

REPORT OF A ONE DAY TOWN HALL MEETING ON GOMBE STATE 2020
BUDGET PROPOSALS HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2019 AT JEWEL HALL,
COLLEGE OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY, GOMBE, GOMBE STATE.

1.0 Background

Budget process comprises of series of activities, consultations with the public and stakeholders is one major component of the process. Public participation and engagement is an integral aspect for coming up with a sound budget document that contain the felt-needs of the citizens. In a bid to increase openness, inclusiveness and citizens' engagement in budget process, a town hall meeting with citizens on Gombe State 2020 proposed Budget was organized by Budget, Planning and Development Partner Coordination Office.

2.0 Objectives

- i. To provide opportunity for the Citizens and other Stakeholders an opportunity to make inputs into the 2020 proposed budget.
- ii. To provide and strengthen citizens' participation and ownership of the budget.
- iii. To serve as an avenue for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other key stakeholders to review and make inputs into the budget thereby harnessing ideas/opinions from the grassroot through consultations.

3.0 Target Participants

The participants were drawn from Civil Society Organizations, Community-Based Organizations, organized private sector, Youths organizations, Organized women groups, representatives of the both Traditional and Religious bodies, civil servants and from all works of life. In all, a total number of 145 participants attended the meeting. Attendance list attached.

4.0 Welcome remarks by Special Adviser, Budget, Planning and Development Partner Coordination Office, Dr. Ishiyaku Musa Mohammed

In his welcome remarks, the Special Adviser welcomed all stakeholders to the historic event and stated that it is a demonstration of His Excellency, the Governor's commitment to good governance for which Gombe State have set a pace in the North-East Sub-region by attending personally despite his tight schedules. He thanked the Governor for his unwavering support and implored participants to feel free to express their views and opinions, suggestions and criticisms on the 2020 proposed budget. This is because Government has placed high premium on the people's voice demonstrating its principle of openness and transparency.



SPECIAL ADVISER - BUDGET, PLANNING AND DEV. PARTNER COORDINATION OFFICE DELIVERING HIS WELCOME ADDRESS.

5.0 Goodwill Message by the Chairman, House Committee on Appropriation, Alh. Ali Baba Manu

The Chairman thanked Almighty God for witnessing the historic day for citizens engagement in the budgeting process of Gombe State.

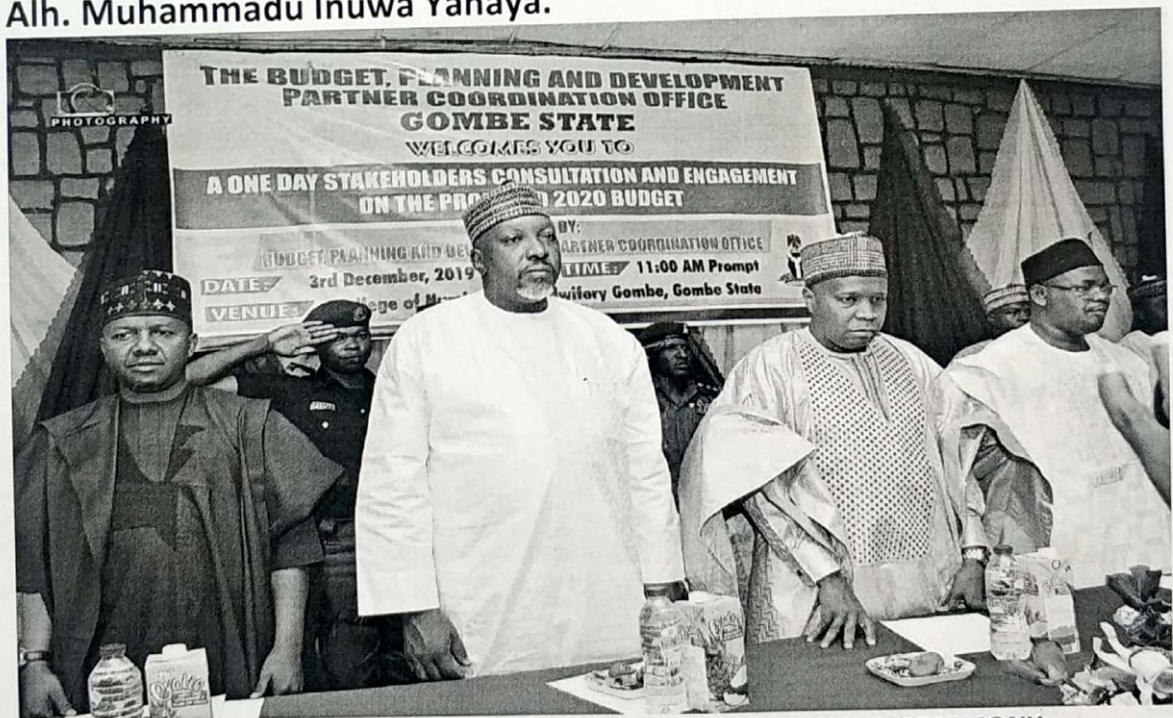
He stated that the community and citizens participation in the budget process is considered the best practice across the globe as it accords citizens the opportunity to contribute their quota towards the budgeting process.

