

IMO STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



PARTICIPATORY OPEN BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS FORUM
FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2022 IMO STATE BUDGET.

“BUDGET OF WEALTH CREATION 2”

“IMO STATE SHARE PROSPERITY”

PRODUCED BY
MINISTRY OF BUDGET, ECONOMIC,
PLANNING AND STATISTICS

**A WELCOME ADDRESS PRESENTED BY RT. HON. DR. C.C. OSUALA,
(PH.D) HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER, MINISTRY OF BUDGET,
ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS DURING THE
PARTICIPATORY OPEN BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS FORUM FOR THE
PREPARATION OF THE 2022 IMO STATE CITIZENS BUDGET.**

Venue: Conference Hall, Ministry of Budget, Economic Planning and Statistics, Owerri.

Date: Thursday 12th November, 2021.

PROTOCOL

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome your Royal Highness (Ndi-Eze), President Generals of various Town Unions, Honourable Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, Directors from various MDAs, Civil Society organizations (CSO's), Women and Youth Leaders, People with Special Needs and other distinguished guests to this all important 2022 Budget Stakeholders Forum organized by the Ministry of Budget, Economic Planning and Statistics.

This meeting which is the 2nd in the series since the assumption of office of the present Administration under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Hope Uzodimma, the Executive Governor of Imo State is aimed at involving the people of Imo State in the articulation/preparation of the Imo State Annual Budget and capturing their needs in the budget for implementation in 2022.

To this end, the Ministry adopted the Open Governance and Participatory approach (also known as Citizens Engagement in the budget process) as an important strategy towards the achievement of the **"3R" (Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Recovery)** Mantra under the **Imo Shared prosperity Agenda** of His Excellency, the Governor.

Open Budget is a modern way of budgeting which encourages the active participation of the Citizens and other Stakeholders in the budget process.

The System allows for accountability, transparency, ownership, commitment and sustainability in the implementation of Programme/Projects by the State Government.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS:

Permit me to highlight some of the modest achievements recorded by this Ministry since the inception of the present Administration:

- (i) Ensured transparency in budgeting and Keyed into the budgetary transparency of the World Bank through the State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and sustainability (SFTAS) Programme. Imo State is occupying the Number 3 position in budgetary transparency after assessment by the World Bank.
- (ii) Attraction of \$7.5 million (US) Dollars into the State sequel to meeting the World Bank/SFTAS Standards/guidelines, thereby increasing Revenue Generation.
- (iii) Review of Imo State 2020 Budget to be COVID 19 complaint.
- (iv) Publication of Imo State Citizens budget and translating it to Igbo language, thereby making it easy for everyone to read and understand.
- (v) Preparation and submission of quarterly performance reports which attracted \$150 million (US) Dollars to Imo State recently; among others.

3. As major stakeholders/ grass root leaders, I urge you to ensure that the needs of your people in the various communities are properly assessed for inclusion in the budget. I also urge you to continue to support the State Governor in his effort to provide infrastructural facilities and ensure adequate security of our people in both urban and rural areas of Imo State.

On our part, the ministry will continue to work hard to generate more revenue for the State by meeting the Delivery Linked Indicators (DLI) And Delivery Linked Results (DLR) and other SFTAS/ World Bank standards.

As major stakeholders, your contributions at this participatory citizens Budget stakeholders forum cannot be over emphasized.

The principle of **Imo State Shared prosperity Agenda** of His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Hope Uzodimma, the Executive Governor of Imo State also require **Shared Responsibility** to succeed.

Therefore, **ALL HANDS MUST BE ON DECK.**

On that note, I wish you fruitful deliberations as I declare this 2022 Budget stakeholders forum open.

Thank you and God bless you.



Rt. Hon. Dr. C.C. Osuala (Ph.D.)
Hon. Commissioner
Ministry of Budaet. Economic Plannina

OPENING REMARK BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF BUDGET, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS REV. R.O UDEH DURING THE 2022 BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON OPEN BUDGET/CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET PREPARATION ON THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021.

The Hon. Commissioner MBEPS
THE 2022 State Budget Committee Members
Directors of MBEPS
"Ndi Eze"
President Generals
Civil Society Organization (CSO)
Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
Faith Based Organization (FBOs)
Open Government Partnership (OGP)
Interim Management Committee Chairmen
The Physically Challenged/ People with special Abilities
Leaders of Women and Youth Wings from the 3 Senatorial Zones
Gentle men of the Press.
It is with great pleasure I welcome you to this unique event.

Open Budget is one of the methods of budgeting that involves active participation and engagement of all stakeholders and citizenry in the budget process which leads to the final production and implementation of the Annual Budget of a country, state, local Government or region. The stakeholders here include: Government officials from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); Private Sector Organizations (PSOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); Non governmental Organizations (NGOs) Ndi Eze/Traditional rulers Town Union presidents, Leaders of men and women groups, Youth groups, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Religious Leaders and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs); Social Organizations, Development Partners, Donor Agencies, human Right groups etc.

The involvement and active participation of the above stakeholders at every stage of the budget process which begins with conduct of needs assessment of the people, Articulation of their various needs which transforms into activities/projects; preparation of the budget; deliberations on the budget and enactment into law by the State House of Assembly; signing of the budget into law by the Executive Governor; and implementation of the projects/programmes contained in the budget by MDAs; cannot be over-emphasized.

The open budget system is highly recommended by the international community/donors as one of the best practices of any developing economy such as Nigeria.

Open budget encourages transparency, accountability, commitment, reliability, ownership, Monitoring and Evaluation of projects/budget implementation, Feed-back mechanism, integrity and sustainability of the entire budget process as well as enhance increased project/programme implementation and service delivery to achieve desired results in line with the shared prosperity 3R Mantra of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery of the State Government under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency, Dist. Senator Hope Uzodimma, the Executive Governor of Imo State. Donors such as the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, DFID, World Bank, EU, CIDA, USAID, etc. encouraged the Open budget system to ensure Transparency and Accountability as well as increased collaboration/partnership with the State Government in the implementation of both Government and donor supported projects and programmes in Imo State.

The budgeting process in Imo State is kick started each year with a call circular which highlights the cardinal objectives of the proposed budget and the specific areas or sectors of focus.

Call circular to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's)
Stake holder meetings on the budget
Pre-budget briefing of heads of PRS Departments/Mid-year budget review
Budget bilateral Discussion with MDA's
Preparation/production of Draft budget
Submission of Draft budget to State Executive Council (EXCO) for review/input
Preparation of budget

Budget presentation to the State House of Assembly by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Imo State.
Consideration and passage of the Appropriation Bill into law by the House of Assembly.
Submission of the Appropriation Law to His Excellency for his assent.

You may wish to recall that this Administration is guided by rule of Law, transparency, accountability and participatory Governance anchored on the 3R mantra.

I urge you to make your contributions so as to move our dear State forward.

Your inputs will be geared towards grass root development to make Imo better and greater.
Thank you and God bless you.



