

**MINUTES OF THE 6TH EXPANDED STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON STATE GDP
COMPUTATION IN NIGERIA HELD ON MONDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 2011 AT THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION**

Attendance:

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| 1. Tunde Lawal, Director (Macro), NPC | - | Chairman |
| 2. Mr. S.O. Eloho, NPC | - | Member |
| 3. Prof. Ndem Ayara, Cross River State Planning Commission | - | Member |
| 4. Eddy Ogbeihe, NPC | - | Member |
| 5. Izuchukwu I.B., State Bureau of Statistics, Anambra State | - | Member |
| 6. Greg Nzekwu, Consultant | - | Member |
| 7. Usman A. Liman, Niger State Bureau of State | - | Member |
| 8. Eleje Chinwe Juliet, Nigeria Governors' Forum | - | Member |
| 9. Odelola A.O, NBS | - | Member |
| 10. Oduh, O.I., NBS | - | Member |
| 11. Oseni-Ope, B.I, Lagos Bureau of Statistics | - | Member |
| 12. Mr. Gidado, Budget & Planning, Gombe State | - | Member |
| 13. Mr. Okonkwo Felix, NPC | - | Member |
| 14. Ayinda Yakubu, NPC | - | Member |
| 15. Mr. Obasi, Philip I, NPC | - | Secretariat |
| 16. Alfa, Mohammed N. NPC | - | Secretariat |
| 17. Mr. Obakpolor, J.O , NPC | - | Secretariat |
| 18. Gonya, P.J., NPC | - | Secretariat |
| 19. Ochepe Thomas, NPC | - | Secretariat |
| 20. Abubakar Halima S., NPC | - | Secretariat |
| 21. Chinedu E. Levi, NPC | - | Secretariat |
| 22. Zeenat AbdulRaheem, NPC | - | Secretariat |

S/No	DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSIONS	ACTION BY
1	OPENING	
2 3	The meeting commenced at 11.45 a.m with an opening prayer said by Mr. S.O. Eloho of National Planning Commission.	
4	CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS	
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	The Chairman, in his opening remarks, said that he was happy that NBS was present at the meeting. He added that as a follow-up on the conclusions reached at the last meeting, steps have been taken to move the project forward and stated that the Honourable Minister/Deputy Chairman of NPC has already sent a letter to Kano State Government on the hosting of the flag-off of the State GDP computation project. He added that letters have also been sent to all the 36 state Governors and the FCT, informing them of the need to pay their contributions and forwarding the Project Account details.	
15	CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
16 17 18	The Chairman called on members to go through the minutes of the previous meeting. After the consideration of the minutes, it was suggested that page 4 lines 121 to 131 should be recast.	
19	MATTERS ARISING	
20	i. Amended Budget	
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	The Chairman called on the Gombe State Representative who is the Chairman of the Sub-Committee constituted to work on the draft budget and workplan for the activities of the State GDP computation in Nigeria to give a brief. Briefing members, the Chairman of the Budget/Workplan sub-Committee said that there was a slight difference in the total budget figure he has and that from the Secretariat. Commenting, Mr. Felix Okonkwo of NPC said that it was so, because NBS was not at the last meeting where the Budget sub-committee was constituted and that was why he was asked to liaise with NBS to iron out some possible grey areas in the draft budget.	Budget Sub-Committee
32 33 34 35 36 37	The Chairman expressed dissatisfaction with the absence of the NBS at the last meeting and said that the Bureau should take the meetings of the Steering Committee seriously, considering her strategic importance in the process leading to the computation of the State GDP <u>to</u> the country. The Chairman of the sub-Committee suggested that the Sub-Committee should meet immediately after the meeting of the Steering Committee to	

38 39 40 41	finalize the budget and circulate to members. The Chairman agreed to the suggestion and said that the sub-Committee should meet after the meeting to finalise the budget.	<u>Repetition</u>
42	ii. Workplan	
43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69	<p>While commenting on the revised workplan for the Steering Committee, Mr. Felix noted that the timelines of items 6, 7, and 8 Phase 1 activities had elapsed. Mr. G. Nzekwu added that it was not only the timeline for those items alone but the entire time chart, commencing from when the project would start to its conclusion. Responding, the Chairman said that members of the committee should propose a time chart that would be feasible. He added that they should also give a breakdown of the workplan. He also sought clarification on the item - 'Hiring a Project Consultant' in the workplan. Responding, Mr. Adebisi said that it depends on the ToR for the project. The chairman stated that it was agreed at the previous meeting of the Steering Committee that there was need for consultants for the Needs Assessment of State Statistical Agencies and asked the committee to be attentive and well coordinated during deliberations at meetings to avoid drawing people back to issues that had already been agreed. He also charged the NBS to take the work of the Committee seriously by attending meetings regularly and handling tasks assigned to them effectively. A member sought to know whether there was any need to hire a project consultant. While responding, Mr. G. Nzekwu said that there was need for Consultant to do the capacity building for officers at States' Statistical Bureau, develop training manuals and methodology for the State GDP computation project. He said that except NBS has the capacity to do that, there was need for engagement of consultants. It was then agreed that a ToR should be prepared for the engagement of consultants for the project.</p>	
70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80	<p>In a separate contribution, the Gombe State representative said the instruments (questionnaire) for the Needs Assessment which was prepared by NBS needed to be improved upon. Also commenting on the importance of the Needs Assessment for the computation of State GDP, Mr. G. Nzekwu said that there was no how that the exercise would be conducted and some weakness would not be found. The Chairman re-emphasized the need to have consultants for the project and stated that members should make suggestions on the number of consultants to be engaged for the first phase of the project.</p>	

