

He agreed that the House will continue to constructively engage the executive towards the achievement of stated goals for the state.

*Delta State Govt. Proposes N235.7bn for 2010.
Ministry of Information, Delta State
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Delta State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan has presented a budget proposal of N235.7 billion to the State House of Assembly for the 2010 fiscal year.

Presenting the budget proposal tagged "Budget of Consolidation for Sustainable Development." Dr. Uduaghan said a total of N148.9 billion or 59.19% is for capital expenditure while N96.19 billion or 40.18% of the budget will be for recurrent expenditure.

He explained that the budget was lower than that of the current year with N20.9 billion even as he explained that this was as a result of cautionary approach and the instability in oil prices in the International market.

The governor announced that the implementation of the budget will be closely monitored while the fiscal management process would be re-intensified to improve ways of achieving his three Point Agenda of Peace and Security, Human Capital Development and Infrastructure Development.

Governor Uduaghan said appropriated strategies would be put in place to improve Internally Generated Revenue (GR) in the state, since the Delta state Internal Revenue consolidation Bill 2009 has been passed by the House of Assembly.

His words "Strategies have been put in place to improve IGR. The board of Internal Revenue will be strengthened to improve tax administration machinery."

He stated that his administration is committed to promoting economic growth by providing conducive environment and opportunities to expand economic activities and productivity in the state.

Governor Uduaghan explained that the budget would help fast-track the development of the state by stimulating private economic activities towards boosting personal income in the state.

Speaking further, he said the sum of N500 million was appropriated to the agricultural sector to promote massive production of food for the increasing population adding that the Micro-Credit Scheme is used by the government to enhance industrialization of the state.

He said in 2010 emphasis would be on the improvement of land transportation and safety as measures that would re-position the urban and rural mass transit programme were been put in place.

In the health sector, the governor explained that his administration would remain committed to the health policies already adopted in the state to provide quality, effective, efficient and accessible health services.

The Deputy Speaker, Delta House of Assembly, Hon. Basil Ganaganah in his vote of thanks commended the governor for his contributions to the development of the state and assured him that the legislature would support him in the implementing of the 2010 budget for the benefit of Deltans.

2010 Budget Estimates: EDSG earmarks N99.25b

By THOMPSON ERHOMONSELE/ EUBALDUS ENAHORO

BENIN CITY- Edo State Governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole yesterday in Benin City presented the 2010 budget estimates of N99.25 billion to Edo State House of Assembly.

The Appropriation Bill christened: “Budget of Consolidation,” exceeds the 2009 budget by N18. 66 billion representing 23 per cent.

The 2010 fiscal policy comprises capital projection of N60.54 billion and a recurrent estimate of N38.71billion.

A sum of N61.358 billion is proposed as recurrent revenue which is made up of Internally Generally Revenue (IGR) of N18 billion representing 29 per cent, statutory allocation of N29.75 billion or 48 per cent and Excess crude and other oil revenue put at N13.60 billion representing 22 per cent.

In the financial estimates, the balance of N37.89 billion will be funded with N6.6 billion from the value added Tax (VAT), N9.23 billion from Grants as well as the contribution from loans end the opening balance from the current 2009 budget.

On capital projects priorities for 2010, the Governor said the combined- proposed allocation to roads with flood and erosion control and environmental beautification is N32.6 billion which constitutes 54 per cent of the total budget proposals, adding

that the primary attention on Benin City would be sustained while the scope of road construction and rehabilitation would be extended to the 18 local government areas of the state while all the roads to be constructed would be based on proper designs.

According to Comrade Oshiomhole, there will be commencement of a new primary drainage system within Benin City that will properly channel floods into natural tributaries based on the new Benin City storm, Water master plan, just as the Benin Moat will experience up- grading through stone – pitching to enhance its durability for the purpose of flood control and its presentation as a tourist heritage.

To increase Nigeria's carbon sink credit and other environmental renewal effort, he said government would embark on a massive afforestation programme in 2010 starting with the raising of one million tree seedlings.

Another priority area is the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructures in the education sector for which the sum of N7.5 billion is proposed, just as an initiation N1 billion is proposed for a comprehensive land reform exercise.

To boost agricultural productivity, N120 million is allocated for the purchase of additional tractors and implements to support farmers and farming communities in addition to other key initiatives in the agricultural sector. priority list, the justice sector attracted allocation of funds for the re- construction of the burnt High Court, rehabilitation and furnishing of other courts as well as acquisition of journals.

New fleet of mass transit buses will be acquired to strengthen the Edo Transport Service to ease the pains of commuters in an arrangement of partnership with the private sector for which the initial Edo State counterpart funding of N372 million is provided in the 2010 budget

Also in the transport sector the state government proposed to set up Traffic Management and Accident Rescue Corp and that the co-operation of the House of Assembly would be sought to pass the enabling law for the institution.

In the 2010 fiscal policy, 250 million has been proposed for the purchase of emergency relief materials, just as N120 million is earmarked for the rehabilitation and development of markets with the primary objective to relocate street traders, expand opportunities for enhancing the commercial activities.