REPORT OF OSUN STATE AMENDED 2020 COVID-19 RESPONSIVE BUDGET CONSULTATIVE FORUM, HELD ON 2ND JULY, 2020 AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION HALL, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT ABERE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In line with its conscious efforts at sustaining a robust, inclusive and participatory Budget Process, the State Government of Osun through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget (MEP&B) held a day interactive program on the Year 2020 COVID-19 Responsive Budget. This is in line with the World Bank guidelines to States on the State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) Program for Result (PforR) Additional Financing for Disbursement Link Indicator One (DLI 1) on the year 2020 State Amended Budget. This was necessitated by the ravaging effects of COVID-19 pandemic that have adversely affected Crude Oil Price and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the State. These have mandated the State to review its year 2020 Budget downward so as to reveal the true economic realities and cushion the effects of COVID-19 on the citizens.
2.0 The Participants selected across the length and breadths of the State were representatives of:

- Traditional Council
- Religious Leaders
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Market Women Associations,
- Market Men Associations
- Media Groups
- Ministries, Departments & Agencies of Government (MDAs)
- Labour Unions, and
- Other relevant stakeholders.

3.0 Notable participants in attendance included but not limited to:

- Prof. Olalekan Yinusa------------- Hon. Comm. (MEPB&D)
- Hon. Yemi Lawal ------------- Commissioner for Youths and Sports
- Hon Remi Kolajo --- Special Adviser (Budget)
- Hon. Johnson Ojo------Chairman, Ede South Local Government Area
- Chief Awawu Asindemade ------Iyaloja-General (State of Osun)
- Chief Ganiyu Ismaila-------- Babaloja of Ede Land
- Chief Olowoyeye Olawale-------- Babaloja Sabo Irojo Ilesa
• Chief Motunrayo Ogunyemi------Iyalọja-General (Boripe Local Govt.)
• Rev. (Dr.) S.T Bolarinwa------Christian Association of Nigeria (Osun)
• Imam Hadizah Abdul-Azeez---- Imam, Muslim Community (Ile-Ife)
• Mr. Sangoniyi Sangosogo ------Member, Traditional Community, Osun
• Mrs. Oladunmoye Mojirayo Kudirat----- FOMWAN, Osun
• Mr. Michael O. Ebọfin --------- MOWALEK Centre, Osogbo
• Alhaji Yisa Abubakar -------- CDC Chairman, State of Osun
• Mr. Asalaye Edward-------- Organisation for Widow Women
  &Children Education Development, State of Osun
• Mr. Raji Muritala -------- CDC Chairman, Obokun LGA
• Mr. Ibrahim Olayinka------ Federation of Informal Workers Association
  of Nigeria (FIWON)

4.0 OPENING

4.1 The meeting started at exactly 10:50am. This was followed by silent
Prayers by individual participants and recitation of the Osun and the National
anthems.

5.0 Introduction of Participants/Welcome Remark:

5.1 After due diligence on self-introduction was done by all participants,
there was a welcome remark was given by the Special Adviser to the
Governor on Budget. He welcomed all participants to the consultative
program and appreciated them for honouring the invitation despite the threats
being imposed by COVID-19 pandemic. He spoke further by highlighted the
retrogressive effects of the pandemic COVID-19 on the households, the Local and State economies and the Global economies at large. He therefore informed the participants that it is pertinent to review of Year 2020 Budget so as to reveal the economic realities of the State.

6.0 Brief Explanations on the Year 2020 Reviewed COVID-19 Responsive Budget:

6.1 The Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget welcomed the participant to the forum. He informed them that the current administration, under the able leadership of Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola perfectly understood the importance of the citizens’ consultations in the budget process. He spoke further that Budget Consultative Forum has been carried out on yearly basis in the State and its positive effect on the State’s economy cannot be underestimated. This is why Mr. Governor graciously approved the program so as to interact with the citizens and intimate them on finances of the State in relation to the capital composition of the Year 2020 Budget. He explained further that COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the State Internally Generated Revenue and the price of Crude Oil Production at international market which have negatively affected the revenue forecast of the State. This is why the State government considered it worthy to engage citizens and deliberate on key issues with respect to review of year 2020 Budget. The Commissioner therefore informed the participants that the State Government is taking steps among others to ameliorate the present challenges:

(i) Provision of robust health status of all residents through the Osun Health Insurance Scheme (O’HIS)

(ii) Rehabilitation of 332 Primary Health Care Facilities across the State
(iii) Aggressive turn-around in the Agricultural Sector in order to ensure food security in the State

(iv) Steady improvement in Small/Medium Scale Businesses so as to empower the active segment of the population.