Rev. R.O Udeh
Permanent Secretary.



Dr. (Mrs.) Jane Chukwukkere
Executive Director
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)



Deputy Coordination CS-SNN
Dr Rose Adiukwu



Barr. Madukaji Canice
President General Imo State



Emereibe Ifeoma
Executive Director Person with Disability

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR BUDGET BRIEFING WITH MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs) HELD ON THE 26TH JULY, 2021 AT THE MINISTRY'S CONFERENCE HALL OF MINISTRY OF BUDGET, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS (MBEPS).

Attendance: Seventy one (71) persons representing various MDAs attended the meeting (see attached list).

Opening prayer: the meeting started with opening prayer said by Mr. George Amakihe, the Director of Development Aid Department at exactly 1:30pm.

Introduction: The PRO of the MBEPS took time to introduce the Hon. Commissioner for MBEPS, RT. Hon. Dr. C.C. Osuala PhD who doubled as the Chairman of the Budget Briefing meeting; the Permanent Secretary- Rev. Reginald Udeh, the Director Macro Planning – Prince Chibuzo, B Obinna; the Director Development Aid Department – Mr. George Amakihe; HOD Administration and finance; HOD Recurrent Budget Department and HOD Accounts Department. This was followed with personal introduction of those in the meeting and the MDAs they represented.

Opening Remarks: The Permanent Secretary was grateful on the number of those who attended the briefing and expressed that the MBEPS under the leadership of the Hon. Commissioner RT.Hon. Dr. C.C. Osuala PhD has worked hard with the staff of the ministry and all DPRS offices in the MDAs to achieve success in the production of the 2021 approved Budget which attracted for the state \$7.5million grant.

The strict adherence to the IPSAS/NCOA process of budget preparation brought Imo State to one of the best three states in Nigeria that have implemented budget transparency. Further, he said that budget is no longer an annual ritual but a serious issue that demands transparency as it is published for the world to access and confirm. Budget should be all inclusive in the preparation hence the women, youth, vulnerable groups and people with special abilities should not be left out. Any MDA that finds it difficult to relate with its primary constituents should not hesitate to report to the MBEPS for assistance where they will be linked to Civil Society Organization that will help them.

Issues on Brief raised by Honourable Commissioner:

- ❖ The Honourable Commissioner informed members that the target for the 2022 Budget preparation process is to attract \$18 million dollars into the state.
- ❖ The Medium Term Budget Framework shall be incorporated into 2022 Budget preparation.
- ❖ All MDAs should think deep and come up with ideas that will attract/generate funds for the state, to improve the Internally Generated Revenue base.
- ❖ The guidelines/template of the call circular for 2022 Budget preparation were read and clarified for members.
- ❖ The preparation of budget should be given all the seriousness it deserves by Heads of MDAs and strictly follow the guidelines otherwise they will not be accepted during bilateral discussion.
- ❖ DPRS that have no offices to operate in the MDAs should report to MBPS for urgent action.
- ❖ The 2022 budget preparation shall be under four (4) thematic sectors namely- Economic sector, Social sector, Administrative sector and; law and justice sector.
- ❖ Nominal Roll should strictly follow the template given by MBEPS and those dates of retirement should be in line with Government White Paper. All those due for retirement in 2021 should not appear in 2022 Nominal Roll.
- ❖ MDAs with Cares projects should endeavour to fully capture same in their submission in other not to deny the state from getting what is allotted to it.
- ❖ Finally, the list of five critical capital projects of the MDAs should be provided in their submission.

Closing: The meeting was wrapped up with a closing prayer said by the Permanent Secretary- Rev. Reginald Udeh after vote of thanks was given by Mr. Felix Ugoh (IMHA) at exactly 3:30pm.

MINUTES OF MEETING BETWEEN MINISTRY OF BUDGET, ECONOMIC PLANNING & STATISTICS (MBEPS) AND THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF BLOCK 6 STATE SECRETARIAT COMPLEX ON 13TH AUGUST, 2021.

Attendance: Nine members from the Ministry which included Hon. Commissioner, Perm Sec, Directors and subordinate staff and eight leaders of the Physically Challenged from the various Associations across the state were in attendance. (See the attached list). The Hon. Commissioner left the meeting after introduction for another crucial meeting at Government House urging members to take the meeting serious; asked the Permanent Secretary to preside the meeting on his behalf.

Opening prayer: the meeting began with an opening prayer said by the Permanent Secretary MBEPS – Rev. Reginald Udeh at 2.00pm prompt.

Remarks: The Permanent Secretary on behalf of the Hon. Commissioner MBEPS RT. Hon. Dr. C.C. Osuala PhD thanked the leadership of the physically challenged for attending the meeting. Further, he admonished them that the meeting is a sensitization one and a wakeup call for the physically challenged to rise and take up their place in advancing issues concerning them in different sectors so that it could be captured in the state Budget. Time has gone when people assign projects and programmes on behalf of the physically challenged. The Governor of Imo State has stated categorically that the physically challenged should make verifiable impact into the State Budget in areas that concerns them since we are now practicing Open Participatory Budget System.

Presentation of Kola: The Permanent Secretary concluded his opening remarks by presenting kola nuts in show of traditional hospitality of welcoming guests which were blessed, broken, and eaten.

Responses from Representatives of the physically challenged: The Special Adviser to the Governor on Special Citizens – Dr. Samuelson Emelike expressed happiness on how the present Government shows concern about the plight of the physically challenged. First by appointing two of their own into his cabinet and now directing that they should be involved in budgeting for 2022 on issues concerning them. In addition, Hon. Bright Uzoma said that this opportunity the Governor has

given them is just and that they will make judicious use of it, in the betterment of their Community.

Issues of importance:

- ❖ People or persons with Special needs should reach out to their colleagues from other States to know how they handle their appropriation issues.
- ❖ **Mr. Amakihe George (DAD)** enjoins them to look for opportunities which come under UN, World Bank etc that render help in the area of Health care, Education etc to the vulnerable and collect their templates, prepare their Budget and submit, on time.
- ❖ **Prince Chibuzo, B. Obinna** informed them of the need to liaise with different MDAs to find out areas they cover and submit their needs through those Agencies for capture in the 2022 Budget.

Vote of thanks: The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Sanitation and Hygiene Dr. Okeoma Godson who is also the leader of the physically challenged to the meeting was full of gratitude to the Governor for the wonderful opportunity granted them. He thanked MBEPS for their efforts towards ensuring that people with special abilities are captured in the State Budget.

Closing Remark: The Permanent Secretary **Rev. Reginald Udeh** encouraged the group to be gender sensitive in all their submissions and activities. The meeting rose with his prayer at 4.30pm.

2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The crash in global oil prices since January, 2020 to 2021 coupled with the emergence of the novel covid-19 pandemic and Security Challenges in the State has ravaged the entire global economy into jeopardy.

Imo state did not relent in its effort to meet the yearnings and aspirations of citizens by way of boosting the state economic base and improve the macroeconomic outlook.