<p>81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124</p>	<p>FLAG-OFF</p> <p>The Chairman said that a letter had already been sent to Kano State Government for the hosting of the flag-off of the project. He sought the views of members on the feasibility of the event to take place on December 19, 2011 as earlier agreed since there was no confirmation for hosting of the event from the Kano State Government yet. The following issues were raised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Anambra State representative informed the meeting that the States Statistical Council meeting would be holding during 14th-15th December, 2011 at Gombe and so it would be difficult for some of them to attend that function and then proceed to Kano on 19th of December for the flag-off; ii. Gombe State representative said that he was not in support of moving the flag-off to 2012 because the expected support from UNDP might not be accessed since it was earmarked in its 2011 budget ; iii. Mr. Felix said that in view of the logistics that would be involved in the organization of the event, the December 19th date was not feasible; iv. Governors Forum representative said postponing it for early 2012 would not be a good idea in view of the Governorship elections that would be conducted in some states. <p>It was however generally agreed that the funds from the UNDP could still be accessed for the project if it would hold in January, 2012 and that the flag-off should be postponed to third or fourth week of January, 2012. There was however a suggestion for a Plan B in the event that Kano could not host the event. Members suggested that Niger State should be the option. The representative of Niger state said that the committee should be precise if it wants Niger State to host the event. Gombe State representative suggested that a letter should be written to Niger State representative to assist the State's representative on the Committee to initiate follow-up actions. There was a contrary view from some members that if Kano gets to know that another State was being considered as alternative, it would no longer be interested in hosting the event. Mr. Eloho suggested that Kano State should be given a deadline and if there was no feedback from her, Niger State could then be informed to host the event. It was then agreed that in the meantime, Kano state would be the host but that if she failed to meet the deadline, Niger State would automatically be the option.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
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<p>125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167</p>	<p>The Chairman informed members that the funds available from UNDP might not be enough for the project and asked members whether the project could be in phases. Gombe State representative suggested that the project should be in phases based on fund availability. Also commenting, the Lagos State representative complained that based on the reviewed budget which was less than the earlier N1bn, the State's contribution should be aligned with the new figure thereby bringing down the State's contribution. Responding, the Chairman stated that the Honourable Minister/Deputy Chairman of the NPC had already discussed the issue with the State Commissioners and that plans were underway to discuss with the State Governors during one of the NEC meetings to let the States pay the money and that the final budget figure remained N1bn. What needed to be done was to work within that fringe and make for adjustments as necessary.</p> <p>Anambra State Representative sought to know the roles States were expected to play in the whole project. Responding, the Chairman said that the Statistician-General of the Federation would be at the next meeting to make presentations on roles of State Statistical Agencies/Bureaux. The Secretariat was also mandated to check the date of the next NEC meeting so that the Hon. Minister of NPC could make a presentation to the Governors. A copy of the letter written to the <u>Director-General</u> of the Governors' Forum should be given to the representative of the Forum at the meeting for their follow-up.</p> <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Mr. Greg Nzekwu suggested the need for massive sensitization on the project so that people would be aware of the project. This according to him will require setting up of units in the State Bureaus of Statistics. There was also a suggestion that States should begin to itemize their key/major economic activities as doing that would facilitate the State GDP computation. Also, it was suggested that the States could replicate the setting up of States' GDP Computation Steering Committees for effective implementation of the project. It was then suggested that to make that possible, there would be need for letters in that regard to the States. It was however agreed that there was no need for letters as the Honourable Minister of NPC would say that in his remarks during the flag-off of the project. The idea was lauded by the Chairman and he added that for the State</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p><i>Chairman</i></p>
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168 GDP to be effectively carried out, there was the need to have
169 such institutional framework at the State level.

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171 The Chairman also informed members that one of the members
172 of the Committee in the person of Mr Greg Nzekwu was
celebrating his birthday and had decided to celebrate it with
173 members of the Committee with some bottles of wine. The
174 entire members expressed their best wishes to the celebrant
175 and wished him more fruitful years ahead to be able to
176 contribute his quota to the development of the nation.

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178 **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

179 In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked all members for
coming and making valuable contributions and urged them to
180 sustain the tempo as their contributions would be remembered
181 anytime the issue of State GDP would be discussed many years
182 to come. He also urged the Budget Sub-Committee to meet and
ensure that the budget was finalised.

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184 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

185 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Tuesday,
186 10th January, 2012 at 11 a.m.

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188 **CLOSING**

189 The meeting came to a close at 1.45 p.m with a closing prayer
190 offered by Alh. Mohammed Auwal, of NPC.

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192
193 ***State GDP Secretariat***
Macroeconomic Analysis Department
National Planning Commission

December 2011