6.3 In his concluding remarks, he charged the participants to ask relevant questions and feel free to give their candid opinions. He therefore assured them that State Government will give a transparent report to the public expenditure on COVID-19 Pandemic.

7.0. Question and Answer on Year 2020 Reviewed COVID-19 Responsive Budget:

7.1 A number of participants consisting members of CDCs, NGOs, CSOs, Muslim and Christian Communities, Market Women and Men Associations appreciated the State Government for the wonderful opportunity given to them to always make inputs the State’s Budget Process. They jointly described the program as a right step in the right direction as it will enable the state government to embark on project and programmes that are critical to the citizens in line with limited available resources.

7.2 After asking some questions where grey areas were cleared by the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, the participants, therefore recommended some measures that can ameliorate post COVID-19 economic crises as follow:

➢ The State Government should intensify efforts on the operation and administration of Primary Health Care Services to impact on the grassroot by way of effective dispensing of drugs, deploying sufficient health personnel and renovation of all health facilities across the State.
The State Government should intensify efforts on Agricultural so as to improve the Internally Generated Revenue.

Government is expected to improve on provision of rural access roads in order to allow easy movement of Agricultural Produce from rural areas to urban centres.

The State Government should give special consideration to physically challenged persons in terms of COVID-19 palliative distribution and offer of gainful employment.

There should be proper monitoring of State-wide Health Facilities to justify government investment in the Health Sector and also curb the excesses of health practitioners.

While the COVID-19 pandemic lasts, effective preventive measures should be introduced in schools at all levels in the wake of school resumption.

The State Government should give special attention to Storage Facilities for agriculture production in order to guarantee food security.

The State Government should introduce Agricultural Incentives to serve as a pull-factor to private investors in Agriculture.

The State Government should prioritize payment of Salaries and Pensions.

The State Government should encourage Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach to resuscitate the cocoa processing industry at Ede.

The State Government should privatize Osun State Water Corporation in order to improve its efficiency and boost the inflow of revenue.

Government should step up efforts to improve rural access roads so as to improve rural economies.
Government should ensure effective monitoring and keep proper records of all the Social Investment Intervention Programmes in the State. E.g. Cash Transfer Program to the vulnerable.

The State Government should establish a specific Program to empower women so as to serve as a buffer to the household economy.

8.0 General Comments:

8.1 The participants noted that the government has not relented in its continual efforts to provide basic social amenities, but they generally acknowledged that the outbreak COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the full implementation of the year 2020 budget especially in the area of Capital Project execution.

8.2 The Civil Society Organization (CSOs) declared their intention to support the State Government to block revenue leakages so as to improve the State Internally Generated Revenue.

8.3 In his response, the State Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Hon. Yemi Lawal explained that State Government has been rendering laudable financial support to physically challenged persons across the to make life more meaningful to them.

8.4 The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mrs. Adebimpe Ogunlumade charged the participants to support the State Government in monitoring Government Projects in their domains so that Government can quickly intervene when needs arise. She therefore implored the stakeholders to continue supporting Government in its IGR drive by sensitizing people on the need to pay their taxes and levies regularly, adding that everyone has roles to play in securing a brighter and sustainable future for the State.
In the same vein, the Iyaloja General, Alhaja Asindemade appealed for the enlistment of the State Security Service to monitor and checkmate the unproductive attitudes of some Public Servants especially in the Health Sector in order to boost service delivery.

9.0. Votes of Thanks/Closing Remarks/Closing Prayer

9.1. The votes of thanks and closing remark were delivered by the Coordinating Director (MEP&B), Mr. Kunle Akinola at 1.00 pm. This was followed by signing of the report by representatives of the invited stakeholders.
(E) Other Dignitaries:

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