

# REPORT OF THE ENUGU STATE CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT (DISSEMINATION EVENT TO EXPLAIN AMENDMENTS TO FY20 BUDGET) HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020



## GOVERNMENT OF ENUGU STATE MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND PLANNING STATE SECRETARIAT, ENUGU



Our Ref: *ENS/MBP/HON/COMM/*  
(All Replies to be addressed to the Commissioner)

Telegrams: BUDGET & PLANNING ENUGU

### REPORT OF THE ENUGU STATE CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT (DISSEMINATION EVENT TO EXPLAIN AMENDMENTS TO FY20 BUDGET) HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT MICHAEL OKPARA SQUARE, ENUGU.

The Enugu State Government through the Ministry of Budget and Planning organized a one day Citizens' Engagement / Dissemination event of 2020 Revised Budget on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 at Michael Okpara Square, Enugu.

#### **Groups in Attendance:**

1. Women Group
2. Youth Organization
3. Traditional Rulers
4. Civil Society Organizations
5. Town Union Executives
6. House of Assembly Members
7. Permanent Secretaries
8. Members of the State Executive Council

#### **Arrival and Registration:**

At about 11am, the participants began to arrive in their numbers. All COVID -19 protocols ranging from washing / sanitizing of hands, collection of facemasks was duly observed as well as physical distancing. This was followed by registration of all participants in attendance and collection of the copies of the 2020 Revised Budget and Revised Citizen's Budget.

#### **Dignitaries at the event were:**

1. His Excellency Rt. Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, The Governor of Enugu State; represented by the Enugu State Head of Service; Prince. Ken Chukwuegbo.

2. The Hon. Commissioner for Ministry of Budget and Planning; Dr. David O. Ugwunta.
3. The Hon. Commissioner for Health; Ass. Prof. Ikechukwu Obi.
4. The Hon. Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure; Hon. Engr. Greg Nnaji.
5. The Hon. Commissioner for Labour and Productivity; Hon. Uche Ogbonna.
6. The Attorney General / Hon. Commissioner for Justice represented by Mrs. Nwonye Uchenna.
7. The Accountant General of the State; Sir Dr. Pascal Okolie
8. The Chairman, Enugu State Council of Traditional Rulers; HRM Igwe Amb. L.O.C Agubuzu Eze Ogbu N'eche Ndo of Ezianya Olo.
9. The Enugu State Woman Leader; Lady Vera Ezeugwu.
10. The Chairman, Enugu State Association of President Generals; Barr. Polly Eze.
11. The President of NANS; Comrade Ogene Romanus

A number of Permanent Secretaries were also in attendance:

1. Barr. Mrs G. C, Amadi; Enugu State Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
2. Dr. Ada John Nwoye; Enugu State Ministry of Water Resources.
3. Dr. Godwin C. Anigbo; Enugu State Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
4. Chief Christian Mba; Enugu State Ministry of Information.
5. Sir K.C. Ugwu; Enugu State Ministry of Budget and Planning, and a host of others.

Other notable Royal Fathers present were H.R.M Igwe Eze Udo Abel Nwobodo, H.R.M Igwe Chris Ngene, H.R.M Igwe Godwin Nwanjoku, H.R.M Igwe Clement Ogwuchie among many others.

**Opening prayer:** The opening prayer was said by the Accountant General of the state, in the person of Sir Pascal Okolie (JP) at about 12:45pm

**Welcome Address:**

The Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Dr. David Okelue Ugwunta welcomed everyone present while making known to the participants the resolve of the Enugu State Government to carry its Citizenry along through the budget process. The Citizens' Engagement stresses the need to foster the creation of awareness and improve the knowledge of the Citizenry on the Enugu State

Government's annual intentions and budgetary provisions. In his words, "The Enugu State Revised 2020 Citizens' Budget is a graphical representation of the revised 2020 Budget of Enugu State presented in abridged format. The Citizens' budget is intended to simplify and explain government projects and programmes for easy understanding by Enugu State Citizens.

The intentions of the 2020 Revised Budget of Enugu State titled " Budget of Responsive and Accountable Governance is to adequately respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic in consideration of new projects aimed at improving security of lives and property, and provision of critical infrastructure in Health, Education, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Science and Technology, Works, Roads, Housing, Power, Water and Human Capital development which are in line with the 8- Point development Agenda of Enugu State".

