

**REPORT ON OGUN STATE 2019 BUDGET TOWN
HALL MEETING**

HELD ON

THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 2018

AT THE

**HUBERT OGUNDE HALL, JUNE 12 CULTURAL
CENTRE, KUTO ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE**

CHIEF HOST:

HIS EXCELLENCY, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OGUN STATE

SEN. IBIKUNLE AMOSUN_{CON FCA}

A. INTRODUCTION:

The Government of Ogun State under the leadership of **His Excellency, Senator Ibikunle Amosun** CON, FCA has always embraced the culture of participatory democracy to ensure that the general public is involved in the preparation of the State's Budget by obtaining input from a wide spectrum of stakeholders. This has traditionally been done through the State Town Hall Meeting where representatives of relevant stakeholders which include Trade Unions, Trade Associations, Community Development Associations (CDAs), Professional Bodies, Local Government Councils, Non-Governmental Organizations/Civil Society Organizations, Religious and Student Bodies etc converge at the June 12 Cultural Centre to give their input into the State Budget. Since every stage of budget management calls for active participation by these stakeholders, it follows that they need to have a clear understanding of budget processes to enable them to play the crucial role expected of them. This consultation with members of the public is anchored by the Ministry of Budget and Planning mandated to prepare the annual budget for the State.

To this end, the State held its 2019 Budget Town Hall Meeting on Thursday 25th October, 2018. This was the last budget to be prepared and presented to the State House of Assembly for passage into law by **His Excellency, Senator Ibikunle Amosun** CON, FCA led Administration, voted into Office on 29th May, 2011.

B. ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

The attendance is always more than expected every year. The list of dignitaries at the 2019 Town Hall meeting was very impressive, the roll-call included the Chief Host **His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State Senator Ibikunle Amosun** CON, FCA and the First Lady Dr. (Mrs.) Olufunso Amosun; Her Excellency, the Deputy Governor of the State Mrs. Yetunde Onanuga; the Speaker of Ogun State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Prince Suraj Ishola Adekunbi; Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Adeoluwa Taiwo; Chief of Staff, Chief Tolu Odebiyi; Honourable Commissioner for Budget & Planning, Ms Adenrele Adesina; other Honourable Commissioners; Honourable Members of the House of Assembly, Permanent Secretaries, Special Advisers, Local Government and Local Council Development Areas Chairmen; Chairmen of Statutory Boards and Commissions; All Progressive Congress Party State Chairman and other Chieftains of Political Parties; Religious Leaders, Chairman of Ogun

State Traditional Council, Paramount Ruler of Egbaland, His Royal Majesty, Oba Gbadebo, Okukenu IV; Paramount Ruler of Yewaland; Representative of the Paramount Ruler of Ijebuland and other traditional rulers.

Others in attendance included Retired Head of Service, Elder Olusola Adeyemi; Retired State Accountant-General, Mr. Dosunmu; Association of Retired Permanent Secretaries; State Chapter of Nigerian Union of Pensioners; various Women Groups; Non-Governmental Organizations/Civil Society Organizations, these included representatives from Pathfinder International, Family Health Initiative, Ogun State Chapter as well as the Justice Development and Peace Commission, Ijebu Ode, the Organized Private Sector, Captains of Industries, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (Ogun State Chapter); Farmers Association; Community Development Associations (CDAs); various Trade Associations, Heads of Tertiary Institutions; Nigeria Association of Nigerian Students (NANS); National Association of Ogun State Students (NAOS), Professional Bodies, Labour Unions, Artisan and Technician Associations, etc.

C. OPENING

The arrival of **His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State Senator Ibikunle Amosun** CON FCA at about 10:00am set the ball rolling with the rendition of both National and State Anthems. Thereafter, the opening prayers were offered by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture & Tourism, Alhaja Ottun and the Executive Secretary of the Ogun State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board, Pastor Wole Odejobi.

