

A COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED AT A FISCAL GOVERNANCE TOWN HALL MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT PATBENSON GREEN VALLEY SUITE, AWGU TOWN, ENUGU STATE ON THURSDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2018.

Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group, with support from Oxfam in Nigeria, conducted a one-day fiscal governance Town Hall Meeting for stakeholders from Awgu and Aninri Local Government Areas of Enugu State. The event was within NDEBUMOG's programmatic chain of Oxfam's Strategic Partnership Program in Nigeria, which has Oxfam, Budget, CISLAC, Actionaid- Nigeria, NDEBUMOG and Kebetkache Women Development Centre as implementing partners.

Participants for this town hall meeting were drawn from several sectors in Aninri and *Greater Awgu* axis of Enugu State. Among them, were: Local Government representatives, NGOs, CBOs, legal practitioners, media practitioners, National Council for Women Society, Youth groups, professional bodies, the Igwes, Chiefs, traditional titled holders, among others. Presentations at the meeting centered on *community needs assessment, action plan(s) and shadow budget*. At the end of presentations and deliberations, participants adopted the following;

OBSERVATIONS:

- The importance of a meeting, such as this event, cannot be underplayed. As more communities should be reached to deepen their knowledge on basic economic literacy, fiscal inclusion and participatory budget.
- Women are relegated on communal consultative processes, which has hindered progress of women generationally.
- Lack of autonomy for Local Governments is a hinderance to service delivery and effective social infrastructure for communal good

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Communities should be involved on needs assessment and fiscal consultations.
2. Women and youths across various communities, should be involved in budget consultations and formulation, which enhances gender justice and participatory equity.
3. Communities should be involved in budget tracking to reduce the burden on their representatives in parliament, who tracks projects', participate in law making and oversights, as such, will help to bridge the gap, if such parliamentarian becomes non-responsive or insensitive, due to the burden of communal projects' follow ups.
4. Town hall meetings of this nature should be taken to various communities across the country through CDCs, CBAs, Town Unions, CBOs, etc. As that is an avenue to sensitize the people on their roles to track (their) capital projects in each fiscal year.
5. More shadow budget groups should be created by NDEBUMOG as a platform for fiscal networking and empowerment of women at the grassroots.

COMMENDATION:

- i.** Participants commended NDEBUMOG for the creation of additional Shadow Budget Platforms in Enugu State.
- ii.** Oxfam Nigeria was appreciated for encouraging fiscal education and basic economic literacy at grassroots.
- iii.** Participants commended Enugu State Government for encouraging of communities to choose their (self-help) projects through the Town Unions, something; which is worth emulating by other States' across the country.

Motion for adoption of this communique was moved by:

1. Ben Mojomys and seconded by;
2. Mrs. Felicia N. Iyidiobi

Dated at Awgu this 27th Day of September, 2018.

END

