandizement. There should be regular feedback from participants at this Town Hall Meeting on capital

projects situation within their clusters and follow up by Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG).

Total participants at this Town Hall Meeting for Warri Cluster was Forty Six (46) persons ,made up of including Youth Leaders, Market Women, Local Government Officials, Community Leaders, CDCs, NGOs, CSOs and CBOs etc

**Signed:**

<b>Comrade Gift Adogbeji Obomu</b>	<b>Effurun, Uvwie LGA</b>
<b>Comrade Godspower Duwara</b>	<b>Orhuwhorun, Udu LGA</b>
<b>Soya Ufuoma</b>	<b>Jeremi, Ughelli South LGA</b>
<b>Mary Fuludu</b>	<b>Warri, Warri South LGA</b>
<b>Etsede Tsola</b>	<b>Gbokoda, Warri North LGA</b>
<b>Comrade Morris Ogah Alaigba</b>	<b>Ugborodo, Warri South West LGA</b>
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