



**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE JOINT PLANNING BOARD (JPB) & NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (NCDP) MEETINGS HELD FROM 28-30 AUGUST, 2018 AT THE JUNE 12 CULTURAL CENTRE KUTO, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE.**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Joint Planning Board (JPB) and National Council on Development Planning (NCDP) meetings organized by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP) in collaboration with the Ogun State Government was held from August 28-30, 2018, at the June 12 Cultural Center, Kuto, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The meeting, with the theme ***"Accelerating Implementation of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan: The Role of Stakeholders"***, was structured to ensure active participation of stakeholders at the technical sessions and side events.

2. The JPB meeting was formally declared open by the Secretary to the Ogun State Government, represented by the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Ms. Adenrele Adesina. The Permanent Secretary, Ogun State Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Hassan Adekunle, gave the welcome remarks while the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Mr. Olajide S. Odewale, *FCA* delivered the opening remarks and set the Agenda for the meeting. Goodwill messages were received from the Director-General,

Nigeria Governors' Forum and the CEO, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG).

## **B. OBJECTIVES**

3. The purpose of the meeting was to engender consultations with the key stakeholders on fast tracking the implementation of the ERGP. Specifically, the objectives of the meeting were to:

- a) Mobilise stakeholder support and ensure coordination among institutions at all levels of government for effective implementation of the ERGP;
- b) Identify ways of Leveraging the private sector for economic growth and development of the country;
- c) explore how best funds can be mobilised and harmonised for infrastructure development, employment generation and poverty reduction;
- d) examine ways of strengthening data management and M&E for effective delivery of the ERGP;
- e) inquire ways of improving the business environment to attract investments for the growth and development of the country; and
- f) discover ways of developing workforce talents and building strong institutions for effective implementation of the ERGP.

## **C. THEMATIC AREAS**

4. The meeting was structured into four (4) technical sessions, a Parallel Session and two (2) side events. A total of 18 lead papers were presented by the resource persons, including a lead paper on "Implementing the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan: The Journey So Far". This was

followed by updates on the implementation of the resolutions reached at the last JPB meeting. The technical sessions focused on the following sub-themes:

- a) The ERGP Implementation Priorities
- b) Coordination Among Institutions in the Implementation of the ERGP
- c) Financing Implementation of the ERGP
- d) Strengthening Data Management and Monitoring and Evaluation for Effective Delivery of the ERGP

#### **D. ATTENDANCE**

5. The JPB meeting was attended by 545 participants from 30 States of the Federation (including 9 State Commissioners, who served as resource persons and 17 Permanent Secretaries) and Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (including Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and Directors of Planning, Research & Statistics). Also in attendance were representatives of International Development Partners, Organized Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organisations and Media.

#### **E. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

6. After extensive deliberations, Delegates recommend as follows:

##### **a) State of the Economy**

- i. Borrowing should be on concessionary basis and channelled to investment in projects that have high rate of economic return;
- ii. States, particularly those that are owing salary and pension arrears are to explore ways of increasing their IGR collection by widening the tax base with special focus on the informal sector;

- iii. The Federal Government should continue to take such fiscal and monetary policies that will help to achieve a single digit lending and inflation rates in the country;
- iv. Efforts should be intensified to ensure the convergence of the official and parallel foreign exchange rates and ultimately achieve a market driven single exchange rate;
- v. To address the slowdown in GDP growth, the security challenges affecting agricultural production should be addressed and the ageing infrastructure in the oil and gas sector rehabilitated and expanded;
- vi. Government at all levels should address supply side constraints such as infrastructure and financing in real sector in order to boost economic activities, create jobs and reduce poverty;
- vii. Government at all levels should intensify efforts at creating an enabling environment to attract both local and foreign direct investments and create jobs;
- viii. The Federal Government should sustain the implementation of the ERGP and the various reforms, which have led the nation to exit from the economic recession;
- ix. States and Local Governments that are yet to develop Medium Term Plans in line with ERGP priorities should be encouraged to do so;
- x. Governments at all levels should intensify economic diversification efforts to increase IGR and job creation, and ensure overall macroeconomic stability;
- xi. The Federal Government should expand the Social Investment Programme (SIP) to create incentive packages to encourage States

to key into the programme for poverty reduction and realization of the ERGP objectives;

**b) Plan Coordination**

- i. Governments at all levels should adopt perspective and medium term planning and revisit the Development Planning and Project Continuity Bill at the National Assembly to ensure continuity in the implementation of plans and projects by successor administrations;
- ii. MBNP to design a more robust communication strategy on the ERGP to ensure buy-in by the various stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels;
- iii. The JPB/NCDP meetings should be held not later than the end of second quarter of the year to enhance participation;
- iv. MBNP to henceforth monitor closely the implementation of the JPB/NCDP Resolutions and ensure that officials follow-up in the States to enhance the level of implementation of resolutions and outcomes;
- v. Honourable Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries are encouraged to attend subsequent meetings in person to enhance political buy-in and ensure effective implementation of resolutions;