D. WELCOME ADDRESS

The Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Budget and Planning, Ogun State Ms. Adenrele Adesina welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked all the stakeholders within and outside the State for their usual support since her appointment in October 2015. She stated that the meeting was the last Town Hall Meeting to be spearheaded by her under the current Administration of **His Excellency, Senator Ibikunle Amosun** CON FCA.

In her welcome speech, she noted that the preparation of the 2019 budget came at a critical point in the journey of Ogun State and indeed the Nation as a whole, while pointing out that although the Nigerian economy had emerged from recession, it urgently needed to accelerate growth, especially growth in the non-oil sector. As a leading non-oil State, Ogun had a major role to play in national development. In this regard, she also noted that the Senator Ibikunle Amosun CON, FCA led government had brought about the transformation of Ogun State into the Industrial base of the Nation.

The realization of Ogun State's potential would impact the lives of the citizens through higher standards of living, skills development and job creation. She stated that Ogun State could boast of thousands of hectares of fertile agricultural land which served as the greatest employer of the citizens. The State educational status in terms of having the largest concentration of educational institutions remained unparalleled and a tool for socio-economic prosperity.

The Honourable Commissioner also took a cue from the massive infrastructural development in the State, noting that roads, rail and housing had the potential to accelerate the mission to rebuild of our dear State.

Like the previous Town Hall meetings, she said the purpose of the meeting was usually two-fold, namely to sensitize the general public, stakeholders on Government's plans and priority projects for the year ahead (2019) in line with the 'Mission to Rebuild' Agenda as encapsulated in the 5-point cardinal program and to obtain stakeholders input and contributions towards the Year 2019 Budget.

The Honourable Commissioner, Ms. Adenrele Adesina then once again acknowledged the presence of the esteemed Paramount Rulers, representatives of Traditional Councils, Religious Leaders, Community Development Associations, Co-operative Societies, the Organized Private Sector, Professional Bodies, Trade Associations, Non-Governmental/Civil Society organisations, Labour Unions and Student Unions; thanked them for their constant support over the years and looked forward to their usual valuable contributions and inputs which would help in shaping the budget towards actualizing the State's goals.

She noted that the Ministry had observed from the past meetings that at times due to time constraint not all the stakeholders could ask their questions. To address

this, the practice of stakeholders writing down their inputs/questions on paper would be sustained. Although, there would be a slight modification this time around. The Ministry had prepared structured template sheets of paper that were passed to stakeholders to have their input written on the papers. Also, the Ministry provided live coverage on camera for those who wished to be captured live. This was a novel idea on the part of the management of the Ministry.

She concluded her speech by appreciating all the stakeholders present who had made it a point of duty to faithfully attend the consultative meetings over the years as she reiterated expectations for fruitful deliberations for the overall benefit of the Gateway State.

E. OPENING REMARK:

His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun CON, FCA, began his opening remarks by thanking the good people of the State for the extraordinary support, co-operation and understanding his Administration had enjoyed from the good people of Ogun State since assumption of Office in 2011. His Excellency expressed his joy that this support and co-operation had been the major contributing factor for the numerous successes recorded to date by his Administration. He mentioned that his Administration enjoyed working with all the stakeholders which elicited positive and fruitful outcomes in the last seven and a half years of his Administration, as the State had been firmly placed on the path of sustained socio-economic development.

His Excellency further noted that Ogun State had performed very well in terms of attracting both foreign and local investments in the manufacturing sector of the economy in the last three years. The State had been able to attract over 140 new industries, who had individually invested between \$200million and in excess of \$2billion in some instances. Just last August, this Administration had commissioned a \$250million International Breweries Plant in Sagamu. The Plant is the largest investment of the ABInBev Group in Africa, outside of South Africa. This means that more direct and indirect jobs had been created; poverty would ultimately be reduced. The Governor noted that all these investments were in addition to the existing businesses in our dear State which were also continually growing and expanding. With this reality, His Excellency said even the ardent critics would agree that we had continued to reap bountiful harvest in all areas of the *"5-Cardinal Programme"*. He

noted that indices indicated that more of our children were in school and were competing favourably with their counterparts in other parts of the world; the people were healthier; we were more secure; old businesses continued to thrive while new investments were also coming in. The Governor said he could not thank the people enough for trusting his Administration to lead this journey.