2022 BUDGET PROJECTIONS

Year	Descriptions	Amount in=₦
2022	Recurrent Revenue Projections	₦142,855,407,202
2022	Recurrent Expenditure Estimates	₦81,303,102,674
2022	Capital Expenditure Estimates	₦284,416,597,902
2022	Capital Receipt	₦238,607,540,474
<u>SECTORAL CAPITAL ALLOCATION</u>		
2022	General Administration Sector:	₦71,697,638,953
2022	Economic Sector:	₦142,034,052,933
2022	Economic Sector:	₦55,757,500,000
2022	Law and justice sector:	₦6,428,292,100
2022	GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	₦8,499,113,916

	<p>Chike Okafor Extols Graduating Students Of Mountain Crest Schools For Excellence <i>...Commends Is Wife-Proprietress on Her Passion For Children</i></p>	<p>We need to hear from Governor Uzodimma urgently, says America based Imolito</p>	<p>Orwa Nwere Weighs Ngor Okpala Youths are happy with Gov Hope Uzodimma - Comr. Paul Madugba. Thank you for empowering our youths. We are solidly behind you Sir. Comr. Emma Agbakwuru. Thank you our Governor.</p>   <p>POWERED BY: NSPO</p>
<p>The BIG TRUTH NEWSPAPER WWW.thetruthnews.org</p>			
<p>ISSN: 2545 - 5095 Vol. 6 No. 88 MONDAY 2 AUGUST 2021 N150</p>			

	<p>Imo APC Congress: Deputy Speaker Amara Iwuanyanwu Commends Uzodimma, Party Leadership For A Successful Congress <i>Describes it as a sign that Uzodimma leadership of APC in the state is progressive</i></p>
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<p>Next Year Imo Budget in Focus: 2022 Imo Budget will promote Prosperity – Dr. Osuala <i>Says the objective is to promote sustainable economic development and prosperity in the State.</i></p>	
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<p>Police Kill 2 Bandits In Njaba</p>	<p>Oru East IMC Chairman Nyerere Commends Uzodimma For Ensuring A Peaceful Congress In Oru East</p>	<p>Hushpuppi saga: No formal report on Abba Kyari with us, says PSC</p>
<p>Group Charges Imo Leaders On Killings</p>		

Imo APC Congress: Deputy Speaker Amara Iwuanyanwu Commends Uzodimma, party Leadership For A Successful Congress

... Describes It as a sign that Uzodimma leadership of APC in the state is progressive

The deputy Speaker of Imo state House of Assembly Rt Hon Amara Iwuanyanwu has commended the Governor of Imo state Sen Hope Uzodimma, the Chairman of the Party Chief Marcon Niemigbo and the leadership of the APC in Imo state for what he described as a successful ward party congress on Saturday describing it as a turning point in the political

emancipation of the state and also a sign that Governor Uzodimma's leadership of the party in the state is progressive.

Rt Hon Iwuanyanwu stated this yesterday in a release he issued, a copy of which was made available to the Big Truth. He expressed satisfaction with the leadership style of the Governor noting that never

in the history of the state has the state witnessed such a peaceful congress by any political party.

He however said that with the peaceful congress, APC has made everybody to know that it is a party to beat in any election arguing that no party in the state is as strong and focused as APC under the leadership of Governor Uzodimma. He stressed that

the peaceful and successful ward congress has set the tune for a peaceful forth coming LGA and state congress.

He also congratulated all APC faithful for remaining steadfast and going about the congress in a peaceful manner insisting that all APC believers in the state are the real winners.

Next Year Imo Budget in Focus: 2022 Imo Budget will promote Prosperity – Dr. Osuala

... Says the objective is to promote sustainable economic development and prosperity in the State.

The Commissioner for Budget, Economic Planning and Statistics, Rt. Hon Christopher C. Osuala PhD has stated that the objective of the 2022 Imo Budget was to satisfy the desires of the good people of Imo State, promote sustainable economic development and prosperity in the State.

Dr. Osuala made this known in his office during the 2022 Pre-Budget Briefing with Directors/Heads of Departments of Planning, Research & Statistics and Accounts in all Ministries, Departments and Parastatals.

He said the preparation of the 2022 Imo Budget would be in line with the Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery objectives of the Shared Prosperity Government led by His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Hope Uzodimma.

In his words, "your proposals need to align with the policy of "3RS" Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery in order to promote shared prosperity in Imo State. You would also reflect the priority which government has placed on employment

revenue. "I urge the MDAs not to come as parasites by presenting only estimates, but rather be creative and innovative on how revenue can be generated to handle the estimates. We have gone outside the schedule of duty; we focus on generating money for the State government." He maintained.

The Budget, Economic Planning and Statistics Boss charged the participants to follow the given Guidelines and demonstrate how budgetary proposals would support Job Creation, Industrialization, Poverty Alleviation, Women and Youth Empowerment as well as encourage Public Private Partnership and Direct Service Delivery to the citizens of Imo State.

He disclosed plans to hold a training

programme for the Budget Team soon while he wished them useful deliberations that would bring Imo State to the 1st position in 2022 Budget Presentation at the national level.

Earlier in his remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Rev. Reginald Udeh described Commissioner Osuala as a team player who through his experience and leadership prowess made the workforce of the Ministry to make remarkable feat in the 2021 Imo Budget.

Rev. Udeh explained that the preparation of the 2022 Imo Budget will not be ritual but a realistic activity that will meet the World Bank standard with timely submission so that Imo State could qualify for grants from both the Federal Account and the World Bank.

He used the occasion to

call for open government partnership from Non-Governmental organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, the Physically Challenged, etc to make input on verifiable priority projects, programmes and activities into the 2022 Budget which would be transparent, open and evidence based.

In a Vote of Thanks, the Director of Planning, Research and Statistics in Imo House of Assembly, Dr. Felix Ugo, thanked the Commissioner for his open door policy which has helped them contribute their ideas on the way forward.

He said that the proposed training was apt as it would boost their capacity in budget preparation.

Group Charges Imo Leaders On Killings

Following spate of heinous beheading of people in Orlu environs of Imo State, the Ohanaeze Youth Council (OYC) has charged traditional rulers and president generals of communities to comb forests

in the land.

The youth pan Igbo sociocultural group lamented that gruesome killings had defiled Igbo land, warning that it would bring curses on the next generation because Nifata

manhood on one, and another at "Okporo Orlu where one Felix Okechukwu from Okporo and Berechukwu Udemba from Ududu village were beheaded and thereafter

Proper budgeting, secret of Uzodimma's success story so far - **C.C. Osuala**

▶ Pg2



C.C. Osuala

Personality of the week

Law Osondu (Ugo Mbaise)

- down-to-earth patriot, pathfinder, humility personified

▶ PG10



Law Osondu

Environmental sanitation: Owerri North should wake up - opinion poll

▶ Pg2

2021 August meeting: God will surely bless Imo women

- Hon Edna Okorie

▶ PG3



Edna

No government can succeed without civil servants

- Njoku

▶ Pg5



Njoku

Biafra agitation: Declare national prayer day, not sit-at-home

- Prelate advises IPOB

▶ Pg2



Bishop Enyicho

News

Proper budgeting, secret of Uzodimma's success story

- C. C Osuala

Human and financial resources management guru, Rt. Hon. Dr. Christopher Osuala has attributed the giant strides so far made by Imo state governor,

Senator Hope Uzodimma in all sectors of the economy to proper budgeting guided by acute vision and unbridled commitment to bettering the lot of Imo people.

