

## **MINUTES OF THE CITIZENS' DIALOGUE – PHONE-IN-PROGRAMME FOR THE REVIEW OF YOBE STATE 2020 APPROVED BUDGET, HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 AT YOBE BROADCASTING CORPORATION DAMATURU.**

### **Preamble**

It has been the tradition in recent years for Yobe State Government to seek for inputs from its citizens prior to the preparation of the annual budget of the State. This is done by organising an annual stakeholders budget dialogue in partnership with Civil Society Organisations which provides citizens with the opportunity to interface with various stakeholder. It also accords the state government the opportunity of collecting citizens' needs for it to tailor its policies in accordance with those needs.

The review of the state annual budges just like that of the federal government, became necessary due to the economic downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consulting the citizen to have their input before reviewing the 2020 approved budget, live phone-in-programme was the only option since the national guideline on the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 forbids the gathering of more than 20 people in a place.

Senior government officials, the likes of Secretary to the State Government, Chairman House Committee on Finance and Appropriation, Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Budget, Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Finance, the Permanent Secretaries of Budget and that of Finance, various Directors from Budget and Finance and officials of the Yobe State Network for Civil Society Organisation were present at the radio phone-in-programme.

### **Opening Remarks**

In his opening remarks, the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Baba Malam Wali mni, told listeners that government will prioritise its projects that have direct bearing on the lives of the citizens. He said government would concentrate on completing ongoing projects and only essential new ones would be considered.

According to him, some of the projects that will be completed includes the following:

- i. Construction of four isolation centres at Damaturu, Potiskum, Gasua and Nguru;
- ii. Renovation and upgrading of 80 Primary Healthcare centres across the State;
- iii. Completion of International Cargo Airport;
- iv. The construction of Housing Estate across the State;
- v. Construction of Gujba-Ngalda road project.

“The report of the committee on the revitalisation of water facilities in the state would also be implemented”he added.

In his contribution, the Chairman House Committee on Finance and Appropriation, Honourable Chiroma Buba Mashio also informed the listeners that Yobe State House of Assembly has always considered the role of citizens in carry out its function and that, the review of the budget will not be an exception.

### **Responses & Feedbacks**

Responding to a call by a listener as to whether the state budget could be easily accessed by the general public, the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Budget told listeners that the state budget reports of the quarterly performance of the budget and the citizens guide to understanding the budget could be access both on hard and soft copy in the Ministry of Budget and online at [www.budget.pfm.yb.gov.ng](http://www.budget.pfm.yb.gov.ng) .

In his contribution, the Executive Director of the Network of Yobe Civil Society Organisations, Alhaji Baba Shehu called on the citizens to be law abiding and make good use of the opportunities such as this provided by the government to present their needs for inclusion into the revised budget. He also called on the government to as a matter of policy, ensure that every policy or programme of government is formulated with sufficient contribution from citizens. He further added that it is only when priorities of the citizens are considered that a policy or programme of government will achieve the desired objective.

Lastly, the Secretary to the State Government said His Excellency, the Executive Governor of the State, Alhaji Mai Mala Buni has plans to attend the phone-in-programme but was away on national assignment.

### **Citizens' Requests**

Below were some of the request made by citizens:

- i. Construction of additional classrooms and recruitment of more teachers in Garin Lamido (Kabala ward Gashua);
- ii. Provision of electricity and water supply at Kabala (Garin Lamido);
- iii. Establishment of GGSS at Gashua;
- iv. Provision of portable water, electricity and construction of additional classroom in some Primary Schools at Gwio-Kura;
- v. Rehabilitation of Girls Unity College Nguru;
- vi. Rehabilitation of GSS Yusufari;
- vii. Rehabilitation of Best Centres in Potiskum, Nguru and Gashua;

- viii. Road construction at Murza village to link it to main Nguru road;
- ix. Rehabilitation of the 3 available boreholes in Dagona village;
- x. Construction of drainage in Geidam to reduce flood;
- xi. Construction of additional blocks of classrooms at Arikime Primary School, Potiskum;
- xii. Rehabilitation of Tikau-Jajere road.

### **Virtual Meeting**

Follow-up to the stakeholders' engagement (radio-phone-in-program) on the review of 2020 budget organized by the State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, the Network of Yobe Civil Society Organizations organized a virtual meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July with technical stakeholders. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- i. Identify policy directions in the review of the budget, for the citizens to key-in
- ii. Prioritize the citizen needs for inclusion in the review of the budget
- iii. Ensure that citizens' critical needs are included in the review.

The meeting was attended by Hon. Commissioner MoBEP, Permanent Secretary MoBEP, Hon. Chairman Yobe State House of Assembly committee on finance and Appropriation, Accountant General Yobe State, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance, Directors Planning, Statistics and Budget MoBEP, Chairman Advocacy Partners on Budget and 30 other stakeholders.

The Hon Chairman Yobe State House of assembly committee on finance and appropriation in his opening remarks assured participants that all critical citizens' input will be captured during the review of the 2020 budget. Community clusters from Bade, Geidam, Potiskum, Nguru and Damaturu LGAs make submissions on priority needs of different communities in their LGAs on Healthcare, education, water and infrastructures.

