



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, HELD AT SKY POINT HOTEL AND SUITES, ORON, ON THE 13TH DAY OF MAY, 2015

The Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG) with support from Oxfam in Nigeria, held a one-day Town Hall meeting on Inclusive Budget for a cluster of Oron communities, comprising Okobo, Mbo, Urue/Offong/Oruko, Udung Uko and parts of Uruan. The communities were grouped together for the purpose of the Town Hall meeting.

The Town Hall Meeting was attended by Town Unions, Clergy Men, Youth Groups, Market Women Associations, Students, Women Groups and Community Based Organizations. The Town Hall meeting was characterized by in-depth deliberations on its essence to deepen communal inclusion in the budgetary process ranging from needs assessment to budget conceptualization, budget defence, implementation and impact assessment, among others.

We, the participants, therefore, endorsed as follows:

Accepting budget as a key tool the government should use to address fiscal injustice and at the same time, see that, communities are integrated into the budgetary processes, if at all, envelope rascality must be stopped.

Accepting budget as a key tool which the government should deploy effectively to address fiscal injustice and integrate communities into the budgetary processes and end envelope rascality.

Recognizing that the African Charter on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights have not been enforced in Nigeria due to lack of political will by the three tiers of government to empower communities through needs equilibrium for communities participation in the budget process.

Oron stakeholders express profound concern that the Oron nation has not been carried along and integrated into the budget process through consultation of local people and communities within the Oron axis, hence the need for Oron communities' consultation in the fiscal processes.

We demand, henceforth, that Local, State and and Federal Government budgets should be accessible and available to all stakeholders in Oron axis. Government at all levels should show political will to develop Oron, which is one of the points of entry to the early missionaries who came to Nigeria. Importantly, full and accelerated implementation of the construction of a Deep Seaport at Ibaka within the Oron cluster is of strategic value to our people. This will bring about development in tourism and other sectors. Upgrading of the Maritime Academy, Oron, to a Maritime University for educational advancement of the Oron people should not also be down-played by the government. Furthermore, we demand for the completion of Oron – Calabar section of the East-West Road project, including the dualization of the Oron- Uyo Highway.

Other strategic projects vital for Oron nation are:

- Control of erosion menace in the five Local Government Areas in Oron nation.
- Restoration of Oron- Calabar Ferry services that have been abandoned several years ago.
- Construction of Beach Embankment at Efiat in Mbo Local Government Area.
- The high level of insecurity around Oron, particularly sea piracy, has adversely affected the lives and socio-economic development of the area.

We commit to follow up on accountability and fiscal inclusion that would bring development closer to our people and accelerate development thereby deepening Nigeria's democracy.

Signed

Hon. (Mrs.) Esther Esong Edet-Chief Whip, Okobo LGA
Comrade Felix Remegius Okon-Ekeya Community, Okobo LGA
Mrs. Christy Godwin Edet-Effiat Community Mbo LGA
Mrs. Eme Effiong Uno-Urue Offong/Oruko LGA