

MAKING STATE BUDGETS PARTICIPATORY AND PEOPLE-CENTRED

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Defining Budget

- A budget is a statement of expected income and expenditure of a household/government/organization within a specific period of time.
- Statement of governments estimated revenue and proposed expenditure.
- A financial plan showing proposed expenditures and proposed means of financing.
- “A budget is much more than a collection of numbers. A budget is a reflection of a nation’s priorities, its needs, and its promise.” (Alexander Hamilton)

What amounts to Participation?

- Involvement
- Influencing
- Making input
- Partaking
- Sharing in
- Contributing to
- Chipping in

When is a process 'People-centred'?

- Focus on
- Driven by
- Influenced by
- Consideration of
- Thought of/about
- Intended to benefit
- Meant to protect
- Meant to bring advantage to
- Meant to favour

Why 'Participation' and 'People-centred'?

Participation & people-centredness, hallmark of Governance:

- In Nigeria, See S14 of the Constitution
- 14. (1) The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of **democracy** and **social justice**.
- (2) It is hereby, accordingly, declared that:
- (a) **sovereignty belongs to the people** of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority;
- (b) the **security** and **welfare** of the people shall be the primary purpose of government: and
- (c) **the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.**

Why 'Participation' and 'People-centred'?

- (4) The composition of the Government of a State, a local government council, or any of the agencies of such Government or council, and the **conduct of the affairs of the Government** or council or such agencies shall be carried out in such manner as to **recognise the diversity** of the people within its area of authority and the need to **promote a sense of belonging and loyalty among all the people** of the Federation.
- Compare how Budgets were made, presented and implemented during military regimes and now.

Why 'Participation' and 'People-centred'?

- Recall S14(1)(c) of the Constitution that: *“the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution”*.
- Article 21 of the UDHR: *“(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.”*
- Participation in governance is an approach, which recognizes the need to involve disadvantaged segments of the population in the design and implementation of laws and policies concerning their wellbeing.
- Remember that the Budget is the single most important instrument, outside the Constitution, which has the most impact on the people.

Why should citizens participate?

Need for Citizens Participation in the Budget Process

Nature of the Budget

- The budget represents the common wealth of the people.
- It is a trust which the people collectively own and divests to the government
- As an expenditure plan, the peoples participation is critical to its legitimacy.

Assessments of needs

- The budget is an instruments through which the various problems that plague the society will be dealt with.
- Citizens groups are closers to the people and are able to assess their needs.
- Participation in the budget process affords citizens and their groups to put their needs across to decision makers.

Variety of Skills

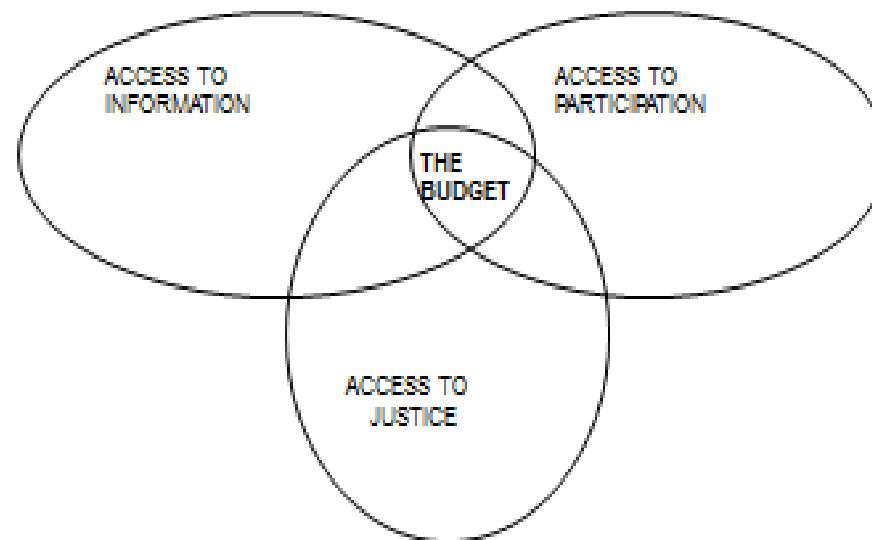
- Civil society brings to the budget process variety of skills gathered from various advocacy and research interventions.
- Citizens participation in the budget process also brings in best practices in budgeting from across the World.

How do we promote 'Participation' and Citizens-centredness?

- Re-orientation of govt officials
- Sensitisation and mobilisation of citizens
- Creating space within the budget cycle
- Active wooing of citizens and citizens' groups into governance/budgeting process
- Creating Access to:
 - Access to information: The ability of the citizens to obtain budget related information from the government and public authorities. Access to government expenditure and revenues and other policy documents.
 - Access to participation: Citizens providing informed, timely and meaningful input and influence policies (budget) from formulation to implementation and review stages.
 - Access to justice: Access to impartial arbiters to enforce access to information and participation.

How do we promote 'Participation' and Citizens-centredness?

THE ACCESS PRINCIPLES & THE BUDGET



Participation of Citizens in Governance

- Recall S14(1)(c) of the Constitution that:
 - “the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution”.
- Participation in governance is an approach, which recognizes the need to involve disadvantaged segments of the population in the design and implementation of laws and policies concerning their wellbeing.

Budgeting as Opportunity for Citizens' Participation

- Budget (Formulation, Planning, Preparation, Approval, Implementation, Monitoring/Evaluation/Review).
- Make the Budget **PUBLIC**.
- Needs assessment processes.
- Public Hearings.
- Budget monitoring.

Who should make these happen?

- Executive (MDAs)
- Legislature
- Citizens' groups and movements

Effects of participatory and people-driven budgets

- Development driven by the needs of the people
- Sustainability of Development
- Change in Power Relations
- Reduction in Corruption
- Accountability
- Ownership
- Continuity

Concluding comments

- Government exists to take care of the **security** and **welfare** of the people.
- Every action of government, MDAs, officials and workers should aim at addressing the above.
- Government cannot effectively define, understand and provide for the security and welfare of citizens without the involvement and participation of the citizens.
- Budgeting is one vital means to achieving the purpose of government, so the people and their interests should be central to the budgeting process.

**Are we Ready to make this happen in our
States?**

Just Do It

and...

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Make Enugu work for its People



Thank You



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