

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUES AT THE END OF A TOWN HALL MEETING
ORGANIZED BY THE NIGER DELTA BUDGET MONITORING GROUP
WITH SUPPORT FROM OXFAM IN NIGERIA'S FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT- STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SPP- I YR
2), WHICH HELD AT TOP RANK HOTEL, IKEJA, LAGOS ON THE 1ST
OF MARCH, 2018**

PREAMBLES

A Town Hall Meeting on fiscal influencing, shadow budgeting and community needs assessment was organized by NDEBUMOG with support from Oxfam in Nigeria on Thursday, 1st of March, 2018 at Top Rank Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos.

The meeting was focused at creating awareness on issues of inclusive budget, community needs assessment, basic economic literacy, shadow budget, fiscal lobbying and community mobilization for responsive governance. Factsheets were used to motivate participants on how to develop community action plans, including how to lobby for inclusion of such action plans in the budget through knowledge of shadow budget. The meeting was part of the activities of Oxfam's Financing for Development- Strategic Partnership Program (SPP-II) being implemented by NDEBUMOG and other strategic partners.

Participants were drawn from Ikeja LGA, Ojodu LCDA and Onigbongbo LCDA, among others, in which action plan and appraisal of past Federal projects was undertaken as a sampling tool for the development of community action plans within these clusters: It was an opportunity for community stakeholders to participate and brainstorm about inclusive budget process.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

The meeting progressed with an overview of the fiscal process and planning of reforms in Lagos State, which was delivered by Pastor Adeniyi---- In his explanation, he shed more light on the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) that comprises of Medium Term Fiscal Framework, Medium Term Budget Framework and Medium Term Sectoral Framework. He emphasized the need for community members to meet on a regular basis through groups and contribute to the budget making process and appraisal of projects for governance-ownership.

As the meeting progressed, another paper was presented by Mr. Henry Ushie on "Influencing Strategic Approach". The paper explained how to compel impact and change, either; laws, policies, regulations, attitudes and beliefs, in such a way, that its promotes inclusive society without poverty. This, however, was an eye opener to most participants. Also, essential features of Taxation, Tax-basic obligation and enforced contributions was also explained.

Furthermore, on the basics of Shadow Budgeting: Approaches and Methods, was delivered by Dr. George-Hill Anthony during the meeting.

At the end of the Town Hall presentations and deliberations, it was resolved that:

1. More Town Hall meetings be scheduled for Lagos State;
2. Local Government Autonomy should be adopted in order to ensure rapid development for the grass root;
3. More support from the Federal Government in terms of long term development projects to improve the growth and sustainability of Lagos State
4. Support for Shadow Budget Groups in Lagos in order to ensure that poverty is reduced to barest minimum
5. Participants seek for more empowerment opportunities for women in order to reduce the rate of poverty in society

Communique Drafting Committee

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