

REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH STUDENT BODIES, YOUTH GROUPS, WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS AND THE VULNERABLES ON 2024-2026 MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF) AND 2024 BUDGET HELD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (SITA), ALAGBAKA, AKURE ON THURSDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2023.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0. In accordance with Section 22, Subsection 2 (a) and (b) of the Ondo State Fiscal Responsibility Law (FRL), (2017) which provides that public consultation be had with the citizens and their representatives with a view to harvesting their inputs into the State's yearly budget, a meeting with the Student Bodies, Youth Groups, Women Organizations and the vulnerable in Ondo State on the 2024-2026 MTEF and 2024 budget preparation was held at the Conference Hall of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), Akure on Thursday, 21st September, 2024.

3.0. OBJECTIVE OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING

3.1. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- i. appraise the 2023 budget performance;
- ii. present the 2024 – 2026 MTEF which included the projections for 2024 budget; and
- iii. harvest the inputs of the Student Bodies, Youth Groups, Women Organizations and the vulnerables or their representatives in order to include them in the 2024 budget.

3.0. PARTICIPANTS

3.1. The meeting had in attendance the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget; Mr. B. J. Daisi, the Director, Development Planning. Others were the Director of Budget, Mr. Aworere Stephen; Director of Finance & Administration, Prince Segun Akosile; Director of Technical Assistance & Aid Coordination, Mr. Adebusoye Monday; Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Alhaji Adekunle L. A; Deputy Director, PASS, Mrs. Ayeni, R. K.; Deputy Director Budget,

Mr. E. O. Apata and a host of other members of staff of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget.

3.2. Also present at the meeting were members of the Student Bodies, Youth Groups, Women Organizations and the People with Disabilities in Ondo State.

4.0. OPENING REMARKS

4.1. Mr. B. J. Daisy presented the opening remarks on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Bayo Philip who was unavoidably absent because of another official engagement. He appreciated the people of the State for always heeding the call to contribute to the progress of the State through this annual budget consultative meeting. He assured the people that their contributions would, as usual, be accommodated into the year 2024 budget.

4.2. While speaking on the much-awaited long-term plan for Ondo State, Mr. B. J. Daisy informed the audience that Ondo State Governor had put up a machinery to put in place a 30-year (2024-2054) development blueprint for the State. He said contributions of the people in all walks of life were invited towards the preparation of the Plan. He added that such contributions which might come in form of memorandum, expert advice, requests etc. could be forwarded to the Ministry through the following handles:

- i. E-mail: feedback4ondodevt.plan@gmail.com
- ii. Website: <https://mepbondostate.org/>
- iii. Phone Call: (234) 704-585-1134
- iv. WhatsApp: 0704-585-1134

4.3. Concluding his remarks, he enjoined all stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to the discussion of the meeting so as to have a robust, people-oriented budget.

5.0. PRESENTATION ON 2023 MID-YEAR BUDGET PERFORMANCE AND 2024 – 2026 MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF)

- 5.1. In his presentation of the overview of the 2023 budget performance, the Director Budget, Pastor S. R. Aworere explained both the revenue and expenditure performance of the 2023 Budget as at mid-year. He stated that total revenue expected for the mid-year 2023 was ₦137.99 billion while the total revenue received for the period was ₦99.46 billion, recording a shortfall of about 28%. Out of the ₦99.46 billion paid into the government’s treasury as at the mid-year of 2023, ₦82.84 billion had been expended on recurrent and capital outlay from the budget. The total debt repayment recorded as of June was ₦6.636 billion as against ₦7.039 billion expected to be paid within same period, while Statutory Transfers stood at ₦5.679 billion as against ₦9.036 billion expected within the same period; Other Recurrent Expenditure stood at ₦46.860 as against ₦48.845 expected for same period. Capital Expenditure for the same period was ₦23.663 as against ₦73.070 expected.
- 5.2. With respect to 2024-2026 MTEF, Pastor Aworere highlighted the macro-economic indices that were used for the projection of revenue for the medium term. The table below summarizes the macro-economic framework for the budget expectation for the years 2024-2026.

