

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF INTERACTIVE SESSION BETWEEN KEBBI STATE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING ON THE DRAFT 2020 KEBBI STATE BUDGET HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE MINISTRY

## **1.0 Background**

As a follow up to the town hall meeting convened by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, the Kebbi state civil society organizations (CSOs) and Professional bodies held an interactive session with officials of the Ministry, which offered the CSOs additional opportunity to discuss the draft budget in greater details and contribute inputs into the 2020 budget, reflective of yearnings of the people of kebbi state.

## **2.0 Review of 2019 Budget**

The meeting noted with concern that the 2019 Budget performance and implementation was low. Some of the factors responsible includes shortfall in projected revenue, largely occasioned by obsolete laws, lack of proper monitoring, coordination and capacity limitation of revenue collectors; unrealistic Budget and over centralization of approval processes.

## **3.0 Policy Issues**

The meeting focused on the following thematic areas of priority

- A. Optimization of Internally Generated Revenue(IGR)
- B. Education
- C. Health
- D. Agriculture
- E. Environmental
- F. Manpower planning and Development
- G. Housing

In order to improve the 2020 Budget performance, the following recommendations were made:-

1. The State Government to urgently review fines, fees, rates, levies and navigate on untapped sources of revenue to improve the profile of the state IGR and be able to at least service the recurrent expenditure.
2. Rice Mills, such as WACOT, Labana etc and all other Enterprises in the State, including the Lagos-Kebbi Rice, popularly known as "Lake Rice" joint venture, should be made to pay taxes to the State and render corporate social responsibility to hosts communities.

3. Government should set a target of three months within which at least three thousand (3,000) Certificates of Occupancy (C of Os), right of occupancy and related services would be processed and signed by the Governor
4. Strengthen the system of tax collection and empower tax collectors to adequately monitor and enforce collections.
5. The CSOs undertake to complement the efforts of the State Government in creating awareness among the public on citizen's responsibilities as regards payment of taxes.
6. Government to formulate expenditure frame work (short, medium and long term) to enable it set targets and track expenditure in relation to its priority targets and objectives.
7. Ministry of budget and economic planning to institute quarterly implementation plans for MDAs.
8. The state government to improve discretionary expenditure ceiling to MDAs as appropriate and set approval thresholds, based on availability of funds so that not every approved budgetary expenditure is referred to the Chief Executive or the Governor for approval
9. Ministry of budget and CSOs to meet quarterly to discuss budget performance and make recommendations as necessary.
10. Strengthening of Capacity and adequate budgetary provision for relevant works and procurement as a means of developing competency, capacity utilization and cost saving.
11. A Joint manpower plan, involving key Ministries to address the current manpower shortage, particularly in some key areas such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Specialized Engineering fields etc. by upgrading three Secondary Schools - 2 for boys and 1 for Girls to "Special Science Secondary Schools." Deploy very competent teachers, make the admission into SS1 in the Schools highly competitive and guide their choice of courses so that in ten years time we can proudly say that so- so achievements have been recorded in manpower
12. Sponsorship of foreign students for graduate and post graduate both in-service and out service to enable them acquire competencies in areas of need and special services.
13. As a pace-setter, there should be zero tolerance to decayed infrastructure in the state capital especially schools, government should therefore renovate all schools in B/Kebbi the state capital and incrementally to emirate headquarters.
14. Carry out competent tests for all teachers of Basic education level and retain only qualified teachers while non qualified can be deployed to Agricultural sector or other areas where their services may be required
15. Reconstitute (statutory) boards and commissions yet to be in place in order to improve efficiency in funds management and service delivery e.g. SUBE/UBEC, AACOE etc.