He assured stakeholders that the State House of assembly committee on appropriation will pay attention to inputs made in the course of the engagement and reiterated their unflinching support and cooperation to the Governor of Gombe State and the Executive arm of Government in their efforts to serve the good people of Gombe state.



THE CHAIRMAN HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATION DELIVERING HIS GOODWILL MESSAGE.

6.0 Keynote Address, by His Excellency, the Governor of Gombe State, Alh. Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.



HIS EXCELLENCY STANDING FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

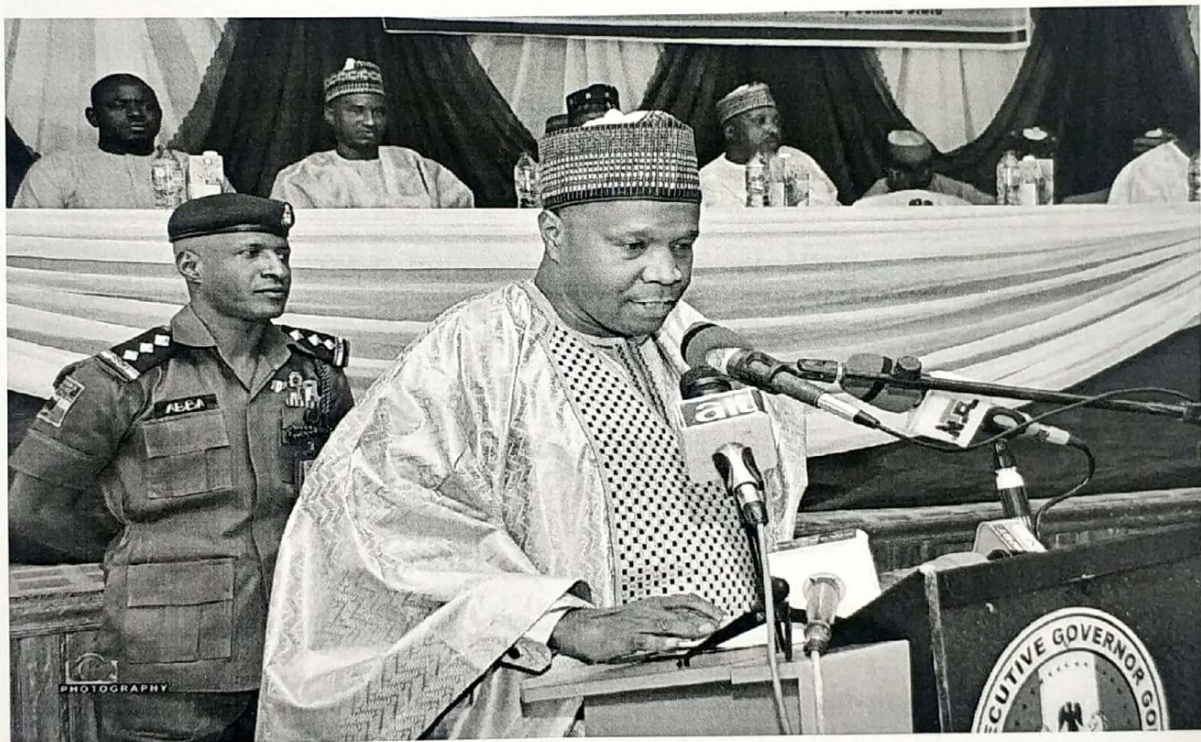
The Governor stated that the 2020 budget is a document that have being painstakingly prepared by all the state government officials in order to reflect the citizens wishes and felt needs.

