

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A TWO-DAY
WORKSHOP ON STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT [SGDP]
FOR NIGERIA HELD AT THE STATE LIBRARY COMPLEX,
CALABAR FROM SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2010**

Preamble

The sensitization workshop organized by the National Planning Commission [NPC] in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics [NBS] and the Nigeria Governors' Forum [NGF] was held in Calabar, Cross River State from September 16-17, 2010. It was attended by a total of 160 participants comprising 25 States of the Country. His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke³⁴ represented by the Deputy Governor, Barrister Efiok Cobham declared the workshop declared the workshop open.

2. The welcome remarks of the Secretary to National Planning Commission, Professor Sylvester Monye, MFR was given by Mr. Babatunde Lawal, Director [Macroeconomic Analysis Department], National Planning Commission. The Goodwill messages were given by the Nigeria Governors' Forum, United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and the World Bank.
3. The Keynote Address of the Honourable Minister/Deputy Chairman, National Planning Commission, Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, OFR, was read on his behalf by the Secretary to National Planning Commission, Professor Sylvester Monye, MFR.
4. The Deputy Governor of Cross River State welcomed the participants to the workshop and declared it open on behalf of His Excellency, The Governor of Cross River State. The Governor encouraged participants to come up with a feasible roadmap for achieving the computation of the State GDP.
5. The technical session started with presentations by National Bureau of Statistics [NBS] on Background/Framework for the compilation of the State GDP. The presenter, Mr. Emeka Ofili, gave the justification for the State GDP while Mr. A. T. Adebisi highlighted the survey module for data collection to achieve an accurate and precise estimate for the State GDP.
6. In addition to presentations made by NBS, Professor Mike Kwanashie of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, presented the International Perspective of the Process and Methodology for Producing Sub-national GDP. He also highlighted the models for computing State GDP with a sound advice that State account will give the dynamics and characteristics of the economic activities at all levels.

7. The last technical paper on Institutional Framework for computation of State GDP was presented by Professor Akpan Ekpo who enumerated the problems of data capturing which included parameter measurement. He also emphasized the need for rigorous capacity building at sub-national levels of government until the objective of the State GDP is achieved.

8. The Secretary to National Planning Commission praised the participants' commitment to the computation of the State GDP and assured them that government would continue to strengthen the capacity of NBS and the statistical bureau at sub-national levels.

9. The Statistician General of the Federation made it clear that it was not advisable for States to embark on individual computation of State GDP that the roadmap including the budget for the computation of the State GDP as presented by Mr. Babatunde Lawal, Director [Macroeconomic Analysis], NPC put the ratio of funding the production of the State GDP at 40:30:30 by Federal Government, State Government and the Development Partners respectively.

Observations

10. Following presentations made by experts and other stakeholders, participants' made the following observations:

- [i] Participants commended the efforts and dynamism of the National Planning Commission, National Bureau of Statistics and Nigeria Governors' Forum for the State GDP computation initiative.
- [ii] The initiative was timely and beneficial.
- [iii] A consistent framework for the computation of State GDP would be needed.
- [iv] Capacity gaps at the sub-national levels of government had been a major challenge militating against the computation of State GDP.
- [v] Computation of the State GDP has many benefits, including the enhancement of the quality of the national GDP.
- [vi] There is need to have a guideline/roadmap for the State GDP.
- [vii] The State statistical agencies as presently constituted would not be able to compute the State GDP. There is need to build capacity of the States Statistical Agencies to be able to cope with the enormous task required to compute the State GDP.

- [viii] That no State Statistical Agency participated in the preparation of the State GDP roadmap.
- [ix] The absence of State GDP had made it difficult to capture the contribution of the informal sector to the economy.
- [x] Some States have not established their State Bureau of Statistics.
- [xi] Development partners had been supportive of the processes towards the computation of SGDP.

Recommendations

11. Arising from the above observations, participants made the following recommendations:

- [i] There should be faithful implementation of the proposed roadmap for the computation of the State GDP at the proposed 40:30:30 ratio for Federal, State and development partners respectively.
- [ii] There should be a robust institutional framework for the computation of the State GDP.
- [iii] There should be a strong capacity building arrangement for the State to compute State GDP.
- [iv] That States should not undertake an independent computation of their State GDP.
- [v] There should be adequate budgetary provision for the computation of the State GDP and related activities in the budget.
- [vi] NPC should use the instrument of development planning to facilitate the computation of the State GDP.
- [vii] State that have not set up their State Bureau of Statistics as contained in the Statistical Master Plan should do it as a matter of urgency.
- [viii] That development partners sustain their support for the computation of the State GDP.

Appreciation

12. Participants expressed appreciation to the Governor and the good people of Cross River State for their support and hospitality.