



## **COMMUNIQUE OF THE 16TH TOWN HALL MEETING OF NIGER DELTA BUDGET MONITORING GROUP HELD ON 6TH JUNE, 2015 AT RANDOLPH HOTEL, PORT HARCOURT, FOR PORT HARCOURT CLUSTER WITH THE SUPPORT OF OXFAM IN NIGERIA**

Participants at the meeting were drawn from the various communities around Port Harcourt, including Civil Society Organizations, CDCs, and residents/indigenes of the various towns and villages in Port Harcourt.

The participants contributed effectively and efficiently during the exercise. A committee of five persons for the drafting of communique was selected during deliberations.

Discussions and deliberations centred on the state of development at Port Harcourt City handled by the State Government. Port Harcourt is highly considered to be strategic in the social, political and economic life of the Niger Delta region. Hence, there is the need for Port Harcourt to be a well-developed city to cater for the needs of Port Harcourt indigenes, settlers and visitors to the Niger Delta region.

The meeting looked into the state of the 36 capital projects which are contained in the State Government Budget 2013 and the implementation of same through the state Ministry of Works effective from the year 2013 with an expenditure chain from the 2012 budget and a budgetary plan through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2013-2016.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

1. That of the 35 projects, which appeared in the critically-appraised Factsheet, 13 projects were completed.
2. Eight projects were abandoned after contractors had moved to the sites
3. There was no presence of contractors for six projects that appeared in the budget for the 2013 fiscal year.
4. Work in progress on eight roads.
5. That most of the road projects deteriorated within a year or two after completion.
6. Community interference to protect their interest often times than not hamper the smooth implementation of projects in the communities.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Government should mandate contractors of abandoned road projects to return to sites
2. Rivers State Government should commence the construction of road projects which funds have been allocated in the budget particularly as itemised in Nos. 21, 22, 23, 34 of the Town Hall Meetings Abridged Fact Sheet thus:
  - 21) "Construction of Flyover at Ada George Road Junction/Agip Road Junction".
  - 22) "Construction of Flyover at Ada George Road/NTA Road Junction".
  - 23) "Construction of Flyover at Choba/East West Road Junction".
  - 34) "Construction of Flyover at Ada George Road/Rumuepirikom/Rumuolumeni Road Junction".
3. The Rivers State Government should re-assess poorly constructed roads and re-visit the projects to ensure good implementation.
4. The Rivers State Government should be accountable to the public by way of publishing her annual and periodic audited reports.
5. There should be transparency in the award of contracts by the State Government.
6. Efforts should be made by Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group to collaborate with the offices of Auditors- General of Niger Delta states.
7. Pressure should be put on the government to amend the Rivers State

Public Procurement Act to have a representation of Civil Society on the Board of Rivers State Public Procurement Bureau.

**Signed**

- 1. Jim Tom- George -Town-Port Harcourt**
- 2. Blessing Yobo - Obio Akpor**
- 3. Wisdom N. Suanu- PH Township**
- 4. Pastor Geregere Promise-Diobu**
- 5. Stephanie Ekpebulu-Rukpokwu**
- 6. Rita Kigbara-Stakeholders Democracy Network (SDN)**
- 7. S. U. Johnson-Civil Liberties Organisation**
- 8. Agbeurii Martha-Rivers State Child Protection Network**