He pointed out that human needs for Food, shelter, provision of infrastructure, Jobs and security are basic rights that must be met by any purposeful government.

As a responsible government, they have prioritized on the delivery of quality Health service, Education, provision of infrastructure and Agricultural inputs and machineries.

Going forward, the government intends to engage all citizens from the early stage of the budgeting process in order to ensure that the budget is a robust document. Government has set up a committee for the preparation of a State Development Plan covering 10-15 years with clear milestones and targets in order to establish Gombe state on the path of development that everyone dream about.

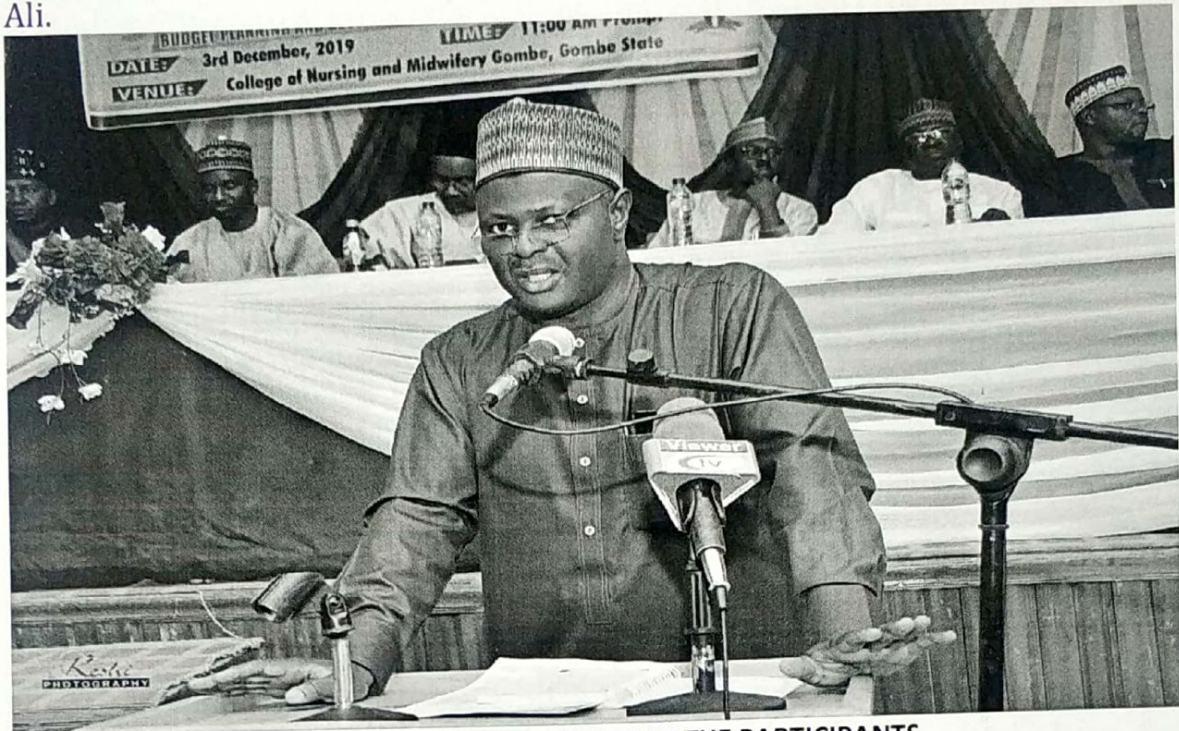
He concluded by assuring the citizens that their contributions will be given adequate attention while promising to deliver Gombe state to the next level given the citizens' guidance, support and prayers.



