

COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED AT A FISCAL GOVERNANCE TOWN HALL MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT IYEMERE CIVIC CENTRE, NEW SAPELE/AGBOR EXPRESS ROAD, OPPOSITE MAYOMA HOSPITAL, OBIARUKU TOWN, DELTA STATE ON THURSDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2018.

Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group, with support from Oxfam in Nigeria, conducted a one-day fiscal governance Town Hall Meeting for stakeholders from Obiaruku and Isoko Cluster in Delta 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: Local Government representatives, CSOs, Legal Practitioners, media practitioners, youth groups, women groups, high Chiefs and sociocultural groups.

OBSERVATIONS:

- Lack of transparency and corruption are major drawbacks bedeviling development efforts in Nigeria.
- Poor knowledge on economic literacy and participatory budgets are among setbacks hindering most communities against participation in the fiscal processes within the civic space, which is a democratic right.
- Ignorance about the pursuits of communal rights hinders democratic participation.
- Budget document is erroneously considered as “government's property” due to poor access to the budget, which discourages interest of communities in the fiscal process.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Efforts should be geared at mobilizing more communities on economic literacy and participatory budgeting.
2. Members of communities should be carried along on needs assessment and projects monitoring.
3. Women and youths within the grassroots should be consulted for gender justice and participatory equity concerning government's budget.
4. Communities should organize town hall meetings regularly to gauge their needs, and thereafter; contact their elected representative to push their needs into the budget.
5. Town hall meetings of this nature should be taken to other clusters within the grassroots for effective (democratic) mobilization.
6. Participants appealed to NDEBUMOG for the creation of additional Shadow Budget Groups at the grassroots.

COMMENDATION:

NDEBUMOG was highly appreciated for enlightenment of the community on participatory needs assessment and inclusive budgeting, whilst Oxfam Nigeria was commended for connecting communities at the grassroots through its strategic partnership.

Motion for adoption of this communiqué was moved by Mrs. Osakue Joy and was seconded by Mrs. Grace Enuademu.

Dated at Obiaruku in Delta State this 4th day of October, 2018.

END

