MINUTES OF MEETING OF CITIZENS EGAGEMENT FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE YEAR 2022 BUDGET PROCESS HELD AT TOTAL CENTRE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021

The meeting started with an opening prayer said by Mr. Shedrack Ugorji at 11a.m.

OPENING REMARKS:

The State Director of Budget, Mr. Eme Orji Kalu while welcoming participants in attendance said the essence of the meeting is to inform the communities and the CSOs in the State about the year 2022 Budget update, process, and involvement in the 2022-2024 Multi Year Budget.

Following from the welcome remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Rural development, cooperative and poverty reduction, Mr. Amarachi Ngwakwe reiterated that the invitation extended to them through the Community Development Officers (CDOs) in their local government has become a norm in every fiscal year budget cycle. He said government must involve the citizens in the budget process and thus position herself to be accountable to them in the implementation.

The State Focal person of Open Government Partnership, Hon. Amaechi Chukwu thanked the participants for attending and updated them on the level of implementation of the previous year's community needs projects. He further stated that since the level of implementation is low due to scarcity of funds, that Abia State Government desired to roll over the previously nominated projects to 2022 fiscal year rather than requesting for new projects to be included the 2022 Budget. He stated that efforts are being made to ensure that most of the Citizens identified and nominated projects are attended to in the coming year.

Reaction.

Mr. Richard Okoro of Rural Development Planners Int'l representing the Civil Society welcomed the idea of rolling over the projects as it would be difficult for them to participate in new community identification projects while the previous ones have not been fully implemented and pleaded for the commitment of Government to see to its promises in implementing the already selected projects to strengthen the bond of trust to Government initiated programmes. He said as Co-actors they would be monitoring the projects implementation as well.

The community representatives were given the opportunity to see their selected projects that were rolled over to year 2022 Budget.

The town hall meeting was attended by Permanent Secretaries, ministry of Finance, Ministry of Rural Development cooperative and Poverty Reduction, Aides to the Governor, Community Development officers, Community Town Union leaders, Traditional Rulers of 20 Communities and Civil Society Organizations. The meeting came to a close with a prayer said by Mr. Kelvin Eke

Amaechi Chukwu

Focal Person: State OGP secretariat

Eme Orji Kalu State Director of Budget Richard Okoro Rural Development Planners Int'l 08120374163

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