Representatives and presently, Imo state commissioner for budget, economic planning and statistics in a chat with National Voice in Owerri, Imo state capital, recalled that Governor Hope Uzodimma at the inception of his administration in January, 2020, inherited a

fragile economy riddled with unpaid salary and pension arrears, infrastructural decay, empty factories and frustrated workforce. Commissioner C. C. Osuala also pointed out that the Uzodimma administration which came on board in the midst of the 'deadly global

Covid-19 pandemic had the problem of huge debts to contractors to contend with.

"The governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma being a courageous business man, had no option than to confront the reality on ground head on, for Imo to move on. The only way the governor could move Imo state forward was through judicious application of available resources and that called for proper budgeting.

Today, we have a new Imo run on proper budgeting. This is why every Imo indigene should commend Governor Hope Uzodimma for his wonderful achievements in all sectors so

far", the Imo state budget, economic planning and statistics commissioner stated.

He stressed that sincere and well-meaning Nigerians and external institutions, including the world bank who were aware of the sorry-state of affairs in Imo prior to the Uzodimma administration have continued to commend the governor for his vision, courage, patriotic disposition and sense of duty.

C. C. Osuala maintained that without proper budgeting and Governor Uzodimma's determination to turn around the dwindling fortunes of Imo, the state would have gone down the drain irrevocably.

Eze Emma Madu salutes Uzodimma for giant strides, sues for peace, unity in community

Ezizgaragu Autonomous Community, Aboh Mbaise Local Government Area, HRH, Eze Ezinna Emmanuel Madu, Ezigu II of Ezizgaragu has doffed his hat for Governor Hope Uzodimma for because of the giant strides he has recorded since assuming office.

Eze Madu, who made his known on Sunday in his palace, while receiving in audience members of the Omenengi, Age Grade of Umugaragu, who paid him a solidarity visit during the Inji Mbaise Festival, pointed out that since assuming office, Imo State has literally turned a huge construction site with quality roads across the State, in Owerri, for instance, hold

up is longer experience as a result of his widening the roads, construction of roundabouts with functional traffic lights.

He urged his people to continue to imbibe the culture of peace and unity for them to forge ahead in repositioning the community. He described the new Yam Festival as a cultural heritage that must be sustained.

Earlier in his speech, the chairman of Omenengi Age Grade, Mr. Ugochukwu Israel Njoku, said they decided to pay the visit to give honour to whom it is due, pointing out that apart from the royal father being the pathological father of one of their tribes, Prince Anayo Madu, he has continued to sustain peace, unity and progress since he came to the throne.

Others who spoke on the occasion, including Prince Anayo Madu, the Nze Okpala, Nze Arc Leonard Oghonna, the caretaker chairman, Umugaragu Development Union, Mr. Collins Uche and the

President - General, Ezizgaragu Progressive and Development Union, Mr. Kenneth Uwasombo, among other showered economic un

Eze Madu for his peaceful disposition and assured him of their unflinching and unalloyed support.

Other age groups that attended the Omenengi Age Grade, Aka Jimba Age Grade



Eze Madu

Declare national prayer day, not-sit-at home - Prelate advises IPOB

Worried by the continued decline in the economy, the presiding bishop of Friends of Jesus Global Mission and president, Ibo Senior Citizens Affairs Foundation (ISCAF) Rt. Rev. Dr. Maglorious Enyioha has expressed the view that rather than just sit at home on a particular day of every week, expecting miracle to happen over their agitation, the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) should

declare national prayer day to call down God's intervention in efforts to achieve self-determination.

Bishop Maglorious Enyioha who is also, the prelate of Obi Ekpere Ndigbo, Enugu maintained that declaring a day of national prayer every month, a situation where the freedom seekers would sincerely go into sober reflection, prayer and fast in their places of abode, work places and worship

centers would do the miracle which no man or group can achieve by physical strength or human wisdom.

Pointing out that power and freedom come from the Almighty God, Bishop Enyioha emphasized that the sit-at-home approach in the crusade for self-determination though highly cherished among the masses, deals deadly blow to the already fragile economy of Ndigbo. "The Monday sit-at-home ordered by IPOB is well-intensioned and aims at proving that all is not well.

However, replacing the sit-at-home with national day of prayers in other words, a day with the supreme God

of justice during which fallen Ibo and Eastern region heroes would be remembered in prayers and the desires of the people presented to God would yield better results. Any move or action that tends to affect our economy should be revisited. So far, let's count the gains and losses of the sit-at-home order to know the next line of action. The Israelites seek the face of Yahweh before confronting any situation, no matter the odds. So, as God's own people, it should be God first in all agitations", the prelate stated.

"By the arm of flesh shall no man prevail. Victory belongs to God," Bishop Enyioha concluded.

Environmental sanitation: Owerri North local gov. should wake up

Opinion Poll

The member representing Owerri North Federal constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Nna Elezieanya has commended for his empowerment of three hundred members of the Federal constituency with the One hundred and Naira (100,000) each. Making the commendation in Owerri day, a chieftain of People Democratic in Owerri Municipal Council, Hon. Chris Nkwu said that he inaugurated, Hon. Elezieanya has continued positively on the

lives of his constituents, through empowerment programme, such as the recent one, and a skills acquisition programmes where youths are trained and asserted to start their own business.

According to him; Hon. Elezieanya has continued to demonstrate he has passion for his constituents through his constituency projects, empowerment of women and youths as well as given the federal constituency a strong voice at the green chambers of the national Assembly.

He enjoined those who have benefited from the benevolence of the

lawmaker to put into proper use the funds to better their lives and equally, urged them to

continue to support him and the party in the state.

Umuehihe Uzoagba plays host to legal luminaries, others... a Egbujor family appreciates God's blessings

The Umuehihe kindred of Uzoagba clan of Ideoru local government area of Imo State penultimate Sunday, played host to highly distinguished members of the Nigerian bench and the bar association (NBA) as a fire-brand lawyer and human rights activist, Barrister Pascal Egbujor, an indigene of the community, went to the altar at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Uzoagba with his entire household to appreciate God's blessings upon his life.

The thanksgiving church service which was presided over by the parish priest of St. Thomas Moore, Owerri, Monsignor Anthony Njoku also attracted dignitaries from other fields of human endeavour, including members of the press

and people from communities across Imo State of Nigeria.

