

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING

BY

ALHAJI BELLO ALIYU RABAH
HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER
MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2009

Members of the Governors
Forum.
H/c, SA, Perm. Sec.

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING BY THE
HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING *ALHAJI BELLO ALIYU RABAH*

1.0 PREAMBLE

1 Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning is the offshoot of the defunct Budget & Economic Planning Department of the Ministry of Finance.
It became full pledged Ministry in October 2007 and it currently has a staff strength of 115, headed by Honourable Commissioner to whom the Permanent Secretary reports *out*

2.0 STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry executes its mandate delivery through *four* departments namely:

1. Administration & Finance Department
2. Planning Department
3. Statistics Department
4. Budget Department
5. Finance Department

Each department is headed by a director

The statutory functions of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning include custody of:

- i) Development planning as well as monitoring and evaluation of implementation.
- ii) State statistics matters in line with National Statistical System.
- iii) Preparation and monitoring implementation of annual budgets.
- iv) Coordination of the activities of National and Multi-national development partners in the State.

2.1 SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS

The specific functions of each of the four departments of the Ministry can briefly be presented as follows:

Administration & Finance Department is responsible for general administration, recruitment, retirement, secondment, posting of staff, welfare issues, discipline, promotion and maintenance of office equipment facilities.

Planning Department is the pivot or the nerve centre of the ministry which is charged with responsibility of preparation of the all development plans and the capital *responsible*

component of the annual budgets as well as the implementation of economic policy matters of the state. The Department is also responsible for coordination of the activities of donor agencies in the state such as UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, MDGs.

Statistics Department is responsible for:

- ✓ i) The collection, compilation, publication and dissemination of all Economic, Demographic and Administrative statistical information emanating from the State.
- ✓ ii) ii) Coordination of Statistical activities of the various Planning Research and Statistics (PRS) Departments/Units of the (MDAs) and Local Government Councils.
- ✓ iii) Collaboration and cooperation with National Bureau of Statistics and other agencies on all statistical matters.
- ✗ iv) Organize and conduct seminars, workshop, Stakeholders Forum for Statistical manpower development.
- ✗ v) Representing the State in the National Consultative Committee on Statistics (NCCS).

✓ **Budget Department** is charged with statutory responsibility of preparation and distribution of the state annual budget for the implementation of the development programmes and projects.

Finance Department is charged with the responsibility of receipt and disbursement of all financial matters and safe keeping of all records of financial transactions of the Ministry, payment of other charges and ensuring that all heads and subheads are charged properly.

✗ 3.0 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the current year under review the Ministry conducted various activities through the listed departments, the activities executed per department include:

✗ **Administration & Finance Department**

- a. Promoted 5 Senior Staff of the Ministry to their substantive grade level.
- b. Competencies and proficiencies of 10 staff was improved through various workshops organized by Centre for Management Development and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.
- c. Three (3) senior officers have already been sponsored by the State Government to attend international workshop on Advanced Concept of Budgeting and Control in USA.

✗ **Budget Department**

- 1. Prepared Supplementary Budget to the tune of Twelve Billion One Hundred and Fifty Million Naira (N12,150,000,000).

2. The Department was also able to carry out a mid term review of the Performance of the 2009 budget and the revenue profile.

3. Call Circulars were sent to MDAs for the Preparation of 2010 annual budget. Presently the 2010 budget preparation has reached advance stage. Very soon, the draft copy will be sent to EXCO for further deliberations.

Planning Department

The Planning Department oversees the following ongoing programmes:

- (i) MDG
- (ii) UNICEF ✓
- (iii) UNDP ✓
- (iv) UNFPA ✓ USAID ✓
- (v) SEEDS II
- (vi) CEEDS/TRAIN
- (vii) FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Good ✓

Suppl. Budget ✓

All the seven (7) Programmes under the Planning Department are on-going. However, some of the programme/activities made impressive impact in the period under review, for instance:

MDG.

a. Sokoto State applied for support in areas of Maternal Mortality, Rural Water Supply and Youth Empowerment. MDG/CGS has approval and released the sum of one Hundred and Fifty Three Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Three (153,738,300) to the State Government as grants for Emergency Obstetric Care and Roll Back Malaria, as at 30th August 2009, Sokoto state government also contributed equal amount as counterpart funding for the projects.

Members of State
Mou. Baye Jean
Egwevweh Audit

b. On Water Supply projects, the sum of N257,725,000 was released by OSSAP/MDG and Sokoto State Government contributed equal amount for the construction of solar powered Borehole in 69 communities' health facilities across the State.

c. The 7th FGN/SOSG-UNDP Assisted Programme took off in the 3rd quarter of 2009 with the signing of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between UNDP & the Sokoto State Government. Thereafter a work plan was developed for the implementation of the 4th quarter of activities of the programme, which are due to start in October.