Having stated the above, His Excellency sought for the continuous support of the stakeholders to ensure a fruitful working relationship to sustain his developmental programmes until the end of his Administration. It was on this note that he specially welcomed all to another Town Hall Meeting essential for the consideration of the 2019 Budget. His Excellency pointed out that for his Administration, the budgetary process was not complete without a Town Hall Meeting. It was through the platform of the Town Hall Meetings that his Administration had continued to synergize with the good people of Ogun State to come up with people-oriented programmes and projects for the good of the people and the continued development of our dear State. He therefore emphasized that the Town Hall Meeting was significant as it was the last to be hosted by his Administration. He solicited that all hands must, as usual, be on deck to see that the successes we had jointly achieved were sustained until the end of his tenure and beyond.

His Excellency equally noted that governance should be a participatory process and that delivering the Ogun State of our dreams would require the input of all. He further asserted that the people should have a say on issues that concerned them and they should, therefore, be allowed to take their rightful place in the governance process. He said this had continually been demonstrated by taking the preparation of the budget for each fiscal year of his Administration from the grassroots, particularly with the hosting of the Town Hall Meetings.

His Excellency concluded his speech by appreciating the good people of Ogun State especially the stakeholders for their commitment and most importantly their prayers which evidently had translated into the successes recorded in education, infrastructure, security, economic affairs and so on. He urged them all to continue the good work and keep praying for his administration to do more. Then he mentioned that he looked forward to useful recommendations necessary for successful preparation and implementation of the 2019 Budget. By doing this, it would not only increase the achievements of the last seven and a half years of his Administration but

will take the Gateway State to the desired heights, he thanked all for listening and asked them to commence the questioning session.

F. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Question 1** *Oba Abdul Gafar Tijani (Alawowo of Awowo)* commented on the following:
Complained about non-inclusion of Traditional Rulers' welfare into the previous budgets and hereby pleaded that it should be considered in the 2019 Budget;
Comment that work had stopped at the proposed site of the new Airport;
Pleaded that His Excellency should help to repair roads connecting him & his Excellency's villages before the end of this administration
- Question 2** *Hon. (Chief) S. A. Odebo (Chartered Accountant)* Represented Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM) Abeokuta Chapter. He commended His Excellency's tremendous effort which has positive impact on the State, backed by the fact that the financial stability index of the State had improved drastically.
- Question 3** *Oba H R. Tayo (Eselu of Iselu) Representing Sagamu Constituency.*
Thanked His Excellency for the roads under construction and therefore used the medium to appeal to His Excellency to extend the work to his area so as to curb the difficulties being faced from time to time especially during rainy seasons
- Question 4** *Alhaji Ashiru (Vice Chairman, Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP) State Chapter)* He confirmed the statement of fact raised by His Excellency that the State Monthly Pension is regular, constant and being paid up to date. He however sought for audience with His Excellency for the Union to pay a courtesy visit.
- Question 5** *Comrade Yinka Folarin (From National Committee on Defence of Human Rights).*
Commended His Excellency for his good work done so far especially in the area of infrastructural development across the State, he said he has no doubt in his mind that His Excellency's administration had good intentions for the State. He then advised the administration to concentrate more on the ongoing project in order to ensure prompt completion rather than embarking on additional projects. Local Government involvement through the development of rural areas by means of grading roads in order to make more impact. Also promised to send necessary documents to His Excellency for further advise and engagements.
- Question 6** *Adeyemo Ibrahim (From Ogun State Trade Council)* commended his Excellency for his good work and thereafter complained about the soft loan which was introduced by the Government, forms were collected in respect of this, but up till the moment, they were yet to receive the loan facilities.