Table I: 2024-2026 Macro-Economic Framework

Item	2023	2024	2025	2026
National Inflation	17.16%	21.40%	20.30%	18.60%
National Real GDP Growth	3.75%	3.76%	4.22%	4.78%
Oil Production Benchmark (MBPD)	1.720	1.780	1.670	1.580
Oil Price Benchmark	\$75.00	\$77.96	\$73.80	\$69.90
NGN:USD Exchange Rate	435.57	750.00	700,00	700.00

- 5.3. He explained that due to the programmes to cushion the effects of oil subsidy removal, of which new minimum wage for workers would be key, and the harmonization of the official and the parallel Exchange Rates, the budget size would

be put at N250.41billion in 2024. He explained that the decrease in the estimated budget for the 2024 fiscal year from N275.98 billion for the current year 2023 was as a result of the expected reduction in revenue from crude oil occasioned by reduction in fossil fuel consumption in the world which is in turn blamed on climate change.

5.4. Speaking on the focus of the 2024 Budget, Pastor Aworere informed the audience that the 2024 Budget would focus mainly on mitigating the various social-economic challenges being faced by the residents of the State as a result of fuel subsidy removal, the harmonization of foreign exchange regime and the climate change and greenhouse effects (flooding, rainstorms, gully erosion, etc.). He submitted that priority attention would be given to Human Capital Development (Education, Healthcare, Social Safety Net, Youth Development) and Environment & Sewage Sector as well as the completion of major on-going capital projects.

5.5. The details of the 2024-2026 expenditure profile are as presented in the table below.

Table II: 2024-2026 expenditure profile

ITEM	2023	2024	2025	2026
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE				
Salary & Wages	45,905,653,000	62,546,031,420	63,171,491,734	65,066,636,486
Overheads	24,974,698,000	27,472,167,800	28,845,776,190	30,288,065,000
Social Contribution and Social Benefits	12,960,695,000	18,170,000,000	19,078,500,000	20,032,425,000
Grants and Contributions	13,848,220,000	15,756,403,000	16,071,531,060	16,392,961,681
Public Debt Charge	14,078,140,122	15,635,829,655	15,668,703,149	15,652,336,295
Transfer to Local Government	2,592,047,480	2,936,250,000	3,086,797,490	3,376,448,989
Transfer to ODIRS	6,080,148,520	7,137,500,000	7,599,966,147	8,489,745,261

TOTAL	120,439,602,122	149,654,181,875	153,522,765,770	159,298,618,713
Transfer to OSOPADEC	9,399,809,000	12,209,684,750	12,820,168,987	13,461,177,437
RESERVES				
Contingency Reserve	0	10,075,321,262	7,677,250,163	7,331,377,660
Planning Reserve	0	7,750,924,725	8,082,607,970	8,630,029,766
TOTAL RESERVES	0	17,826,245,987	15,759,858,133	15,961,407,426
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	146,139,773,000	70,717,281,886	48,192,474,509	43,891,191,741
Discretionary Funds	82,670,950,000	12,237,849,386	31,140,366,509	33,367,391,741
Non-Discretionary Funds	63,468,823,000	58,479,432,500	17,052,108,000	10,523,800,000
TOTAL BUDGET SIZE	275,979,184,000	250,407,394,498.14	230,295,267,399	232,612,395,316

5.6. Highlighted also was the sectoral allocation of the fund, as shown in the table below

Table III: 2024 SECTORAL CAPITAL ALLOCATION

NO.	Sector	ALLOCATION	%
1	Administration of Justice	489,513,975	0.6%
2	Agricultural Development	4,718,084,939	5.7%
3	Education	5,835,677,408	7.0%
4	Environment and Sewage Management	5,590,920,420	6.7%
5	General Administration	673,081,716	0.8%
6	Health	6,585,677,408	7.9%
7	Information	183,567,741	0.2%
8	Infrastructural Development	37,736,538,945	45.5%
9	Legislative Administration	734,270,963	0.9%
10	Public Finance	611,892,469	0.7%
11	Regional Development	12,209,684,750	14.7%
12	Community Development	6,823,784,939	8.2%
13	Trade and Industry	734,270,963	0.9%
	TOTAL	82,926,966,636	100.00%

5.7. The Director, while concluding his presentation, itemized the challenges of the budget to include the effect of fuel subsidy removal, effects of floating of naira, insecurity and inadequacy of revenue.