**c) Data Management and Monitoring & Evaluation**

- i. The ten States (Abia, Adamawa, Benue, Borno, Imo, Katsina, Kebbi, Kwara, Nasarawa and Plateau) that were yet to make the contribution of N14.1 million each to the State GDP computation project should do so as a matter of urgency in order to be part of the final batch of the exercise;

- ii. The MBNP to support the Federal MDAs and States to deepen the M&E systems on their projects and plans in line with National M&E Framework;
- iii. Federal and State Governments should set aside 0.5-2% of programme and project costs for M&E;
- iv. All the States of the Federation should be encouraged to professionalize the Planning cadre;
- v. MBNP to spearhead high level sensitization and advocacy of political leadership and senior level leadership on the relevance of M&E process to have their buy-in;
- vi. Federal and State MDAs should work with MBNP in the monitoring implementation of ERGP Focus Lab outcomes;

**d) Capacity Building and Research & Development**

- i. Government at all levels to ensure improved budgetary allocation for science and technology development for improved productivity;
- ii. MBNP and States should build a critical mass of skilled professional core planning cadre with focus on producing the skills and expertise that will be required for improved service delivery;
- iii. Federal and State Governments should improve on the quality and quantity of Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) institutions to provide the needed skills for employment;
- iv. Federal and State Governments should encourage mentoring as an avenue for enhancing human capacity and skill development outside formal education;

- v. The Offices of the Head of the Civil Service at the Federal and State levels to properly reposition the civil service through continuous training and performance management for improved service delivery;
- vi. Private sector should be involved in curricula development and absorb trainees for internship programmes;
- vii. Government at all levels should establish a special purpose vehicle to assist non-graduate unemployed youths, who account for 75% of unemployment to train at least 400,000 youths per annum;

**e) Infrastructure Development**

- i. Government at all levels should increase investment in critical infrastructure, particularly transport and energy for rapid economic growth and development;
- ii. States should fast-track the establishment of the Special Economic Zones to facilitate value chain development and diversification of the economy;
- iii. Nigeria, through the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), should come up with innovative financing options including blended concessional finance as an emerging concept as the sure way to address the infrastructure deficit in the country;
- iv. The Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) in the country should be strengthened to support rapid infrastructure development;
- v. Federal and State Governments should come up with policies and guidelines for introduction of user charges on infrastructure projects including roads to encourage private sector investment in infrastructure.

**f) Financing Plan and Policy Implementation**

- i. The need for the Federal Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Nigeria to expand funding access to more MSMEs;
- ii. Direct taxes should be reduced, while consumption tax (VAT) should be increased;
- iii. The agricultural financing interventions such as the CBN Anchor Borrowers' Support Scheme should be extended to more States and more crops.

**g) Improving Business Environment**

- i. States should urgently address the issues of land availability, titling and preparation for agricultural purposes;
- ii. The Federal Government should sustain the payment of its 37.5% subsidy share to Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) and States should include 12.5% contribution in their respective annual budgets;
- iii. Federal and State Governments should sustain efforts towards improving the environment for small businesses to thrive and create more jobs for the teeming youth population.

**h) Improving the Level of Participation of Honourable Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries at JPB and NCDP Meetings**

There is a need to take urgent steps to facilitate the participation of Honourable Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries at JPB and NCDP meetings. In this regard, it is recommended that the MBNP should convene a special session to address the issues. Equally the

JPB/NCDP Secretariat should conduct periodic visits to States and Federal MDAs to track level of implementation of Council Resolutions.

## **F. CONCLUSION**

7. The delegates resolved to implement the recommendations as may be endorsed by the National Council for Development Planning (NCDP), which met on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. The next JPB and NCDP meetings is proposed to hold in the first half of 2019, a delegate representing the Delta State Government at the meeting had indicated interest that the State would be interested in hosting the meeting, the meeting was yet to take decision on the State that would host the next meeting in 2019. However, the decision would be taken after due consultations with the stakeholders in due course.

## **G. APPRECIATION**

8. The delegates expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Government and good people of Ogun State for hosting the 2018 edition of the JPB and NCDP meetings.

**Issued** on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018 under the seal of the Chairman of Council.

**Joint Planning Board and National Council on  
Development Planning Secretariat  
Ministry of Budget and National Planning**

**August 30, 2018**