In his homily, the presiding priest, Monsignor Anthony Njoku who represented the auxiliary Bishop of Owerri ecclesiastical province, Bishop Moses Chikwe stressed the need for the living to always be thankful to the Almighty God for his mercies and enduring love. There is no limit to life expectations. No matter how small or big of anything you have, always thank and appreciate God. Be satisfied with whatever you have; obey and stick to the word of God which is life itself. The Egbujor family by this thanksgiving service has merely appreciated the kindness of God in their lives and, God will never fail to bless them more and more".

Monsignor Njoku stated.

Addressing the congregation, the chief celebrant, Barr. Pascal Egbujor said that his household had over the years, enjoyed divine protection from sickness and other forms of disaster in addition to being blessed with fruits of the womb and material provisions.



Barr. & Lady Egbujor

NEWS

2022 Imo Budget Will Alleviate Suffering, boost Productivity - Osuala

By Our Reporter

The Commissioner for Budget, Economic Planning and Statistics, Rt. Hon. Chrysostom C. Osuala PhD has stated that the objective of the 2022 Imo Budget was to satisfy the desires of the good people of Imo State, promote sustainable economic development and prosperity in the State.

Dr. Osuala made this known

in his office during the 2022 Budget Briefing with Directors/Heads of Departments of Planning, Research & Statistics and Accounts in all Ministries, Departments and Parastatals.

He said the preparation of the 2022 Imo Budget would be in line with the Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery objectives of the Shared Prosperity Government led by

His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Hope Uzodinma.

In his words, "your proposals need to align with the policy of "RRC" Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Recovery in order to promote shared prosperity in Imo State. You would also reflect the priority which government has placed on employment creation, education and creation of enabling environment for sustainable economic growth and quality life for our people."

Commissioner Osuala recalled that before the present administration, Imo ranked 33 out of the 36 States in Nigeria but within six months, his Ministry transformed Imo to be number 3 State to qualify for World Bank free grant in Budget Preparation.

He said the essence of the meeting was for them to actualize a realistic and reliable budget by stimulating their thinking towards achieving success and making their Organizations to generate

revenue. "I urge the MDAs not to come as parasites by presenting only estimates, but rather be creative and innovative on how revenue can be generated to handle the estimates. We have gone outside the schedule of duty, we focus on generating money for the State government." He maintained.

The Budget, Economic Planning and Statistics Boss charged the participants to follow the given Guidelines and demonstrate how budgetary proposals would support Job Creation, Industrialization, Poverty Alleviation, Women and Youth Empowerment as well as encourage Public-Private Partnership and Direct Service Delivery to the citizens of Imo State.

He disclosed plans to hold a training programme for the Budget team soon while he wished them useful deliberations that would bring Imo State to the "1" position in 2022 Budget Preparation at the national level. Earlier in his remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Rev. Reginald Uduh described Commissioner Osuala as a team player who through his experience and leadership

empower many indigent persons, contribute to the development of Ozoara community, the church and attract the attention of government to infrastructural needs of Ozoara community.

The royal father stressed that Edna Okorie as former and first female commissioner of Ozoara West nation extraction, made positive impact on lives of people across Ozoara West local government area. He described Edna Okorie as a rare character whose political life anchors on sincerity, humility, fear of God, intelligence and respect for constituted authorities.

Our research team gathered that the former Imo state commissioner for gender and social development was spearheaded the move to recruit to govern accepting to commence reconstruction work on her popular Ore Ozoara marks the Ozoara health centre as the (rehabilitation of community health centre and a red building at Christ An Church, Ozoara, among things. Meanwhile, the royal father has charged political parties in the direct their searchlight, Edna Okorie ahead of 2020

Nationwide Insecurity ...

The Senior Citizens Affairs Foundation (ISCAF) has cried out over what it called ever-rising nationwide insecurity.

In a press statement endorsed by its national president, Rt. Rev. Dr. Magblosson Eyoibha (Bishop Ndigo), ISCAF

is concerned with the increasing number of attacks on marginalized groups, killings and maiming, deprivation, downright exclusion from key political appointments unleashed against the people of former Eastern region of Nigeria on daily basis.

According to ISCAF, time has come for Ndigo to the Eastern region of Nigeria at home and in diaspora to stop waking up from slumber, call upon the Lord of heaven and earth and pour out libations of atonement for the freedom of Ibo land.

The press release reads thus: "The Ibo Senior Citizens Affairs Foundation (ISCAF) has viewed with serious concern, the ever-rising level of nationwide insecurity bedeviling Nigeria as a nation with its attendant loss of lives and means of livelihood on daily basis. So far, this bellish situation that has taken away the joy and hope of many families in the six political zones of Nigeria has continued unabated.

The saddest aspect of this whole scenario is that Ndigo, a people that have suffered untold and unmitigated pains resulting from marginalization, deprivation and deliberate

exclusion from membership of the circle of Nigeria's security, which implements the nation's policies on security, politics, leadership and others shedding innocent blood as well.

A couple of years ago, herders invaded Ozoara community in Anambra State by night, killing and maiming scores of people, including women and children. In the same way, Ibo, Igbo, Anambra and indeed, all the states that make up the Eastern region have

lost lives of their people to senseless killings organized by herdsmen and other classes of murderers simply described as outlaws, in the midst of a nation that boasts of gallant armed and paramilitary forces. The other time, it was Oyo in Rivers State, a

short while ago, it was Odu in Imo state and later, hell was let loose in Abakiliki Ebonyi state. Enugu state has also been attacked at various times by who? Common sense will surely prove that Ibo who are highly marginalized and deprived of fair share of

national cake can never embark on an inhuman project of killing themselves and destroying the very security, federal institutions in Ibo land.

Red Sea facing them? Time has come for Ndigo to wake up from slumber and cry out to Chokeki, the only hope for our salvation.

It is only a tree that stands still before a gushing waterfall. Ndiaboli! Come one, come all!

Let's return to our root, our marker, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for real intervention.

The Ibo Senior Citizens Affairs Foundation (ISCAF) hereby calls on governors of all the states in the Eastern region, senators, representatives, members of state houses of assembly, local government administration Ndi Lee, political and religious leaders,

illustrious sons and daughters of the Eastern region of Nigeria to

2023 Imo House....

The traditional ruler of Ozoara autonomous community in Ozo West local government area of Imo state, His Royal Highness, Igwe Oyeaka Ononuju who made the declaration while reflecting on the overall development of Ozo West local government area observed that

the former Imo state commissioner for gender affairs in Imo state, Hon. Edna Okorie to give the people of Ozo West effective and richly productive representation if given both the ticket and mandate of serving the people of

Ozoara autonomous community, Alhaji Sulaiman Ibrahim Sulaiman, Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Northern Affairs, Mr. Kenneth Uwasomba, President-General of Ezegwagu autonomous Community, among others harped on the need for peaceful co-existence of the two communities for the state to move forward in line with the governor's directive. They all agreed that the affected traders were not the people that vandalized the track that was conveying onions while the Hausa people resident in the area were only running away for their lives.