6.0. KEYNOTE ADDRESS/SCORECARD PRESENTATION

- 6.1. Giving his keynote address, the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Pastor Emmanuel Igbasan, welcomed all the participants to the annual event. He commended the Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON, for the life-impacting projects he has been embarking upon since the inception of this administration. He reaffirmed the advantages of the meetings to include fostering relationship between the Government and the people, and also enabling people to take ownership of the process of deploying their common patrimony.
- 6.2. Commenting on the issues raised at the last year's town hall meeting by the Youth Groups, Women Organizations and the Vulnerables, he mentioned that People with Disability now enjoyed half payment of tuition at the State's Tertiary Institutions and that the request of people for the return of free School Shuttle Buses had been yielded to by the Government. Some other government achievements were reported to the people with pictorial evidences.
- 6.3. While concluding his address, he enjoined the participants to speak on what the government of Akeredolu had done in their areas and also make requests of what they would want the government to do in the next fiscal year.

7.0. OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS/REACTIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

7.1. In reactions to the presentations, the participants appreciated the effort of the State Government for organizing the consultative meeting as it provided a platform for them to air their views. They also applauded Mr. Governor for granting many of their requests presented at the previous' year town hall meeting. While the Honourable Commissioner, Pastor Igbasan, exhaustively addressed most of their comments and reactions, the followings were noted:

- i. That the Special Schools for the PWDs in the State were in bad state; having dearth of teachers, while the few teachers in those schools received smaller emoluments compared to their counterparts in other regular public schools;
- ii. That the PWDs that were artisans were not considered whenever empowerment is done for their counterpart artisans in the State;
- iii. That PWDs would appreciate it if dedicated Bus and building were provided for them;
- iv. That there was no interpreter for the hearing impairment during public presentation of Government's activities and on television programmes;
- v. That Government should consider free special treatment for the albinos in the State who were suffering from skin cancer as many of them could not afford the high cost of treatment, particularly the special creams they use;

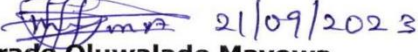
- vi. That Ministry of Education might be more efficient, if a Board for Special People's Education was created;
- vii. That there was the need for the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development to give wide publicity of its programmes, as they affect the less privileged;
- viii. That palliatives for oil subsidy removal were not adequate for the Food Vendors Association in the State;
- ix. The PWDs, while appreciated Mr. Governor for approving and releasing #5million for celebrating International Day for People with Disabilities in the year, prayed him to continue subsequently;
- x. Female Artisan groups thanked Mr. Governor for the due recognition given them in the sharing of palliatives, but said they would be more grateful if they were considered for loans/grants; and
- xi. People with hearing impairment requested for fund release for their programmes by the Government as they had a bitter experience of non-release of fund when there was an approval for a programme of theirs in the past.


8.0. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Honourable Commissioner appreciated the participants for their contributions, comments and suggestions at the meeting. He promised them that the State Government under the leadership of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, *SAN, CON*, would continue to hold trust for the people, service them and give them their desired expectations. While

concluding, he thanked all the Royal Highnesses, high chiefs, the HOLGAs and other people that graced the event and prayed that God would grant them journey mercy to their towns and villages.


Chief (Mrs) Kemi Adedapo Aisida
Aare Iyalaje/Iyaloja, Ondo State
08034265113


Comrade Oluwalade Mayowa
Chairman, Youth Council of Nigeria
Ondo State Chapter
08060832506


Mr. Abiodun Samuel Olusegun
Chairman, JONAPID Ondo State Chapter
08060171336