

MINUTES OF THE 2022 BUDGET CONSULTATIVE FORUM ORGANISED ON THE 24TH AUGUST, 2021 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET MONITORING AND EVALUATION GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AT THE CROSS RIVER GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AGENCY'S CONFERENCE ROOM, CALABAR

1 **ATTENDANCE**

In attendance at the Forum were some members of the State Executive Council, Chairmen of Boards and Commissions, Organised Private Sectors (OPS), Civil Societies Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Traditional Rulers, Representatives of Women Groups, Students, Artisans and Budget Officers of MDAs across the State. See attendance register for details.

2. **OPENING REMARKS**

The Forum was declared opened by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Budget Matters, Mr. Otu Otu-Ita at exactly 10:08 am, after an opening prayers said by Mrs. Nsaha Inyang Eyo. Mr. Otu-Ita then shared an overview of the Approved 2021 Revised Budget that captured a total Expenditure of N281,990,980,230.00 for 2021 Approved Budget, and N240,404,815,286.00 as 2021 Approved Revised showing a variance of N41,586,164,944.00, with the participants. Special provisions in that Revised were also highlighted as follows:

Solar Light:	=	N800,000,000.00
Subvention:	=	N2,800,000,000.00
Pension:	=	N7,800,000,000.00
Rural Roads (RAMP):	=	N450,000,000.00
Pelican Stars Subvention=		N20,000,000.00
Security:	=	N900,000,000.00

With Recurrent: 37.59% and Capital: 62.41%

He thanked the Citizens for their contribution that produced the final outcome of the approved 2021 Budget document still being implemented. On that note he told participants that the 2022 Consultative Forum was organised to enable

the Department of Budget, Monitoring and Evaluation, saddled with the statutory responsibility to prepare Budget for the State, seek Stakeholders inputs, to ensure inclusiveness and evenly spread dividends of democracy. He then charged the citizens to ensure that they make their inputs and contribute sound ideas to enable the Budget Committee comes out with an implementable and realistic Budget come 2022.

3. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Gabriel Ikang, delivered a keynote address on behalf of the Commissioner for Finance Hon. Asuquo Ekpenyong Jnr. That the State Government plan for 2022 budget is to:

- Consolidate on the gains of its previous achievements so as to build on agro-industrialization drive of the state.
- Further address youth restiveness
- Continue its infrastructural development as well as
- Re-engineer the IGR among other issues.

On that note he encouraged all the participants to see the 2022 budget Forum as an opportunity for them to contribute to the development of their dear State.

The Executive Secretary (BTAN), Mr. Kingsley Eworo on behalf of the Civil Society Organisations also addressed participants on the importance of the forum and the need for their inputs. That they inputs would enhance ownership, sustainability of projects, informed citizens confidence in the government and above all form the basis upon which the state government would develop an all-inclusive budget for the development of the state. He urged stakeholders in that forum to take the forum seriously and contribute ideas that are powerful, moving and inspirational for the state government to come up with a workable budget come 2022.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Budget Matters, who could not hide his feelings toward the successful unfolding of events in the forum, called for lunch break and it was duly observed.

The technical session then took the centre stage shortly after the Lunch Break, as MDAs took turn to present their Internal Generated Revenue Receipt and

Expenditure score card from January to June, 2021 to the Committee Members for scrutiny, interaction and adoption. The streaming was conducted by the Director of Planning Research and Statistics, Mr. Patrick Anyandi on behalf of the Chairman, Cross River Internal Revenue Service (CRIRS).

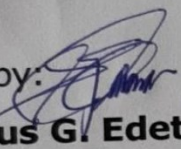
A document of the budget was produced and a Seven Point Communiqué issued by the participants.

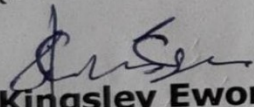
The Forum had a break for a dinner at 5:20pm.

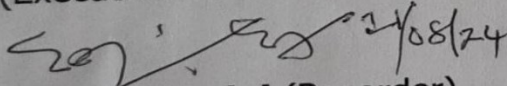
A vote of thanks was said by Engr. David M. Alobi while Pastor Bassey Ekpenyong said the closing prayers.

The Forum rose at 5:50pm.

Signed by:


Sylvanus G. Edet
(Director of Budget)


Kingsley Eworo
(Executive Secretary – BTAN)


I. B. Omini (Recorder)