The Ibo leaders promised that nothing untoward will happen to any Hausa fellow that returns to the town as they are visitors-friendly and will ensure they are neither harassed nor intimidated by anyone.

Hon. Sulaiman, who stated this while interacting with a section of the press in Owerri, said the governor since assuming office has been giving the northern community in the state full attention and carried them along adding: "Distinguished

Aboh Mbase IMC Chair Brokers Peace between Ibo, Hausa communities

The Interim Management Committee Chairman of Aboh Mbase Local Government Area, Barr. Sir. Fama Njoku, last week assured the Hausa Community in the area of the protection of their lives and property, pointing out that every Nigerian has the constitutional right to have in any place in the country.

Barr. Sir Njoku, who gave the assurance last week at the Council headquarters, Aboh, while addressing a meeting of the traditional rulers, Presidents-general, victims of the looted shops at Afor Eziyogwu Market on Monday May 29, 2021 and representatives of the Hausa Community resident at Umuagwara Eziyogwu, used for peace maintaining that they should all see themselves as brothers who should avoid major and economic, but go

about their normal businesses. He disclosed that Governor Hope Uzodinma does not discriminate against anyone and that the Shared Prosperity administration believes in the security and welfare of everyone no matter their political party, ethnic and religious affiliations.

While urging everyone to sheathe their swords and bury the hatchet, he informed that the state government will investigate the matter to find out the remote and immediate causes of the problem with a view to finding a lasting solution to avoid future reoccurrence, adding that government will find a way of compensating the victims from both parties.

In their respective speeches, the traditional ruler of Egbela Na Umuabir autonomous community, HRH Eze Nicholas Ugochukwu, Ibeokwadiam, Ugwu ebokoro I. HRH Alabaji Aaradi Baba Sale, the Sarkin Hausawa (Northern

Community), Alhaji Sulaiman Ibrahim Sulaiman, Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Northern Affairs, Mr. Kenneth Uwasomba, President-General of Ezegwagu autonomous Community, among others harped on the need for peaceful co-existence of the two communities for the state to move forward in line with the governor's directive. They all agreed that the affected traders were not the people that vandalized the track that was conveying onions while the Hausa people resident in the area were only running away for their lives.

The Ibo leaders promised that nothing untoward will happen to any Hausa fellow that returns to the town as they are visitors-friendly and will ensure they are neither harassed nor intimidated by anyone.

Uzodinma, Best governor.

The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Northern Affairs and Garkuwan-Hausawa, Imo State, Hon. Sulaiman Ibrahim Sulaiman, has described senator Hope Uzodinma, as the best among the governors that had ruled the state since its creation in 1976.

Hon. Sulaiman, who stated this while interacting with a section of the press in Owerri, said the governor since assuming office has been giving the northern community in the state full attention and carried them along adding: "Distinguished

Senator Uzodinma is a real and true Nigerian who is not tribalistic and does not believe in ethnicity. He sees and treats us as his brothers".

The Garkuwan-Hausawa, whose responsibility is to ensure peaceful co-existence between the Ibo and northerners in the state and bring the problem of the northerners to the attention of the governor, went on to pour encomiums on Imo people for their hospitality, describing them as the best and most peaceful people in the South.

He said: "Imo people are

very good. They discriminate against Hausa people. They harmony and if another with love in There is peace among them and indigenes." The SSA, expressing gratitude governor for four worthy of the ap promised to leave expectations of the Ibo and Hausa communities by to foster peace among them to their ability.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED MEETING WITH
COMMISSIONER OF MBEPS AND MEMBERS

13/08/21

NAMES	MDA	Phone NO	RANK	SIGN
RT. Hon. DR. C. C. OSUALA	Hon. Comm	08037022429	Hon. Comm	[Signature]
Law Udeh R. O	PS MBEPS	09025445743	PS	[Signature]
Prince Chibuzo, B. Omm's	MBEPS	0803578857		[Signature]
Amakhe George	MBEPS	08064043291	DDAS	[Signature]
Ihejabor S.K.	MBEPS	07065645528	HEADS	[Signature]
Elenike maureen	MBEPS	08060972206	HSD	[Signature]
Asimole B. C.	MBEPS	08065772750	P-BO	[Signature]
Nwudugo JUSTAS . C.	MBEPS	08033713802	BO II	[Signature]
Ijeoma Miriam A	✓	09037098545	BO II	[Signature]

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ATTENDANCE

Sl No	NAMES	MDA	RANK	PHONE NO	SIGN
1	OKEOMA GODSON	SANITATION & Hygiene	PS	0503383190	[Signature]
2	Dr Samuelson Funhubo	SA special (Heres state)	lead	08063902102	[Signature]
3	Hon. Bright Uzoma	community P.G	P.G	09038670540	[Signature]
4	Clement Nwanna	Youth & sports	leader	09058034100	[Signature]
5	Com Kenneth Ikwuibe	✓ -	Sec	0888777909	[Signature]
6	Njoku Chinedu	Youth & sports	Chairman	0803346016	[Signature]
7	Hon Charles Eboroma	SSA		08064446183	[Signature]
8	Pst. Njoku Ekebedin Chukwura		member	08178326769	[Signature]

**ATTENDANCE LIST FOR 2022 OPEN BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATORY FORUM
12TH AUGUST 2021.**

S/NO.	NAMES	OFFICE/DESIGNATION	PHONE	SIGN
1	LADY D.O. IBFAGI	P.S. MOE	0803 553 7526	
2	Mrs Joy Nnodi Moses	Woman Leader	080 33034267	
3.	DR Rose Adiwkwy	E.D, CSO	08065005607	
4	Bar Camio Madukayi	PC	08034726956	
5	Ifeanyi Nkwocha	PC	08033323690	
6	Chadkobi Umeh	Youth Leader-	08035190334	
7	Chukwuy Callistus	HD, Budget & Accounting office	08064271727	
8	Njoku Chmedy	Disabled youth	08033616646	
9	H-R-H-EZE Goddy	Obowu	08038050249	
10	H/m Eze Dr T.A. Bifafa	Order L.G.A.	08027112055	
11	Mrs Mbagwurwa Chieky	D.G. MBLPAS	07066441907	
12	Ugwuegbu Kenneth Amr.	President	08038799909	
13	Anakihl George	Director (DAD)	08064043291	
14	Tozuru Joachim	HOD Statistics	08035408887	
15	Anaschi Onyekochi	Statistics Dept	07031326502	
16	Akonkum Z M	HOD Procurement	08066801167	
17	UGOSI FRANK-GODRIC - I.	PA/II DAD	07038942758	
18	Igwue Stella. U	SEO Accts	08037758221	
19	Emezien Gagechi	HCO	08064235980	
20	OLumbo Chuma	SO II	08067118881	