HIS EXCELLENCY DELIVERING HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

7.0 Citizens dialogue

Highlights on processes and progress on the Gombe State 2020 proposed budget being presented by the Permanent Secretary, Budget Office, Alhaji Jalo Ibrahim Ali.



PERMANENT SECRETARY, BUDGET OFFICE, DETAILING THE PARTICIPANTS.

The following are the key points arrived at in the general discussions, observations and suggestions proffered by the participants.

Contributions of Religious and Traditional leaders (Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Jama'atul Nasrul Islam (JNI) and Traditional Leaders).

The leaders asked the meeting to consider inclusion and prioritization of the following into the 2020 proposed budget.

- a) Abandoned/uncomplete cottage hospitals in Tula, kalshingi, Biri and kuri;
- b) Request for construction of Model maternity in Garin Gade, Yalwa, in Pindiga emirate;
- c) Request for Road construction in Mahanga - Pindiga to Yalwa (13km);
- d) Request for completion of electrical installation from Yalwa village, Larro, Hamma Seyo, Wudil, Daddiga.
- e) There is the need for the provision of budget line in the Ministry of Internal Security and Ethical Orientation for operational expenses of all the Mai-Anguwa, Dagachi and Hakimi for the smooth running of their domain including early warning and early response on security issues;
- f) The need to have trustworthy individuals in the revenue generation and remittance in the state in order to have transparency and accountability;

- g) The involvement of the Traditional Institutions especially the District Heads in the demarcation of grazing routes and earth dam in their various domain;
- h) Erosion control especially in Gona emirates in Akko LGA as it has consumed more than 300 houses;
- i) The need to build some roads in Balanga including Talase-Dreg-Reme-Degri; Talasse- Dala Waja- Bangu-Wada Lunguda to ease movement and create employment;
- j) The need to construct a Health center as well as provide electricity in Lafiya, Wada-Lunguda;
- k) State Government was applauded for the provision of portable drinking water in the state capital and across the headquarters of the LGAs and prayed for its sustainability;
- l) The need to give priority to manufacturing sector in the state;
- m) Debt management policy need to be enhanced;
- n) Involvement of community leaders in health care delivery as supervisors;
- o) Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) need to involve both traditional and Religious leaders properly in carrying out its activities in other to have a seamless feedback.



CROSS SECTION OF TRADITIONAL/RELIGIOUS LEADERS AT THE MEETING

Contributions of Civil Society Organizations including Women Groups (CSOs)

This group drew the attention of the meeting on the following: -

- a) Gombe state need to increase the allocation of Agriculture to at least align with Malabo Declaration to at least 10%;
- b) The social sector allocation in the 2020 budget need to be increased;
- c) The need to improve on quality of education through Teachers Recruitment; training and re-training, and improved working environment/renumeration;
- d) CSO's plead that there will be both budget approval and release in the year 2020 to various MDAs;
- e) The government should not only make provision of infrastructure but also the personnel to handle the facilities;
- f) Provision of scholarships to the best deserving wards/pupils and students in the state especially those from less privileged;
- g) The state government have shown commitment in the education sector as it is moving towards UNESCO standard;
- h) Do a midterm review on implementations and invite stakeholder for feedback.