**Opening Remark:**

The Opening Remark at the occasion was delivered by the Head of Service; Prince. Ken Chukwuegbo on behalf of His Excellency, The Governor of Enugu State Rt. Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi. He stated that the need to revise the 2020 budget was necessitated by the COVID-19 Pandemic which devastated a lot of economies, thus the need to go back to the drawing table. He however, happily announced that the inputs and contributions made towards the revision of the budget have been collated and put together into a document, thus its presentation and dissemination to the Citizenry as a means of showcasing the Openness and Accountability of the Government in working hard to take Enugu State to greater heights for the good of the entire citizenry.

**Explanation of the Amendments on the Budget:**

The Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Dr. David Okelue Ugwunta explained some of the amendments made in the 2020 Revised budget. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, different governments and organized bodies reviewed their budgets. It was in line with the effects of the Pandemic that the budget of Enugu State was reviewed downwards. The Budget which was estimated at 169.6 Billion Naira at the beginning of the financial year was reviewed down to 146.3 Billion Naira, this was done bearing in mind that the States sources of revenue generation has gone low both at home and international market where oil was selling below the assumed benchmark. The



Revision of the 2020 approved budget created the opportunity to remove certain projects which are not too pressing while making room for other projects needed to help cushion the effect of the COVID-19 in order to move the State forward.

**Reactions from Audiences:**

After the presentation by the Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Planning, there were obvious reactions and feedback from the audience. Reactions from the audience were coordinated by the Hon. Commissioner for Health, Associate Prof. Ikechukwu Obi. Questions came in from a number of participants likewise commendations and suggestions. Answers to the questions were diligently provided by the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Budget and Planning; Dr. David Okelue Ugwunta.

**Reaction 1. (Question) by Hon. John Egbo; President General of Amechi Awknanaw** who noted that allocations to most sectors decreased while that of the Finance sector almost doubled.

**Answer:** The Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Budget and Planning observed that the increase in the finance sector comprising of (MOF, MOBP, SIRS, SEPC, Gaming Commission, OAG, SBS, MOFI) are for the following reasons:

- A look at the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of all States in Nigeria shows that Enugu State is doing very well in raising IGR. However, the drive and corresponding increase comes with costs that includes cost of the engagement of back duty consultants, and investment in infrastructure to drive revenue.
- The State is working towards investments in financial management software and other finance related ICT across the Sector to increase transparency and accountability in Government.

**Reaction 2. (Suggestion) by Daniel Ochi; DG Nsukka Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture:** Agriculture is considered as the best alternative to oil in terms of IGR, I suggest that the allocation to Agriculture be increased in the next year's budget. A farming cluster can be formed for the Nsukka Yellow Pepper, as well as the revitalization of Ada Rice to reduce unemployment.

**Answer:** In the Revised Budget, the State made provisions for a Rice Mill, a Fertilizer Plant to boost rice processing and enhance farm outputs. Also, the *Efi*

Igbo Project which is underway likewise the 'tractorization' of the State to increase the number of tractors to enhance mechanized farming.

**Reaction 3. (Question) by Hon. Nelson Okoh:** How does the state intend to solve difficulties associated with accessing portable water especially in the Urban Sector of the State?

**Answer:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Mile Crash water Programme is an effort to boost water supply to Enugu Urban likewise the Procurement and installation of new pumps at Ajali.

**Reaction 4. (Observation and Suggestion) by Nebo Obinna Collins; Secretary National Youth Council of Nigeria:** With the reduction in employment rate due to the COVID-19 Pandemic of which the youths are not left out; specifications as to the amount on the SME projects were not made. He equally suggested that there should be collaboration between the Ministry of Youth and other ministries whose programmes also affect the youths for increased synergy towards continuous youth awareness and development.

**Answer:** In response, the Hon. Commissioner of Budget and Planning stated that the State has programmes for the youths like the STUDENTPRENEUR LOAN, the human capital development loan, YUPEE (Youth Productivity and Economic Empowerment), the Hackathon Programme etc.

**Reaction 5. (Question) Emmanuel Ikechi Obi-** The ₦300 million approved for the renovation of the Stadium is now ₦100 million:

1. Is it possible to still do the renovation since the year is almost up?
2. What is the way forward concerning industries in Enugu State?

**Answer:** Yes, it is possible to do the renovations before the end of the year. There are plans for agricultural value chain projects to process brands such as the Enugu Cashew, Enugu Palm oil, Enugu Garri, Nsukka Yellow Pepper etc as well as linkage of farmers with off-takers.

