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Benue State Secretariat, High Level,
P.M.B. 102101

Makurdi, Benue State.

Date: 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

**REPORT OF THE BENUE STATE YEAR 2020 CITEZEN'S
INPUT PARTICIPATION MEETINGS.**

INTRODUCTION:

The year 2020 Citizen's Input participation program began with a memo drafted to the Local Governments through the Benue State Planning Commission informing them of the intentions of the SFTAS Steering Committee visit to the three Senatorial Zones in the State. This required all the Local Governments in each Senatorial District to converge at an agreed location for the meetings. The memo was attached with a template on how to populate the information in form of project name, location and probable cost. This however did not preclude the plan for interactive sessions during the meetings. The meetings were organized to hold in three phases, with one each in the three Senatorial Districts in the State. This was to foster more interactions between the SFTAS team and the delegates from the 23 Local Government Areas of the State.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the meetings was to bring governance closer to the people by creating enabling environment for the people at the grass root to make direct inputs into the State Budget.

The **Zone "A" Senatorial District** meeting was held in Adikpo, Kwande Local Government Area on 9th September, 2019 with 41 people in attendance. The **Zone "B" Senatorial District** meeting was held in Makurdi Local Government on 11th September, 2019 with 39 people in attendance. The **Zone "C" Senatorial District** meeting was held in Otukpo on 13th September, 2019 with

50 people in attendance. A cross section of the delegates in attendance include Local Government Chairmen and their DGSA's, the two SFTAS Focal Persons, the Director Planning Research and Statistics, Bureau of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Local Government Planning Officers, traditional rulers and other relevant officers along with the Civil Society Organizations. The Executive Director of Good Health Living Environmental Foundation represented the CSOs.

The Meetings have a similar trajectory with the Director, Planning Research and Statistics, Bureau of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs introducing the SFTAS Focal persons and the dignitaries in attendance. The host Chairmen gave the welcome addresses before giving the floor to the Focal Person to take members through the interactive sessions of the Citizen's input participation meetings. The meetings were interactive between the SFTAS team and the delegates from the Local Government Areas.

The Focal person educated the delegates on the SFTAS program and its various components as well as what the States stand to gain as grants on the condition that they fulfill certain conditions (Disbursement Linked Indicators). He explained the need for Citizen Participation in the budgetary process as that will help the State Government to know and attend to the specific needs of the people at the grass root better. He explained the need for them to build the culture of transparency and accountability in their duties in order to maximize the available resources.

The Focal Person explained that the essence of the meeting is to bring governance closer to the people and assured them that whatever challenges or needs they expressed in the meeting will be transmitted to the budget office for necessary action.

The delegates expressed their gratitude for the initiative to carry them along in the budgetary process and hoped that the process will help to attract more projects to their districts.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

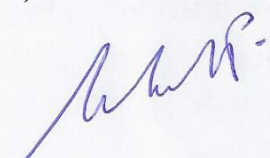
The following observations were made in the three senatorial district meetings.

1. The delegates appreciated the citizen's input initiatives and hoped it would bring development closer to the people
2. The need to strengthen security in the State was suggested
3. The traditional rulers want more recognition and participation in governance
4. The Civil Society Organizations (CSO) hoped for more partnership with the Government
5. The Local Governments are willing to partner with the State Government on certain projects that are of priority to them but may not be a priority to the State Government at the material time

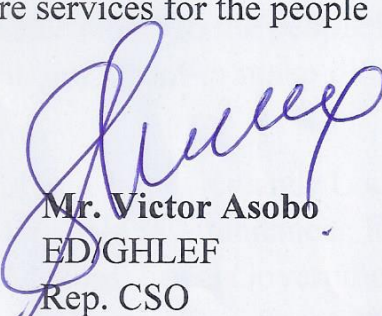
NEEDS EXPRESSED:

From the Citizen's Input meetings conducted, the needs expressed by the people were similar and the general trajectory include the following:

- a) Government should provide more security for the citizens especially the farmers in the remote areas
- b) Provision of clean and portable water
- c) Create employment opportunities for the citizens
- d) Provision of electricity for industrial growth and development
- e) Good access roads
- f) Improved crop varieties for farmers
- g) Government should improve the quality of education for her indigenes.
- h) Government should provide better health care services for the people



Peters Ichull
Focal Person
SFTAS P for R



Mr. Victor Asobo
ED/GHLEF
Rep. CSO

ATTENDANCE

**BENUE STATE ZONE "A" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN ADIKPO,
KWANDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT**

DATE: 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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19	HON. AYANGE DENNIS	USHONGO	STAKEHOLDER	08032526841	DsgAyange@gmail.com	

ATTENDANCE

**BENUE STATE ZONE "A" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN ADIKPO,
KWANDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT**

DATE: 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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25	AKAN ASDERAGBA	KWANDE		08115462753	Supervisor Area	
26	HON ALBER SHADRACH	KWANDE	Council Sec	08155520444	Secretary	
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29	Ameh Emmanuel Adole	Kwande	Civil Defence	07052358645	Rep. Civil defence	
30	Coastline Obagume	Kwande	DSS	0818240920		
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ATTENDANCE

BENUE STATE ZONE "A" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN ADIKPO,
KWANDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT **DATE: 9-9-2019**

DATE: 9-9-2019

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**BENUE STATE ZONE "B" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN MAKURDI,
MAKURDI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT**

DATE: 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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ATTENDANCE

**BENUE STATE ZONE "B" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN MAKURDI,
MAKURDI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT**

DATE: 11th SEPTEMBER 2019

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**BENUE STATE ZONE "C" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN OTUKPO,
OTUKPO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT**

DATE: 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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ATTENDANCE

BENUE STATE ZONE "C" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN OTUKPO,
OTUKPO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT

DATE: 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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ATTENDANCE

BENUE STATE ZONE "C" SENATORIAL DISTRICT CITIZEN'S INPUT PARTICIPATION HELD IN OTUKPO,
OTUKPO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SECRETARIAT **DATE: 13TH SEPTEMBER**

DATE: 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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