

**Presentation by Alh. Danladi Mohammed, Hon. Commissioner Gombe State Ministry of Economic Planning at Joint Planning Board/National Council Development Planning Meeting Holding at the Nike Lake Resort Hotel Nike, Enugu Between the 20 – 22<sup>rd</sup> July, 2012.**

***Protocol***

I wish to thank the organizers of this meeting for coming up with this strategy of sharing experiences between the Federal and States on development issue especially the planning experiences. I hope that this will not only be continued, but sustained.

**The Planning Experience before May, 2012**

2. Gombe State was created in Oct. 1996. With the Movement of the State to its Capital in Gombe, the Planning Agency was then Budget and Planning Bureau under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The Bureau had been carrying out its statutory roles of the coordination of the development Planning process for the State. The Bureau had coordinated the preparation of the States Rolling Plan, SEEDs I and II, participated in the SEEDs benchmarking exercises and also coordinating development assistance to the State from bilateral and Multilateral Sources through the National Planning Commission. The Bureau carries out these functions with the MDAs of the State and the National Planning Commission. The Bureau was also responsible for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the State project/programmes in liaison with the MDA's and the L.G.A's.

3. The challenge as Bureau within this period was the lack of a strong enabling environment for it to operate. Though the State had established Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS) Departments in the MDAs of the State, their operations had not been fully internalized. The Bureau had been working with these DPRS to coordinate the preparation of the State Plans and Budgets, but the dept of the appreciation of the role of planning in the development

process was not strong. Their linkage between the Plan and the budgets of the MDA's had been weak because of the lack use of the Plans to generate the projects/programmes that goes into the budget.

4. Even with these challenges, the Bureau was able to make its impact felt in the development process of the State. Successive administrations had been according it the attention within the operational circumstances of their regimes. This made it possible for the Bureau to coordinate the preparation of the Gombe State Vision 20-2020 document. The document was prepared through a wide Stake holder consultation with the MDAs, the LGA's and NGOS/CSO's.

5. The Bureau had been undertaking the Monitoring and Evaluation of projects/programmes for the State and LGA's, though the function had not been regular. It has also been coordinating the utilization of development assistance to the State from bilateral and multilateral Development partners in liaison with the National Planning Commission. At present, the State had no active bilateral or multilateral development assistance partner in the State. The State had gotten assistance from the UN System especially the UNDP and UNFPA. These assistance had ended with the immediate past cycles of assistance because of the rationalization of the operations of these partners in Nigeria.

### **The Planning Experience from May, 2012**

6. The Gombe State Government under the leadership of His Excellency, Alh. Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo, OON (Talban Gombe) carved out the Ministry of Economic Planning out of the erstwhile Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. This action by the Executive Governor has been seen in many quarters as an expression of the need for strong economic planning and management of the economy of Gombe State.

## **Vision and Mission Statements of the Ministry**

### **Vision**

7. To stand out as the best planning agency amongst other economic planning organizations at the sub-national governments in Nigeria.

### **Mission**

8. To pro-actively provide, sound, tested and sustainable policy advice on matters relating to economic growth and development and ensure proper articulation of plans and policies in the State.

### **Current Structure of the Ministry**

9. The newly – established Ministry of Economic Planning inherited the following three Departmental Structure from the old Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

- i. Finance and Administration Department
- ii. Planning and Research Department and
- iii. Statistics and Information Technology Department.

10. The creation of the new Ministry of Economic Planning provides a unique opportunity to firmly establish the Ministry of Economic Planning which will provide a strong planning and economic base for the State to optimize her great potentials through strong economic planning and management.

### **The Functions of the New Ministry**

11. The functions of the Ministry are as follows:

- i. Provision of policy advice to the Governor in particular and the State in general on development planning and management issues.
- ii. Set priorities and goals for the State;

- iii. Undertake periodic appraisal and review of human and material resources of the State with a view to advancing their development, efficiency and effective utilization;
- iv. Formulate and prepare long-term, medium-term and short-term development plans and to co-ordinate such plans;
- v. Monitor and evaluate projects, programmes and progress relating to plan implementation.
- vi. Provide key performance indicators to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to guide their attainment of the Vision of the State.
- vii. Conduct research into various aspects of the State's interests and public policy and ensure that the implications and results of the findings of such research are disseminated and geared towards the enhancement of the State economic, social, technological and security capabilities and management.
- viii. Manage bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation including development aid and technical assistance and programming.
- ix. Supervise the State Statistics Bureau
- x. Deal with matters relating to State and regional cooperation.
- xi. Liaison with the National Planning Commission (NPC) in all matters including the Joint Planning Board (JPB) and the National Council on Development Planning (NCDP)
- xii. Any other activities and function as may be assigned to it by the Governor.

**The Structure of the newly Established Ministry of Economic Planning.**

12. In order to actualize the Vision of the present Administration in Gombe State for the socio-economic development of the State and sound planning system, the Ministry recommended to His Excellency the creation more departments without necessarily spreading the State's resources too thinly. The staffing of the new Departments is done through looking inwards in the Ministry and the State Civil Service for qualified personnel.

