

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE YEAR 2021  
BUDGET PROCESS HELD AT MICHAEL OKPARA AUDITORIUM ON 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020**

The meeting commenced with opening prayers from Eme Orji Kalu, the

Abia State Government in collaboration with Open Government Partnership has concluded a one day Sensitization programme on Community Key Project Identification.

Speaking at the event held at Michael Okpara Auditorium Umuahia, the Honourable Commissioner for Cooperative, Rural Development and Poverty Reduction, Prince Ezekwesiri Ananaba stated that the essence of the sensitization program was to create a platform which would allow the Civil Society Organizations, the Organised Private Sector and the government to create action plans that make government more inclusive, responsible and accountable.

He noted that the place of the citizens in democracy and development is paramount, hence the Abia State Government through the State Planning Commission introduced the Community/citizens engagement in 2019 which has increased the level of participation and inclusiveness among the citizens in the entire budget process as well as ensured that Fiscal Transparency, Accountability, Sustainability and democracy is practiced.

While commending the Governor Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu for his efforts in transforming the rural communities, Prince Ezekwesiri Ananaba gave assurance that the initiative will set Abia State on the path to greatness.

In a presentation titled "Participatory Budget Process", the facilitator and State OGP Focal person, Mr Amaechi Chukwu noted that the sensitization exercise is meant to give update of the 2019/2020 project as well as to roll out implementation framework as approved by the Governor.

Mr Chukwu stated that participatory budget process is a hybrid model which interfaces the government and the community which is wholly involved in budget preparation. He stressed the need for designing a framework for the implementation of community projects noting that it makes such projects sustainable and durable. and

He commended the effort and commitment of the government, Community Development officers as well as the participants in the actualization of 2021 Communities Engagement meeting.

The event which featured the distribution of Community project identification templates, was well attended by some Aides to the Governor, Traditional Rulers of the invited communities, village heads, President Generals of communities, Community Development Officers of over 55 communities in the State.

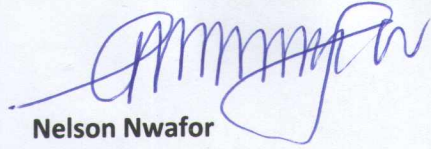




**Amaechi Chukwu**

Focal Person

State OGP Secretariat



**Nelson Nwafor**

Co-Chair

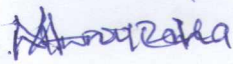
State OGP

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**Eme Orji Kalu**

Ag State Director of Budget



**Nwokocha Anozie Innocent**

Executive Director IDEAL-Nigeria

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