92 ch. 15
4e 236g
69
3e 236g

- d. Consequent to the signing of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between the UNFPA and Sokoto State Government in the 3rd quarter of this year implementation of activities of the UNFPA began with celebration of World Population Day last July. However the remaining activities are slated for the last quarter of the year.
- ✓ e. The State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy II (SEEDS II) Plan of action for the implementation of the State Government Programmes and Projects is also in the pipeline. Within the 3rd quarter 2009, the services of a consultant has been sought with a view to finalizing the SEEDS II document so as to produce authentic copies for distribution to MDAs which will serve as a guide and future reference materials for development planning.
- ✓ f. Food & Nutrition Programme: The State Food and Nutrition Committee that is charged with the coordination of the activities of the Food and Nutrition Programme was inaugurated in the 3rd quarter of 2009. A technical sub committee was also set to develop the 2010 work plan for the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Programmes in the State.
- ✓ g. The Community Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (CEEDS) now renamed Transformation of Rural Areas in Nigeria (TRAIN) came into lime-light during the 3rd quarter of 2009. The programme is aimed at transforming positively the life of every citizen in the country with emphasis to rural settlements and it is run in collaboration with the National Planning Commission.

Statistics Department

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED AS AT SEPTEMBER 2009

- ✓ 1. As part of series of Directories to be developed by the Ministry, Survey of Petroleum Product Filling Stations in Sokoto State was conducted and the Directory of Petroleum product Filling Stations in Sokoto State is ready for publishing.
2. Approval is obtained from His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State for the establishment of **State Bureau of Statistics (SBS)** by upgrading the Statistics Department in the Ministry. One of the preliminary steps in the implementation of State Statistical Master Plan.
- ✓ 3. Draft copy of the State Statistics Edict is ^{compiled} submitted to the Ministry of Justice for necessary amendments and onward submission to His Excellency for ratification, adoption and passage into law.

4. Sokoto State as one of the 13 selected States in the federation, the UNDP has installed the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment including Internet Connectivity in the Statistics Department.
- ✓ 5. Statistical Year Book Template is now being populated whereby Chapters on weather & Climate, Population, Agric, have been completed and other Chapters are in progress, but the data we have for all was with respect to 2005.

Finance Department

The Finance Department has made payment in respect of the following programmes:

- MDGs-Under this programme Contract was awarded for the Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes and Supply of Obstetrics Drugs.
- All the Contractors for the Supply of Obstetrics Drugs and Roll Back Malaria, have supplied the drugs and equipments, and the department have successfully paid all the Contractors.
- Those that are given Solar Powered Boreholes most of them are yet to finish the work given to them.
- UNFPA-This Programme have just started, funds are sent from UNFPA Headquarters to facilitate the programme implementation.
- Food and Nutrition Committee-Under this programme a Standing Imprest was approved by His Excellency to facilitate the day to day activities of the programme.

4.0 ACTION PLAN (PRESENT DAY TO 2010)

- Preparation of 2010 State Annual Budget
- ✓ ➤ Finalization of SEEDS II Document
- ✓ ➤ Operationalisation of State Statistical Master Plan
- ✓ ➤ Establishment of Planning & Statistics Offices (P&SO) in the 23 LGAs of the State.
- contin ✓ ➤ Coordination of Donor Agencies' Activities in the State
- Counterpart Funding of MDGs
- Counterpart Funding of UNFPA
- Counterpart Funding of TRAIN
- Counterpart Funding of UNICEF
- Counterpart Funding of UNDP
- Counterpart Funding of Food & Nutrition Programme
- Proposal for Recruitment of Statistics, Planning and Budget Officers as well as Supporting Staff.

- Procurement of 3No. 4Wheel Drive Vehicles for monitoring and operation (awaiting H/E's approval).
- Data collection and publication of Statistical Year Book and Directories of Health and Educational institutions in the State.

5.0 MINSTERIAL CONSTRAINTS

1. **Funding**-The Ministry by virtue of its mandate and operational linkages with national and international development agencies within and outside the State, many a times receive impromptu invitations to attend one development forum or the other outside the State and none availability of fund to be used instantly results in our inability to attend which definitely has negative consequence on the State development efforts.

Recommended Solution: Memo for a Standing Imprest forwarded awaiting His Excellency's approval.

2. **Transport**-The Ministry has been saddled with the responsibility of monitoring various development programmes and projects for generating necessary baseline data for facilitating appropriate management decision making, however, it lacks the vehicles that befit the activity.

Recommended Solution: The Ministry requires a minimum of 3No 4 Wheel Drive vehicles to effectively carry out the assignment in the three (3) Senatorial Zones. Memo is already before His Excellency for approval.

3. **Staffing**-As earlier mentioned the Ministry needs more hands to man the multifarious nature of socio-economic development of the State vis-à-vis the national and multinational development targets.

Recommended Solution: Approval for recruitment of right calibre of personnel. (requirements to be forwarded to the Office of the Head of Service).

4. **Office Accommodation**- Many of our senior officers are currently sharing office space, a times you find 3 or 4 sharing one office which counteract confidentiality and security of official document as well as conducive work environment.

Recommended Solution: Requirements to be forwarded to the Office of the Head of Service for consideration for future expansion of the Secretariat.

6.0 CONCLUSION

On behalf of the entire management and staff of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity granted to be listened to, I hope the issues raised in the course my presentation would be given due consideration for the betterment of life of our generality of our people.

Thanks for listening. May Allah bless all of us.