**ATTENDANCE LIST FOR 2022 OPEN BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATORY FORUM
12TH AUGUST 2021.**

S/NO.	NAMES	OFFICE/DESIGNATION	PHONE	SIGN
21	HRM Eze E.C. OAKSE	EZE IMO	090833384767	
22	Clement Nw/d/nr	Leader D'S	09058033420	
23	Ezechi T-N.	SGI (PILGRIMS)	08032727060	
24	Ajoko Agnes	SGI (SEMA)	08064719674	
25	Anuo A.C	CCO	08063429810	
26	Achilike Monday	C/O	08034874569	
27	OGBUN PRES OF CITIZENS	MTI	0706178121	
28	Ibeawuchi M.U.	HEO (SD)	08034219085	
29	Awadi N	H W 842)	07037303897	
30	Opama Jennifer	PDPO	07064613448	
31	Chief Odungho	Omara PA	07041516666	
32	NTOKY Joy I	Macro/DPD	0806319826	
33	Mbadiegwu H.O	CCO	0706639076	
34	Ogumalana Nelson T.	HEO ACCS.	08037158465	
35	Ogbonna Chionso	CCO	08034302287	
36	Ihensho Godpower	S.C.D	08037989562	
37	Omyebula Fidelis	HEO	08037990985	
38	Ahaji Phoebe	SDPO	08034703066	
39	Chiagu A.M	CAO (HOD Admin)	08037926248	
40	Mweschukwu/kechukwu	AO TL	08034220826	

ATTENDANCE LIST OF 2022 BUDGET PARTICIPATORY STAKEHOLDER'S FORUM

HELD ON12/08/2021.....

S/N	NAME	OFFICE/DESINATION	PHONE NO.	SIGN
41	Korieocha Chukwura. G	A OII	08068094510	
42	Osuji Chika	H.E.O.	08036313469	
43	Diala V. A.	CCG	08105272902	
44	Princess Obinna Chibozo	Director Macro	08035783057	
45	Ongiriuka Hope	Message Macro	08066289014	
46	Osichukwu Rose	H E G	07034345296	
47	Aruehie Prince Chizadi	SEI	08039450121	
48	Ezealobi C U	(FOD)	08039364329	
49	Nzewuru Chiny P	S.C.C	09028400689	
50	Ugoagu G. N	Had Acct	08232636880	
51	Eduka R. C	CCO	07038891386	
52	Obinna Dennis	PAI MBEPS	08063985608	
53	Akoju Chizora A	PAI MBEPS	08063985608	
54	Friday Osuala	PAI MBEPS	08/82494559	

ATTENDANCE LIST OF 2022 BUDGET PARTICIPATORY STAKEHOLDER'S FORUM

HELD ON12/08/2021.....

S/N	NAME	OFFICE/DESINATION	PHONE NO.	SIGN
55	Ohiri Stanley Sunday	PAII	07032900844	
56	65 Phibundu Uhegbu	OGP	08035068421	
57	66 Okonkwo Living H	SCO	08063825729	
58	67 Dr Samuel Anjorin	SA to the Gov. Special Adviser	08022902102	
59	68 Udoiri-Oluwa C.E.	HOD (PRS) OSGI	08025449389	
60	69 Amadi Juachi J.F	A O II	07038511333	
61	70 Madueke Kingsley	A O II		
62	71 Onia Eze Ugochukwu	Special Adviser Public Enlightenment	08033073661	
63	72 Ogunwa J.C.	DA IIRS	08038941784	
64	73 Hon. Chief. Eneke Udegburen	Executive Chairman	07034138192	
65	74 Chief Joe Ohaegbolan	Media Govt House	08037408864	
66	75 Nwadike Teular. O	E.O Information	08035931210	
67	76 ANJANWU ANN.C.	SFC-ASST.	07039850979	
68	77 Opara I.V (Mrs)	HOD. PRS (MOLSPA)	08035722554	

ATTENDANCE LIST OF 2022 BUDGET PARTICIPATORY STAKEHOLDER'S FORUM
HELD ON 10/06/2021

S/N	NAME	OFFICE/DESINATION	PHONE NO.	SIGN
69	79. Ekeleme Rita	Data Processing off	08032410263	[Signature]
70	80. Nwe Chibozo, B. Okun	DMEP	08085783058	[Signature]
71	81. Ihigweko Stanley	Head R/B	07065645528	[Signature]
72	82. Ekeleme Laureen	H.S.O	08063072750	[Signature]
73	83. Osimborwu Udeny	C.O	08067553542	[Signature]
74	84. Okon Rosemary	Accountant	08033639991	[Signature]
75	85. Dim R. Chire	BO II	08069534712	[Signature]
76	86. Okere JOACHIM	BO II	08034183176	[Signature]
77	87. Ekele C OWA	S.E.O	-	[Signature]
78	88. EZEJI CHIEMERIE EMMANUELA	Clerical Assit	09030026398	[Signature]
79	89. Okoye Anastasia.C	P.L.O	08068271676	[Signature]
80	90. Obele Feanyi	Mr of finance	08026779924	[Signature]
81	91. Chigbu EDC	CEO	08038720740	[Signature]
82	92. Oparinaku Chis Zche	PA	0808495859	[Signature]
83	93. Okeyi Juliet O. ASOPNARS (OCPSec)		08038906185	[Signature]

LIST OF LGAs THAT SUBMITTED COMMUNITY CHARTER OF DEMAND FOR 2022 BUDGET IN LINE WITH SFTAS/CITIZENS BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

S/N	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
1	Nkwerre Local Government
2	Ehime Mbano Local Government
3	Ideato South Local Government
4	Abon Mbaisa Local Government
5	Ezinihitte Local Government
6	Owerri West Local Government
7	Owerri North Local Government
8	Ngor Okpalla Local Government
9	Isiala Mbano Local Government
10	Ohaji-Egema Local Government
11	Ikeduru Local Government
12	Owerri Municipal Council
13	Isu Local Government
14	Njaba Local Government
15	Obowo Local Government
16	Nwangele Local Government
17	Mbaetoli Local Government
18	Orsu Local Government
19	Ihite-uboma Local Government