**Reaction 6. (Question)** A Royal father asked if adequate provision for human capital development has been made and whether up to 80% of the budget can be implemented. He equally expressed excitement on the Efi-Igbo project while requesting for piggery, goat farming and keeping of native fowl to make room for more resources.

**Answer:** In response the Hon. Commissioner for Budget and Planning stated that the State has looked inwards and decided to bring up programmes to help address the issues of Citizens' welfare in terms of human capital development, support to farmers with inputs as well as palliatives to cushion the effect of COVID-19. On budget performance, he noted that as funds are being generated, the Government will work hard towards the realization of the budgetary provisions and in this way, enhanced budget performance will be achieved given fund availability.

**Reaction 7. (Commendation) by Barr. Crownwell Chibuzor- Representative of Civil Society Group:** He in his statement outlined the following as the achievements of the Enugu State Government through the Ministry of Budget and Planning by mere hosting of this event:

1. Enugu State has proven that chapter 2 of the Constitution can be acted upon for involving the people in governance
2. The State has achieved transparency; "No few hands are taking away the gains of governance"
3. The Enugu State Government has gone beyond participation to engagement. Expectations are that there will be room for efficiency in budget allocation leading to operational efficiency.
4. The government will be fiscally disciplined because people have the copies of the budget
5. It will enhance the respect for the government, no more beer parlour discussions but handy printed booklets
6. He finally suggested that the 2021 budget of the State should also be printed just like this has been done.

**Reaction 8. The chairman of Enugu State Council of Traditional Rulers- HRH L.O.C. Agubuzu,** expressed happiness as the Executive Governor carries everybody along in his administration. He equally noted that the Ministry of Budget and Planning is doing an excellent work. According to him, in the past the budget was not thrown open as it is being done today. He further said "with the Royal Fathers and President Generals present, you have undertaken to implement the revised Enugu State budget so you have to work very hard".



#### **Wrap Up:**

The Chairman of the college of Permanent Secretaries in Enugu in the person of our very own Permanent Secretary, **the permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Budget and Planning; Sir. K.C. Ugwu**, did a wrap up of the event. He explained that the essence of the whole presentation is to make government spending transparent, while also clarifying that the amount listed in the Budget document is neither domiciled at Enugu State Government House nor at the Ministry of Budget and Planning. In other words, the cash is not yet handy but shall be generated hopefully, and when that is done, the budget will be implemented diligently.

#### **Setting agenda for 2021 Budget: Also handled by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Budget and Planning.**

The Permanent Secretary stated that the 2021 Budget is already being worked on. However, he expressed hopes that next year will be better than this year while thanking the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Ikechukwu Obi for the good work of trying to bring an end to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**The Woman Leader; Lady Vera Ezeugwu** was not left out as she appreciated the State Government for the involvement of women in governance. She admonished those present at the event to speak good of the government to the people in their different localities.

In the same vein the **Chairman of the Association of President Generals in Enugu State; Hon. Barr. Polly Eze** commended the government, traditional rulers and every one present. He stated that "Our Dear Governor, RT. Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi is the first Governor in the history of Enugu State to recognize communities in project implementation"

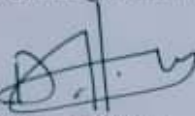
#### **Closing Remarks:**


Delivered by the Hon. Commissioner of the Host Ministry 'The Ministry of Budget and Planning'; Dr. David Okelue Ugwunta. He thanked everyone present and also announced that 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2020 is the date for the commencement of Bilateral Discussions with Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the State Government in the preparation of the 2021 Budget. His concluding words "We will continue to take Enugu State to Greater Heights" attracted a loud cheer and


applaud from all present with a cheering Song from the Women Wing. He promised that Government will continue to engage Citizens in the preparation of the 2021 budget and beyond.


**Closing Prayer:** The Closing Prayer was led by the Hon. Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure; Hon. Greg Nnaji at about 3.00pm.

Compiled by  
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Signed:   
Dr. David O. Ugwunta  
Hon. Commissioner,  
Ministry of Budget and Planning.

Signed:   
HRH Igwe Amb. Lawrence O.C Agubuzu  
Chairman, Enugu State Council of Traditional Ruler.

Signed:   
Sir. K. C. Ugwu  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Budget and Planning.

Signed:   
Barr. Chibuzo Crownwell  
Co-Chairman OGP, CSO.