16. Recruitment of health care service providers periodically to complement the existing ones
17. There should be provision for employment of indigenous qualified medical personnel who were not under government sponsorship, upon completion of their studies
18. Government should give emphasis on post graduate medical training in both foreign and locally by releasing their yearly registration and other allowances promptly
19. Government to provide the needed requirement for Sir Yahaya Specialist Hospital Birnin Kebbi to commence House Service (housemanship) for medical students. This has the twin advantage of mentorship and service delivery, thereby reducing the manpower gap in the facility.
20. Government to convert the old general hospital Jega to Neuropsychiatric hospital and rehabilitation centre.
21. To strengthen the Kebbi State Manpower Committee to make it more responsive in meeting the challenges of staff replacement
22. As a deliberate policy, Government to encourage local investors by patronizing Albarka Fertilizer and Chemical Company at Bulasa, an indigenous fertilizer plant
23. CSOs noted that despite several directives by the state governor to take responsible ministry to distribute the tractors displayed at KARDA headquarters, the tractors remained exposed to the sun for over 2 years and provision for the payment keeps appearing in the state annual budget creating unnecessary suspicion for either disregarding procurement agreement or financial mismanagement the meeting therefore, urged the responsible ministry to distribute.
24. Enforcement of kebbi state environmental sanitation act and transfer of the committee on environmental sanitation from ministry of land and housing to ministry of environment where it is most relevant.
25. Reviving endangered tree species by setting a target to plant 1m assorted trees such as madaci, tsamiya, d'unya, loda, dorowa, kad'e etc
26. Setting a target to plant 1m neem trees
27. Provision of incentives for the establishment of quick-yielding economic trees plantations such as cashew, eucalyptus etc.
28. Campaign to change household consumption habits to achieve significant reduction in plastic wastes and negative lifestyles that are responsible to many of our health problems.
29. Resumption of National Housing Fund (NHF) deductions for state workers effective Jan 2020 and remittance to Federal Mortgage Bank to facilitate the take-off of the housing estate

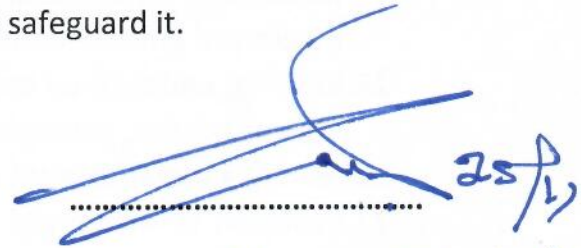
#### 4,0 Inputs into the 2020 budget

The CSOs proposed the input of the following activities, reflective of yearnings of the people of kebbi state

1. Procurement of fire fighting vehicles
2. Procurement of refuse evacuation trucks, mechanical street sweeper, strategic refuse collector bins, on major streets and public places
3. Street and housing numbering
4. Conversion of N300m earmarked for establishing new Schools to upgrading three Special Science Secondary Schools
5. Provision of more funds for teachers' salaries to recruit additional teachers, rural teachers allowances and loans
6. Provision for preliminary expenditure for land preparation and compensation where necessary, to make land available for housing estate under any arrangement government may deemed appropriate
7. Additional provision to sponsor foreign/specialized course for graduates and undergraduates
8. Provision for campaign to change household consumption habits to achieve significant reduction in plastic wastes and the newly acquired negative lifestyle that is inimical to our health

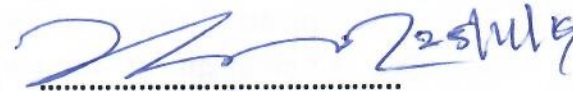
While acknowledging and commending the government for the maiden town hall and subsequent detailed interaction, the CSOs urged government to key into Open Government Partnership (OPG) for transparency, citizen participation in governance and also for the citizens to own up to public infrastructure and safeguard it.

**Usman Abubakar,**  
On behalf of Kebbi Development Forum (KDF)



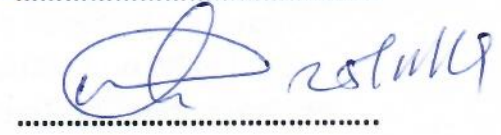
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**Ibrahim A. Ngaski,**  
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**Dr Moh'd Bala Ambursa,**  
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