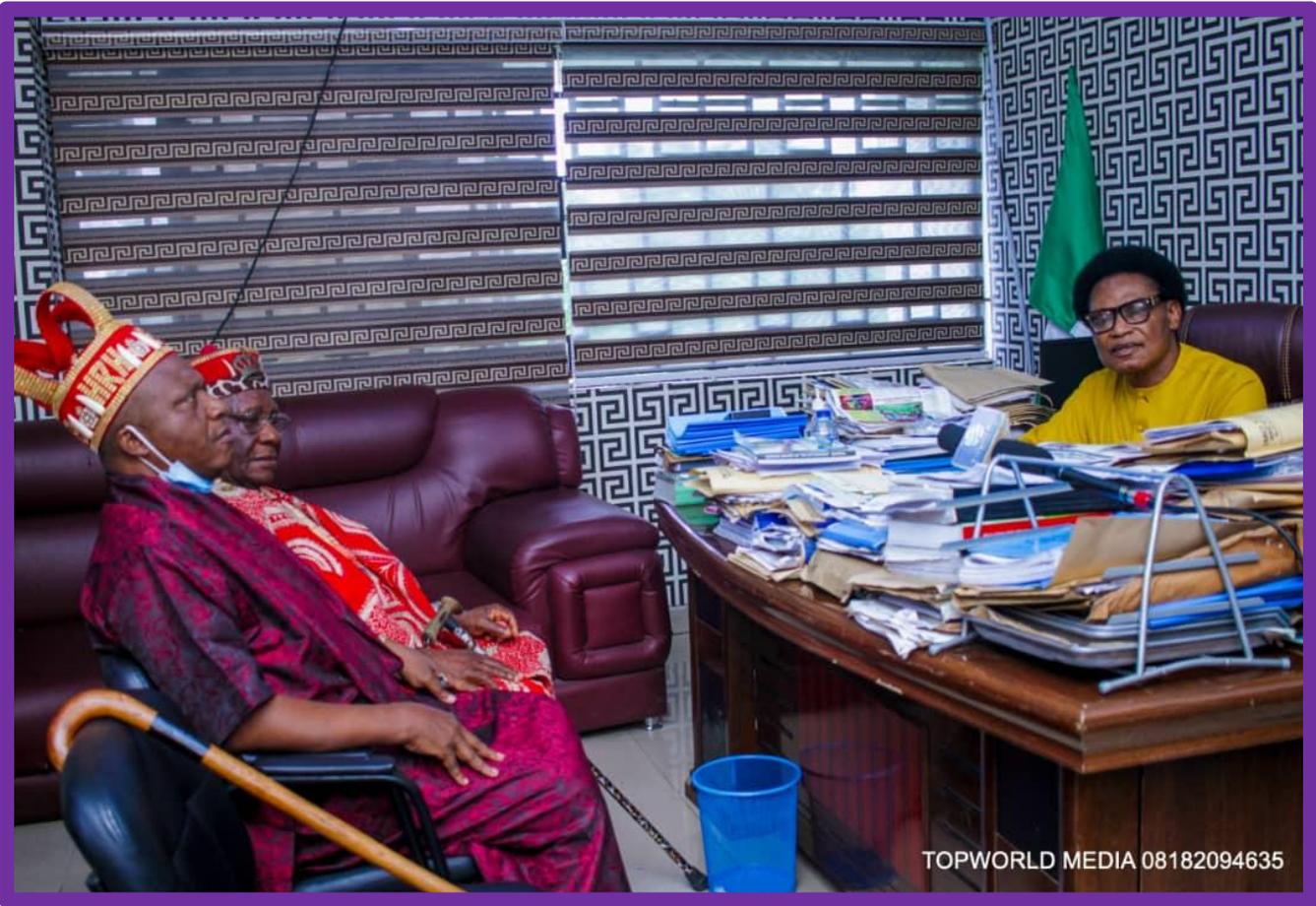
CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS DURING THE BUDGET CONSULTATIVE



REPORT ON SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON IMO STATE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET STAKEHOLDER'S



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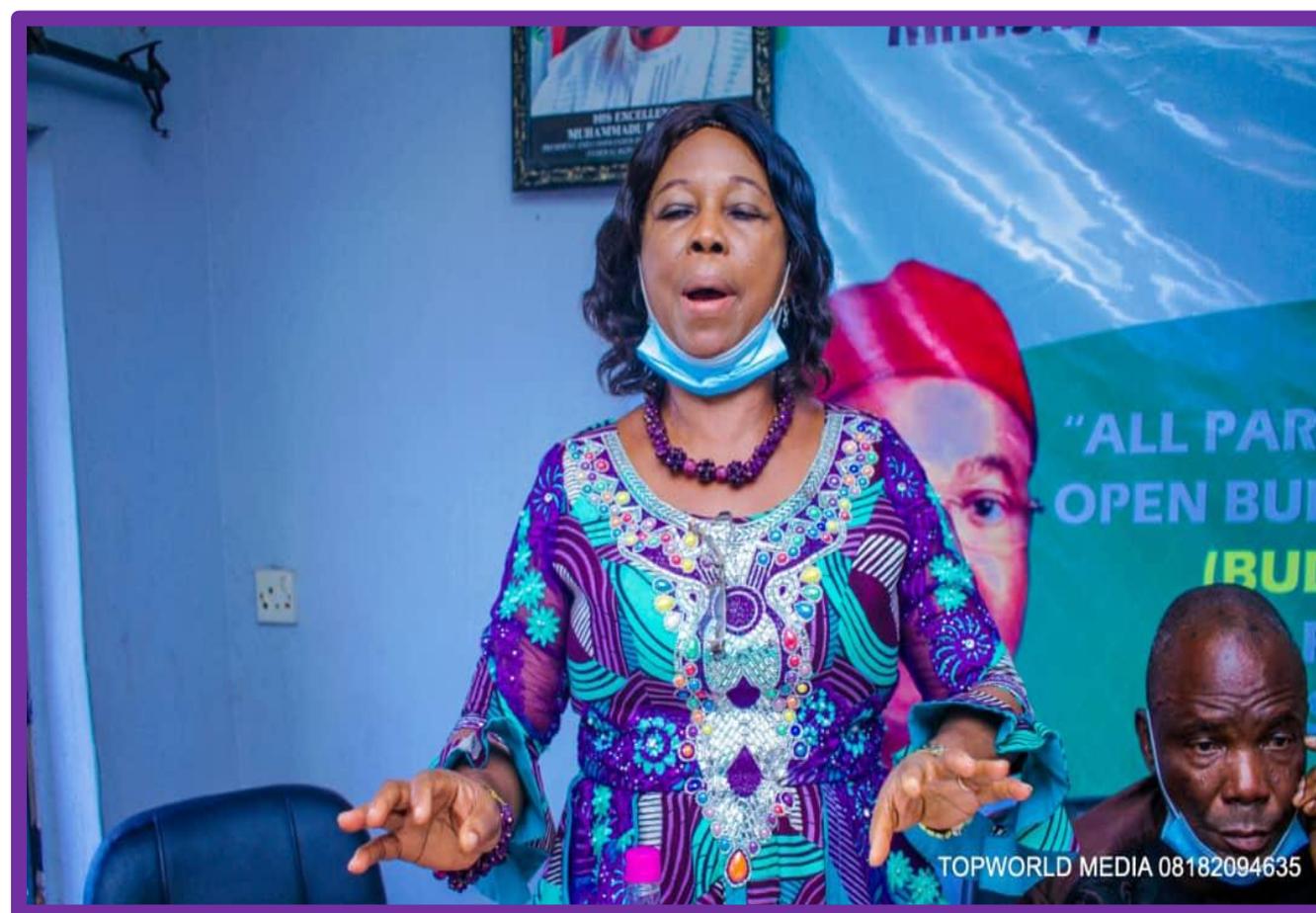
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