Acting Director Planning, Ministry of Budget and economic planning (MoBEP) call on the members of civil society organizations and the general public to understand that the review of the budget is only for the period of six months (July - December) therefore all submission should be mindful of the timeframe and resource position. CSOs, he said can contribute a lot and urged them to partner with the state government in tracking the implementation of the budget as well as raise voice to generate more revenue as the state is over dependent on the federal allocation

The Head of Health and Nutrition of the Network Yobe civil society organizations, raised concerns on the way and manner the state government is handling the mobilization and utilization of resources in response to covid19. Yobe state government he said has sort donation from citizens and international communities in its response to COVID-19, provided account number and a lot has been contributed to the course. But there is no formal communication with regard to total amount generated and how it is being utilized.

**The Accountant General of the State** in his response, assured that plans are in the pipeline to published all COVID-19 donations, including amount receives from donors, how it is being utilized and that the report will be prepared by the office of the accountant general in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of the 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2021 respectively.

### Closing Remarks

In his closing remark, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance commended the effort of the organisers, Network for Civil Society Organisation Yobe State for organising the citizens to make their inputs in the policies of government, which will invariably make up the budget of the State Government adding that *“this is very good initiative and will go a long way in improving our budgetary system in the state”* he therefore urged the citizen groups to keep it up, stressing that *“Should there be any input that will help improve our system, do not hesitate to approach us”*.



**L-R,** Exec. Director NYCSO, Baba Shehu, SSG, Baba Malam Wali mni, General Manager, YBC, Chairman, House Committee on Finance & Appropriation, Hon. Chiroma Buba Mashio, Hon. Commissioner Ministry of Budget, Alh. Muhammad Garba Gagiyo, Secretary, NYCSO Muhammad Baba Kucici, and Perm. Sec. Ministry of Budget, Babaji D. Galadima FCE during the Radio Phone-in-Programme at Yobe Broadcasting Corporation, Damaturu



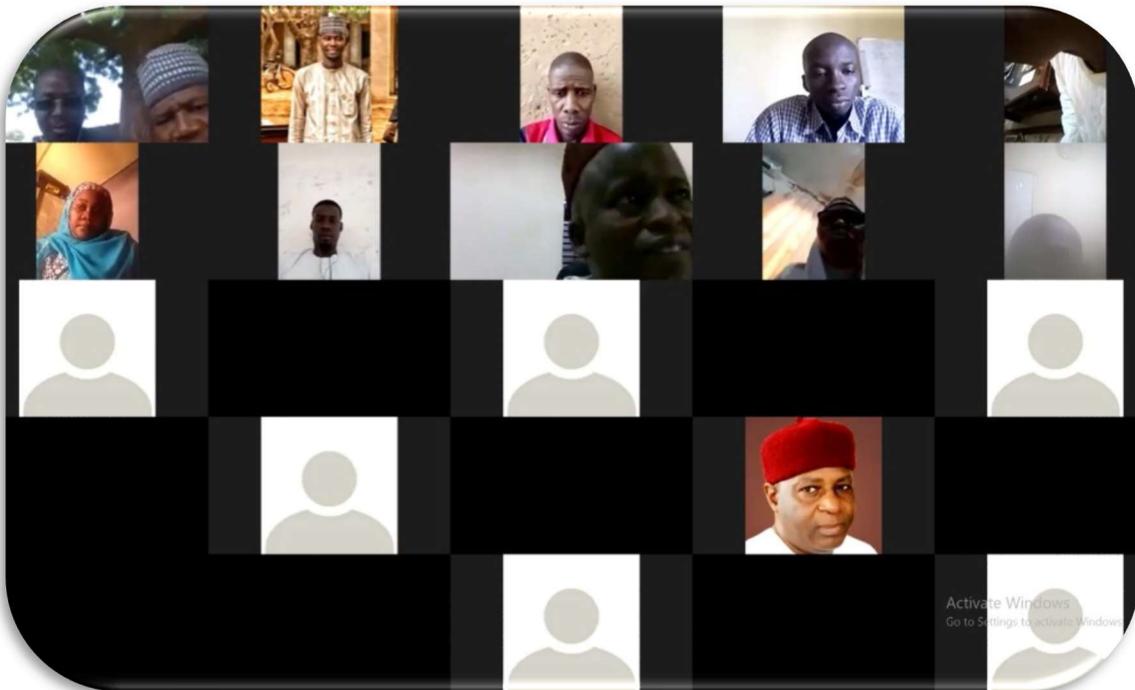
L-R, SSG, Baba Malam Wali mni, Perm. Sec. Budget, Babaji D. Galadima, Chairman House C'ttee on Finance & Appropriation, Hon. Chiroma Buba Mashio, Chairman, Advocacy Partners on Budget, Muhammad Baba Kucici and Hon. Commissioner for Budget, Alh. Garba Muhammad Gagiyo listening to a question by the citizen during the phone-in-programme at YBC, Damaturu



Secretary to the State Government, Baba Malam Wali mni, responding to a call by citizen



Cross-section of the participant during the phone-in-programme on the review of 2020 budget



Screen-short of the virtual meeting organised by Yobe CSOs on the Review of 2020 Approved Budget, with the Perm. Sec. MoF in attendance, wearing a red cap.

REPS CSOs

Name: MUHAMMAD BABA KUCICI

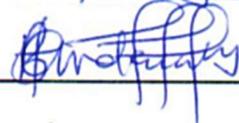
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Sign/Date: 

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Name: MUAZU ACHAJI MOBY

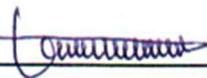
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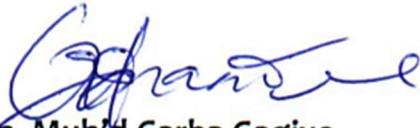
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Hon. Muh'd Garba Gagiyo  
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