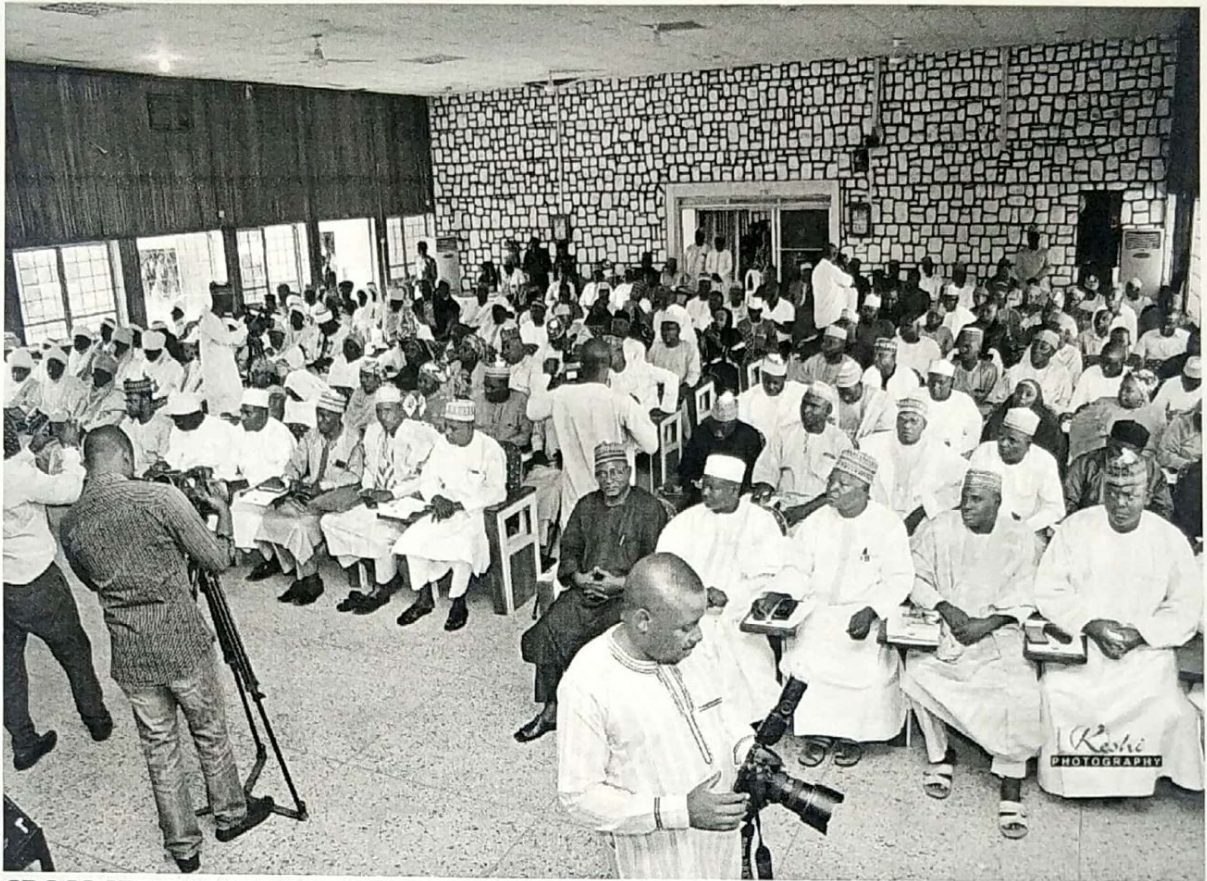


Contributions of Organized Unions (Labour, Traders Associations)

This group requested the meeting to include the following in the budget: -

- a) Completion of mega motor park;
- b) Prohibition of illegal motor parks along Gombe-Bauchi road, Gombe – Yola road;
- c) Provision of soft loans to drivers and other members of the organized unions in the state;
- d) The need for equal or fair distribution of projects/programmes across the state;
- e) Need to embark on evidence based project;
- f) The establishment of the State Geographical Information System (GIS);
- g) Government should consider Comparative advantages between the Local Government Areas in order to reduce dependency on the Federation allocation;
- h) Establishment of State Economic Development Board;
- i) The need to State legislature to make laws that will allow and empower the traditional rulers to function effectively;
- j) Rural access road needs to be prioritized to open remote areas;
- k) The Okada riders requested for an audience with the Budget Office to discuss on ways to increase revenue generation in the state;
- l) The association is in talk with a Tricycle manufacturing company to establish its assembling plant in Gombe to serve the entire northern states. Government is hereby invited to provide the necessary infrastructure as well as create an industrial area for such companies to establish;
- m) Expressed concerns over the security of their members;
- n) Establishment of parking lots in the markets across the state in order to increase the revenue of the state;
- o) Commercial banks need to provide security to their customers cars/bikes within their premises;
- p) Involvement/engagement of citizens in prioritizing projects in order to reduce abandoned/unutilized projects.