Question 7

Comrade Olawale Balogun (Chairman, National Association of Nigeria Student, Ogun State, a.k.a. 'Movement') commended His Excellency and prayed for more strength from God for his administration; he however pointed out the following areas of need for the State Students:

- Solicit for more support from His Excellency's administration;
- Reduction of high charges levied against the State Students by the School Management which he categorized as exploitation, for instance he referred to the Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU) ₦60,000.00 Acceptance Fee and other mandatory levies;
- Improvement in the Students' Residential Areas across the State like the roads leading to all the State Tertiary Institutions should be repaired, cited Iyana Oloke to Moshood Ablola Polytechnic Ojere, Camp to Alabata & Igbesa Road as examples;
- Proper check on the ICT Institutions in the State;
- Payment of Bursary to the Indigenous Student in the State;
- Enjoined His Excellency to improve the level of relationship with the Student.

Question 8

Dimeji Kayode Adedeji from Nigeria Union of Journalist (NUJ) Ogun State Chapter He reminded His Excellency on the relocation of the NUJ Secretariat to their permanent site. He also asked His Excellency, how would he like to be remembered when he leaves Office?

Question 9

Rashidat Sanni from Mowe, Mokoloki, Ofada She talked about the following:

- bad condition of the roads at Mowe, pakuro, orimerunu & Ibafo which requires urgent attention and especially before the administration's tenure ends;
- she raised the issue of non-functioning Mowe Health Centre, said the government had earlier promised to demolish it and rebuild but no such action yet;
- also the area has only one public school which is not enough to accommodate all the students within the area
- lastly, she used the opportunity to thank His Excellency for the construction of a bridge she earlier mentioned at the previous Town Hall Meeting and now it has been constructed and almost completed.

Question 10

Olori Aishat Balanle Adeyiga (State President, National Council for Women Societies) Thanked His Excellency for the tremendous work done and for always recognizing the women. Mentioned that the State Council had not been participating in the National Programmes and as a result of this, the Council had written so many letters but yet to receive any response on it, she also raised the issue of soft loans that they do normally process through the Ministry of Women Affairs and asked that His Excellency should assist to resuscitate it.

Question 11 *Motunrayo Elegberun from Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, (Ogun State Branch)*

- She mentioned the terrible state of Atan-Agbara road which is one of the major Industrial Areas in the State and most of their trailers kept on falling off the road while the Lagos-Ibadan expressway was currently under construction;
- Harmonization bill for taxes and levies should be passed as soon as possible to curb multiple taxes being demanded by different agencies/bodies occasionally;
- She also complained about the water extraction fees of ₦2million being demanded from their members

Question 12 *Oba Olufemi Ogunleye (Traditional Ruler, Lawyer & Journalist) from Akinale Village*
The Kabiyesi thanked His Excellency for the model school within his area but appealed that his community needed a public school and that they were currently making use of the village Town Hall. In this regard, HRH also advised that His Excellency should do something to protect himself from the malicious propaganda against his personality.

Question 13 *Reverend Olajide Odugbemi – Secretary, Family Health Initiative , Ogun Chapter –*
this is a Civil Society Organization advocating for sound family health, including family planning, child health, nutrition, adolescence and youth health. The Secretary who spoke on camera, noted the need for the budget of the State to support family health care by way of funding, which was globally acceptable. This would save money for the Government by reducing overheads thereby increasing funding for infrastructural projects. He noted that there was budget for family planning in the State, which he considered okay. However, he requested for more intervention from Government to ensure that the lives of women and children were safe and a drastic reduction in number of deaths arising from child delivery.

G. HIS EXCELLENCY'S RESPONSE ON THE ABOVE QUESTIONS / COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun CON, FCA, responded to all questions in general terms since most of the questions were almost same or speaking towards a particular direction. It was noted that some of the questions had been addressed in the opening remarks. Highlights of His Excellency's responses were as follows:

Payment of Taxes – His Excellency said, it was important for the general public to pay taxes for them to enjoy more infrastructural development in the State; it was the tax money that the government was using to provide general amenities and social safety being enjoyed by its people. He reiterated that without the tax the State Government could only manage to survive and may not achieve its objectives for the duration of his administration. He mentioned that for the State to witness continued growth and transformation, sentiment must be set aside and these may appear like tough decisions that must be taken. He stressed

that in taking the bull by the horns his administration was very serious and painful decisions to be made which his predecessors feared since they did not want to offend the people. For transformation to be visible in the State such steps must be taken and that was the secret behind the evident successes recorded by his Administration which the whole State benefits from now. He said other States now envy Ogun State as the State now attracted the best foreign investors in whole Country.

