

REPORT OF TOWN HALL MEETING ON INCLUSIVE BUDGET ORGANISED BY THE NIGER DELTA BUDGET MONITORING GROUP (NDEBUMOG) AT KAIAMA TOWN HALL, KAIAMA COMMUNITY, BAYELSA STATE, ON TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 2015.

The Town Hall meeting brought together NDEBUMOG Team, made up of two officials from the Head Office, two others from Uyo Office and one from Asaba office of NDEBUMOG. Others at the Town Hall Meeting included, Community gatekeepers, Members of the Community Development Committee (CDC), Youths, Women Groups and Stakeholders from within and outside the community, with the objective to advocate for citizens' inclusion in the budget process, which was at deepening citizens' understanding of the budgetary equilibrium, end-users sampling, value-chain- integrity, value for money on projects consideration, projects implementation and delivery, sustainability of projects, community ownership and protection of projects, which in the long run, shall promote governance inclusion, transparency, accountability, reduce corruption and deepen Nigeria's democracy at all levels.

The following presentations were delivered during the Town Hall meeting

1. DELT4SLOG III Town Hall Meeting Factsheet: Kaiama Cluster's Town Hall Meeting Projects.
2. Summary of Projects' Indicators for Kaiama Axis from the 2013 Budget of Bayelsa State, Federal Government and the NDDC.

The presentations divulged budgetary figures, envelopes and projects covering various sectors within Kaiama within the Kaiama axis from 2013 Federal, Bayelsa State and NDDC Capital projects budget as contained in the Facts Sheets, with projects, which were randomly selected. Also was a graphical presentation of projects performance (sector specific) from the Federal, State and NDDC budget within the fiscal year in focus.

Below were the observations and feedback from the presentations:

1. Poor community participation in governance and budgetary process.
2. Dearth of knowledge on ways of constructively engaging the government on matters of budget inclusiveness and engendering accountability and transparency.
3. Poor information and access to public documents, such as budgets public hearings, defences etc

To this end, the participants were astonished with the information on projects that ideally ought to have brought development to their community but with reverse being the case.

In view of these, the following resolutions were reached:

1. To start by asking for copies of the budget (Federal, State or Local Government) from the government and the Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG).
2. To demand for inclusion of Community Development Committees (CDC) and Community Development Associations (CDAs), this is the development arm of the community on considerations for projects, which affects the communities directly.

3. To follow up on community prioritized projects, which are included into the budget, as well as track and monitor those projects that affect the Kaiama communities in the budget directly.

The Town Meeting was brought to close at about 4:20pm.

END