



Text of the Address by

His Excellency
Mr. Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji
Governor, Ekiti State, Nigeria

on the occasion of the

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT FOR 2023 BUDGET PREPARATION

at

Senatorial Districts, Ekiti State

Friday, 21st October 2022

Protocols

1. It is a great honour to be in your midst today on this auspicious occasion of citizens' engagement towards the preparation of Ekiti State 2023 Budget. I count it a rare privilege to be called upon to steer the ship of our dear State at this time in the history. I return all glory to God Almighty.
2. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me use this medium to express my profound gratitude to you, the good people of Ekiti State for your overwhelming support for me and our party APC, which culminated in my victory at the last gubernatorial election held on June 18, 2022.
3. This citizens' engagement is the first edition in this administration and it is in sync with my promise to you at my inauguration. You would recall that in my inaugural speech as the fourth elected Governor of our dear State, I promised you that I would create different platforms for inclusive participation, cordial interaction and enriching contributions of all stakeholders in the administration of the State. Today's occasion is an eloquent testimony to our commitment to this promise.



-
4. As a responsible government, we are of the firm belief that citizens' participation in budgeting process enables ownership and efficient service delivery. It also gives meaning to the popular definition of democracy by Abraham Lincoln which describes democracy "as government of the people by the people and for the people". For us, we want to govern with the people and not for them. You will always be part of our decision making and your voice will always be heard.
 5. This meeting is not only a personal commitment to participatory budgeting, it is also in conformity with the global best practices in budgeting. It is also one of the indicatory mileage of accountability requirements of the tripartite programme called: State Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) programme.
 6. Our annual Budget preparation process shall be bottom-up, whereby the needs and interest of the people shall be articulated. The involvement of the citizens in the Budget preparation is geared towards effective utilization of public funds based on the needs of the people.
 - i. Ladies and gentlemen, you would recall that the theme of my campaign was "*Working together to Keep Ekiti Working*", and my six pillar manifesto is anchored on the principle of inclusive growth and development. For the purpose of emphasis, I unveiled my administration's six-point Agenda at my inauguration on Sunday, October 16, 2022 whereby I reiterated the six focal areas of concentration. which include:
 - ii. Youth Development and Job Creation;
 - iii. Human Capital Development;
 - iv. Agriculture and Rural Development;
 - v. Infrastructure and Industrialization;
 - vi. Arts, Culture and Tourism; and
 - vii. Governance.
 7. Ekiti Kete, it is instructive to state that these Pillars cannot be achieved without a sound and people -oriented Budget. The first step in achieving this lofty objective has been achieved in the 30-year State Development Plan which was unveiled by the former Governor in about two weeks ago. So,
-



today's event is part of the strategies to actualise the long-term plan incrementally gradually picking the developmental plans one after the other and budget for their gradual actualisation. The inputs of stakeholders are therefore imperative to the success of the overall goals of our administration.

8. Going forward, this engagement will be held annually to interact with and collate the needs of our various towns and communities and other stakeholders for consideration in the budget preparation. It will also provide a veritable platform to receive feedback from the good people of Ekiti State.
9. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, my pact with Ekiti people is to create prosperity, peace and progress. Budget is a short-term fiscal document to achieve these lofty objectives. We shall not waiver in our quest and commitment to achieve our goal.
10. Finally, I am not unmindful of the global economic crises which stemmed from the post COVID-19 recovery and its unabated impact on our lives and purchasing power. However, I take solace in the Almighty God and the ingenuity of the abundant human resources available in Ekiti State to lead the state to prosperity.
11. Let me conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to our Royal Fathers for their presence at this occasion. I also thank the civil society organizations, the party leaders and members and all the stakeholders that are here with us.
12. *Let's Work together to Keep Ekiti Working!*
13. Thank you and God bless you all.

Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji

Governor

October 21, 2022