



**DECLARATION AFTER A ONE-DAY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING ON INCLUSIVE BUDGET ORGANIZED BY THE NIGER DELTA BUDGET MONITORING GROUP (NDEBUMOG) WITH SUPPORT FROM OXFAM IN NIGERIA, AT ROYALTY HOTEL, EKET, ON THE 14TH DAY OF MAY, 2015**

**The Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG)** with support from Oxfam in Nigeria, held a one-day Inclusive Budget Town Hall Meeting for a cluster of communities in Eket, comprising Ibeno, Onna, Mkpato Enin, Esit Eket and Ikot Abasi. The communities were grouped together to form a cluster for the convenience of the Town Hall Meeting.

The Town Hall Meeting was attended by Students, Town Unions, Clergies, Youth Groups, Market Women, Women Groups and Community Based Organizations, among others.

Having deliberated exhaustively, we, the participants at the Town Hall meeting resolved as follows:

***Budget is life*** which the government should anchor on to address fiscal injustices and infrastructural disequilibrium in our communities as well as integrate the communities into the budget processes for grassroots development.

**The** African Charter on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights( **ACHPR**) has not impacted on the economic and social rights of Nigerians as the government has only paid lip service to the enforcement of the Charter. The effective enforcement of the Charter would impact positively on fiscal governance to promote the economic and social rights of citizens.

**Realizing** that some projects listed for the Eket cluster in the Federal, State and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) budgets in 2013 were not executed in the fiscal year in context. In view of this, we (the Eket) stakeholders, hereby demand, that our right to participatory democracy be respected by agencies of the government.

**Henceforth**, the government should include the Eket cluster communities in its budget consultation, need assessments and participation in budget defence of MDAs, particularly from agencies, such as the NDDC, Federal MDAs, Akwa Ibom State Government and the

Local Government.

**We demand**, therefore, that Local, State and Federal Government budgets should be accessible and available to all stakeholders in Eket area in hard copies since some community stakeholders do not have the ICT infrastructure to access the Federal Budget through the Budget Office of the Federation's website.

**Multinational oil companies** operating in Eket area should harmonize their interventionist efforts for the benefit of Eket cluster communities.

**Importantly**, more environmentally-related remediation projects are needed in the Eket area to urgently address the menace of gully erosion which is threatening the Eket cluster communities. Government should look into the dilapidated schools and health centres across Eket senatorial district.

**We pledge** to follow up on accountability and fiscal inclusion for our communities which would accordingly accelerate development and deepen our democracy in Nigeria.

**Signed**

**BRIGHT OKPOSONIKOT USEKONG, EKET LGA**

**CAROLINE USENUPENEKANG, IBENO LGA**

**COMFORT DAVID OCHEMEMKPAT ENIN VILLAGE, MKPAT ENIN LGA**

**UNWANA OKUKEKWEREIKPA TOWN, ESIT EKET**

**UKEME UDOIKPE ISAACIKOT NDUWA IMAN, ONNA L.GA**