In separate remarks, the citizens generally appreciated the State Government and the Budget, Planning and Development Partner Coordination Office for hosting the stakeholders' consultations and engagement on the 2020 proposed budget.



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONSULTATION MEETING



REPRESENTATIVE OF CAN MAKING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS



REPRESENTATIVE OF AWIF BUTTRUSSING HER POINTS

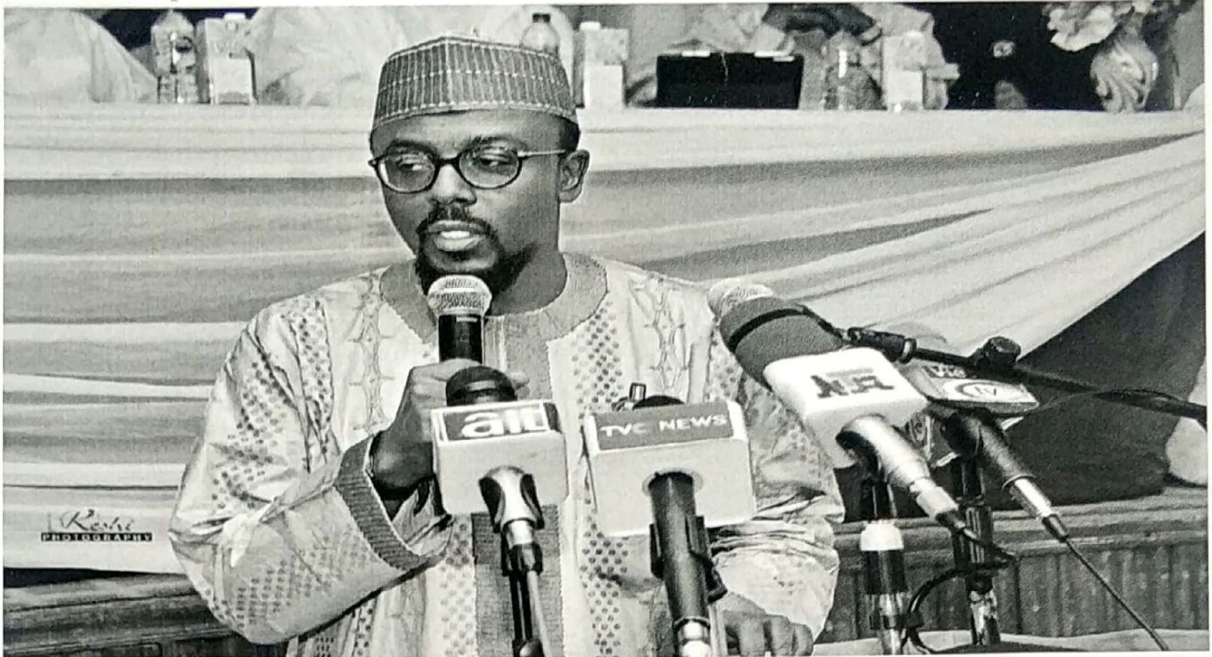


REPRESENTATIVE OF SWOFON EXPRESSING HER VIEWS

8.0 Vote of thanks by the Honourable Commissioner of Finance

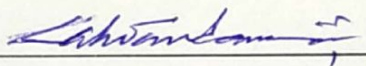
In his vote of thanks, the Honourable Commissioner of Finance, Malam Muhammad Gambo Magaji thanked all participants for honouring and participating actively in the citizens' engagement on 2020 proposed budget. He assured them that their suggestions have been noted and will be transmitted to the State Executive Council for discussion and incorporation into the proposed


budget. The Commissioner prayed God to grant all participants safe journey back to their respective destinations.



HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE DELIVERING HIS VOTE OF THANKS

The meeting ended at 15:35 pm.


Abubakar Dauda Gadam
Secretary

 18-Dec-2019
Ibrahim Yusuf
Chairman Association of NGOs, Gombe.