13. In view of the forgoing, a five departmental structure was recommended for the new Ministry as follows:

- i. Department of Planning and Research (DPR)
- ii. Department of Administration and Finance (DAF)
- iii. Department of Statistics and Information Technology (DSIT)
- iv. Department of International Cooperation (DIC) and
- v. Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (DME)

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

### **14. Department of Planning and Research**

- a) Planning and coordination of sectoral Development Plans and Budget
- b) Periodic review and update of sectoral strategies, policies of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the State;
- c) Researching into issues relating to the various sectors of the economy of the State
- d) Researching into the internal organization and operational modalities of the Ministry's/sectors
- e) Maintaining close contact with relevant bodies outside the Ministry especially the NPC in the performance of the above functions;
- f) Articulate and formulate long, medium and short-term sectoral plans.
- g) Identify policy direction and set objectives for sectoral development;
- h) Development policy thrusts and strategies, and identify new approaches for sectoral advancement and innovation.
- i) Prepare department annual Action Plans;
- j) Periodic review of Departmental deliverables
- k) Gather and analyze relevant data on States' sectoral performance; and

- l) Conduct researches into the sectors and provide necessary policy advice.

**15. Department of Administration**

- a) Initiate and implement capacity building initiatives for the development of all staff;
- b) Manage staff welfare in line with the extant conditions of Service by the State;
- c) Undertake appointment, promotion and discipline of staff
- d) Undertake tendering process for the Ministry's procurements in line with the relevant Procurement Act for the State
- e) Undertake periodic review and appraisal of the manpower resource capabilities of the Ministry with a view to advancing their development, efficiency and effective utilization;
- f) Manage the Ministry's treasury and financial records
- g) Execute all authorized payments for procurement and other service and/or financial engagements made by the Ministry.
- h) Undertake regular reconciliation of all financial expenditures, claims etc by staff of Ministry as well as contractors.
- i) Collate and compute monthly salaries of staff and other related financial benefits.
- j) Render annual returns to Accountant-General of State and
- k) Provide professional and technical financial advice to the Ministry.

**16 Department of Statistics and Information Technology**

- a) Collect, collate and interpret statistics for the purpose of formulation and implementation of government policies in the State
- b) Disseminate statistics collected or interpreted to the State Government Agencies and authorities of Government
- c) Constant generation and processing of data/statistics relating to the sectors in the State;

- d) Manage the Ministry's records and information resources (data bank computer services, registry library etc);
- e) Design, develop and implement data processing from various socio-economic surveys in the State;
- f) Provide ICT hardware and maintenance support services to the State.
- g) Provide technical support services to the State; and
- h) Provide technical support for the use of information communication technology in the form of training and capacity building to the State.

## **17 Department of Technical Assistance**

- a) Coordinate the effective management and utilization of development and technical assistance to the State;
- b) Coordinate all bilateral and multilateral development assistance from the UN system, World Bank, European Union, Department for International Development (DFID), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), German International Technical Cooperation (GIZ) etc.
- c) Establish and maintain regular contact with the International cooperation Department in NPC to ensure regular benefit of assistance to State from Development Partners
- d) Establish and maintain a Data Bank for monitoring of development assistance to State;
- e) Articulate sectoral needs of State for support by Development Partners and
- f) Prepare a comprehensive policy for utilization of assistance from Development Partners

## **18 Department of Monitoring and Evaluation**

- a) Monitor and evaluate short medium and long term plans implementation for the State

- b) Develop appropriate scorecards for reporting and key performance economic indicators for the State.
- c) Set and monitor the performance and efficiency and deficiency targets for the various MDAs/Divisions and staff
- d) Develop and maintain a framework to support the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of government performance in line with the State developmental goals and objectives.
- e) Monitor and evaluate government performance at sectoral level (to measure performance of government policies in each sector of the economy), institutional level (to measure performance of government institutions) and program level (to evaluation the effectiveness and impact of public programmes) using appropriate key performance Indicators.
- f) Develop and publish the State's M&E Report as the primary medium for the dissemination of performance information and
- g) Develop M&E capacities across the State Government's MDAs.

#### 19. **The Ministry's Current Plans of Action.**

To institutionalize the role of planning in the development process of the State in line with the developmental aspirations of the government and the vision and mission of creating the Ministry, the following activities are planned for execution for which His Excellency, the Executive Governor has granted approval.

- a) The conduct of the Gombe State 1<sup>st</sup> Economic Summit
- b) Computation of Gombe State Gross Domestic (SGDP) in collaboration with the NPC, NBS and the Nigerian Governors Forum Secretariat
- c) Preparation of the Local Economic Transformation Blueprint for the 11 LGA of the State.
- d) Conduct of Community Needs Assessment based on WARDS delineation to identify the developmental needs of the communities for effective planning and implementation
- e) Preparation of the Gombe State Economic Transformation Blueprint.



- f) Conduct of duty Tour to all the MDAs and the 11 LGA's to sensitize them on the role of the Ministry, the and the development aspirations of the administration.
- g) Developing a result based management framework for a sustainable Monitoring and Evaluation system for the MDA's and LGA's as well as key Performance Indicators and Scorecards with assistance of the National Planning Commission.
- h) Plans to reposition the Planning, Research and Statistics Departments of the MDA's in the State with support from the NPC.
- i) Strengthening the role and use of Statistics for development planning.

20. It is hoped that when these line of activities are implemented, the development planning experience of Gombe State will take a new dimension and next when we report to this august meeting, the story will be different. The State therefore wishes to request for the assistance of the National Planning Commission, Federal MDA's and the Development Partners to enable it meet its vision and mission aspirations for the people of Gombe State.