Propaganda against his Administration – His Excellency pointed it out that he held the Governorship post in high esteem and with integrity. This was why he was less concerned about the negative branding against him at times and he said the honour and the respect of the Office he holds could not allow him to descend on those pushing propaganda whose sole aim was just to distract him from advancing in the transformation and development of the State. He preferred that his good deeds should speak for him.

Commented [AA1]: Do we need this in the minutes?

Welfare of State Pensioners– His Excellency noted that his Administration had been so magnanimous to the pensioners in the State as confirmed by Alhaji Ashiru, the Vice Chairman of Nigeria Union of Pensioners State Chapter. Also, there had been a sharp increase in the monthly pensions paid to State pensioners and it had been regular since inception of his Administration, for instance this Administration had ensured that no pensioner received below ₦5,000.00 as monthly pensions, against the meagre monthly pension which was as low as ₦350.00 being paid to some pensioners prior the era of his Administration. However, he said harmonization of monthly pension may not be visible now but his Administration would look into what was possible in the context of limited resources.

Local Government Independence – His Excellency stated that the monthly allocations received from the Federal Government on behalf of both the State and Local Governments was less than ₦3billion. Meanwhile only salaries for both the State and Local Governments workers were around ₦9billion on monthly basis. As a result of this, the State had to take over the burden of Local Governments in order to cover the gaps. For the Local Governments to be financially independent, he said there was need to create a conducive environment to attract investment which will create both business and employment opportunities and then improve the standard of living of the people. Without this the Local Governments could not achieve anything tangible but once his Administration completed all the infrastructural development, things would get better at the grassroots as they would surely benefit largely from this.

Obas' Welfare – in response to question 1 above raised by Oba Abdul-Gafar Tijani, His Excellency mentioned that the Obas' remuneration had been raised, his administration had already increased their pay cheque. Although, there was plan to do more once the State financial capacity improved. He therefore Implored the Obas to continue to support and pray for his Administration.

Road Repairs/Reconstructions – His Excellency was aware of the number of bad roads in the State, infact he had a very good idea of roads that needed repairs and those that needed to be reconstructed. They were already in the plan, just like the on-going road construction. He noted that the only constraint was money. The financial implications of carrying out all these projects at the same time is enormous, Infrastructure formed part of the five-point cardinal programme of the mission to rebuild the State, so it was very significant. He said for instance, Igbesa road which was raised by Mrs. Elegberun, representative from Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Ogun State Branch, will cost over ₦20billion as they planned to do full concrete due to the nature of usage and the weight of the trucks plying the routes. His Excellency remarked that he was still pleading with the Federal Government to cede the road to the State, then he could partner with banks to fund the road construction. Another alternative which His Excellency planned was the collaboration with companies around this area, the State Government was willing to do 60% while the companies were expected to support with the remaining 40%. But none of them have responded since this collaboration issue was raised. He noted that the Government was looking at other ways in the interim to make the road motorable and ease off the suffering of the people plying the routes until the Federal Government agreed to cede the road to the State.

His Excellency remarked that same thing would apply to the **Water Extraction** issue also raised by Mrs. Elegberun. The said money requested was to maintain the environment, as most companies were not doing anything in maintaining their environs. This automatically added to Government's responsibilities and more funding was therefore required to take care of these responsibilities.

Also to the Students, on **qualitative education** at the tertiary level at this modern age, His Excellency noted that there could never be free education. Meanwhile, he said he had instructed the Tertiary Institutions not to charge students any money higher than ₦100,000.00 in totality. As much as possible, His Excellency expected all the State Tertiary Institutions to be self-sufficient in terms of finance so as for them to be independent. Funds were needed for **Student Hostels** and once there is improvement in the State financial capability, the students' hostels will be considered.

Building Approved Plan – His Excellency noted that most of the buildings in the State had no approved plan issued to them by the State Government, even though the State already had a master plan. He said majority had ignored the normal approval process and erected their structures everywhere (approximately 70% fall into this category). This included highly placed people, high ranked civil servants and those considered to be elite members of the society. Meanwhile, he said that these people were quick to complain that they didn't have good roads, water, light and other basic amenities forgetting that they are part of the reason for underdevelopment due to their failure to obtain Government approvals. He remarked that the people must obtain Government Building Approved Plan before mounting their structures and such will afford his Administration to cater for their basic needs and also for proper

building lay out. Due to this fundamental error, his Administration established the Home Owner's Charter Programme to correct the wrongs in terms of people getting their buildings to be properly documented.

Proposed Airport – The planned Airport is a Federal Government project and the State is supporting them. Work could not be done during rainy season. Therefore, they were waiting for the rain to subside before any meaningful action could commence.

His Excellency mentioned that the **Emule/Ode Lemo Roads** were already in the development plan but the limited funds available was why it had not been executed.

Response on the **Soft Loans** raised, His Excellency said the loans collected initially were yet to be repaid fully, in order to be qualified for another loan, the person should be able to prove that the first one collected was judiciously used.

Relocation of NUJ Secretariat – there were plans to demolish the Iwe Iroyin building and relocate the Union House. His administration would still work on it.
In response to the question from the Traditional Ruler from Akinale Village, the scope for a public school would be investigated.

Conclusively, after the above responses many other questions were asked which were mostly related to what His Excellency had earlier addressed in the course of his interaction with the audience. Most of these questions were directly or otherwise related to basic amenities (roads, health, water, education and housing).

H. CLOSING REMARK

Finally, His Excellency thanked everyone who took out time to be present at the 2019 Town Hall Meeting. He assured the audience that, all issues raised would be considered during preparation of 2019 Budget.

I. VOTE OF THANKS

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and Planning, Alhaji H.T. Adekunle, noted it was the last vote of thanks he would give in the life of the current Administration, and as such he craved for indulgence to be permitted to go a little outside some boundaries. He therefore on behalf of all the Ogun State workforce, thanked His Excellency for the good deeds that the Governor had done. He recalled some of these noble gestures which included: the ARAYA and Cancer Health Programmes; the A.K Degun Estate, the Valley View Estate, OKe-Ata; and also thanked the Governor for the burgeoning architectural landscape of Ogun State which he described as one of the best in Nigeria. He warmly thanked the Governor for ensuring prompt payment of workers' salaries in a timely fashion.

J. **CLOSING**

The meeting ended at 2:00pm after the rendition of the National Anthem.

✓ **NAMES OF RAPORTEURS FOR 2019 TOWN HALL MEETING**

1. Mr. Kujore Ademola, Department of Planning
2. Mrs. Gbadebo Temitope, Department of Administration & Supplies
3. Mr. Lawal Yusuf, Department of Administration & Supplies
4. Miss. Kareem Karimot, Department of Budget
5. Mrs. Aduroja Yemisi, Department of Budget
6. Mrs. Ibitokun Oludolapo, Department of Budget

J. [Signature] 13/11/18

✓ **SUPERVISED BY: Mr. Ademidun Omoniyi**
Deputy Director of Budget, Ministry of Budget & Planning.

✓ **Jointly observed and documented by the Family Health Initiative, Ogun State Chapter - A**
Civil Society Organization.

[Signature] 13/11/18
A.O.O. Osibodu
Director of Budget
Ministry of Budget & Planning
Government Representative

O. Babajinrin 13/11/18
Rep., Family Health Initiative, Ogun State Chapter
Civil Society Organization.

