



**REPORT OF THE 20TH EDITION OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING (NCDP)
MEETING HELD ON
6TH AUGUST, 2021
AT THE
MULTIPURPOSE HALL, GOVERNMENT
HOUSE, MAIDUGURI,
BORNO STATE**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 20th edition of the National Council on Development Planning (NCDP) meeting was held on Friday 5th August, 2021 at the Multipurpose Hall, Government House, Maiduguri, Borno State with the theme: ***"Managing the Nigerian Economy for Sustainable Development in a Challenging Environment"***. The meeting which was chaired by the Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning had in attendance the Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Permanent Secretary, Budget and National Planning, 4 Hon. Commissioners and 12 State Permanent Secretaries representing their Hon. Commissioners. Others in attendance included representatives of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, Private Sector, Academia, Development Partners, Federal MDAs, media and civil society organization (CSOs).

2.0 BREAKFAST SESSION

2.1 A Working Breakfast Session of Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning with State Honourable Commissioners of Economic Planning and critical Key Stakeholders was held antecedent of the NCDP meeting as an avenue to interact on issues of mutual economic interest. The Honourable Commissioner of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Borno State welcomed members to the session and wished all delegates fruitful deliberation.

Motivational Talk by the Special Adviser (SA) to Borno State Governor on Humanitarian Issues and Monitoring & Evaluation

2.2 The SA to the Executive Governor of Borno State, presented a motivational talk to the delegates. She bemoaned the challenging environment under which the country operates given the over-whelming insecurity situation across the nation that had been debilitating the socio-economic well-being of the citizenry. She itemized the imperative over-all planning role and the way forward as follows:

- i. The need to discover the root cause of the current problems in order to find appropriate redress mechanisms;
- ii. The need to ensure robust, all-inclusive and strategic planning across all tiers of Government for impactful change on the citizens;

- iii. The need to think outside the box, strategize and act differently in a positive direction to ensure positive outcome;
- iv. The need for an overall Human Capital Development (HCD) to achieve learning, re-learning and e-learning among planners; and
- v. The need to build confidence in people as well as ensure human-centredness for motivational purposes.

2.3 Concluding, she advocated for social re-orientation of the general populace to mitigate the prevailing humanitarian challenges and solicited for functional implementation framework across all levels of Government.

Remarks by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Abuja

2.4 In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Budget and National Planning re-emphasized on the importance of planning as the key strategy towards achieving meaningful development especially as it affects planning coordination. Speaking further, she informed the delegates of her role as an Ambassador of the Global Food System Summit and re-iterated the importance of food security. She enjoined all the State Actors to ensure well balanced nutrition and encouraged mechanized farming in all States of the Federation and the FCT to enhance job creation and food security to boost the economy. She disclosed that the overarching impact of food security on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) made it imperative for Government at all levels to embrace it and ensure its successful implementation across board. Concluding, she decried the low turn-out of State Commissioners to the event and anticipated for an improved attendance at subsequent meetings.

Remarks by the Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Abuja

2.5 The Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, in his remarks, stated that the major problem in Nigeria at the moment was the inability of the citizens to think well and comprehend their thoughts. He further disclosed that the internet had made information more accessible and as such implored Nigerians to take advantage of such opportunities to seek solutions to societal problems. Speaking further, he enjoined participants to imbibe the character of

thinking outside the box which according to him brings about right solutions to certain peculiar situations. He further advised participants to adopt daily target/goal setting and prioritize their daily tasks for achievable objectives in their respective work endeavours.

2.6 On the state of the nation's economy, the Honourable Minister informed the meeting that the economy had been diversified in the last five (5) years and no longer depends on oil as was the case in the past. He disclosed that currently, oil only contributes about 45% to the nation's GDP as against 80% recorded in the past years. He attributed the GDP growth success to an improved performance on the non-oil sector of the economy.

2.7 Continuing, he noted that data was key for effective decision making and as such indulged participants to ensure collation and judicious use of credible data. According to him, inadequate/inaccurate data makes it difficult to determine how much the nation was committing to different sectors of the economy. He called on Commissioners of Budget and Economic Planning to ensure consistent/timely preparation and submission of their annual budgets to the Budget Office of the Federation (BoF) for proper and effective aggregation before appropriation.

2.8 Concluding, he reiterated the need to address food insecurity which he stated could be attained/achieved through provision of infrastructure to address post-harvest losses; provision of good road network for easy access to markets by rural dwellers/farmers; provision of off-grid alternative power in rural areas; as well as other basic infrastructures such as solar system deployment that would discourage rural-urban migration. He re-emphasized the fact that agriculture should be seen as the life-wire of any growing economy and as such should be treated accordingly.

3.0 Introductory Remarks by the Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Economic Planning, Borno State

3.1 In his introductory remarks, the Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Economic Planning, Borno State welcomed delegates to the NCDP meeting which was aimed at assisting policy makers and managers in drafting qualitative development plans to guide and promote economic growth and development of the country. He stated that despite the security challenges faced by the country,

the people of Borno State remained hospitable to all irrespective of political, religious, and ethnic affiliations.

3.2 He commended the choice of the theme for the meeting, “Managing the Nigerian Economy for Sustainable Development in a Challenging Environment” and described it as being of particular interest to virtually all policy makers and managers in all spheres of the national economy. He stated that the theme focused on addressing insecurity, health, humanitarian, economic and development planning challenges facing the country and emphasised the need to extensively deliberate on them to proffer realistic ways of mitigating and managing the crises.

3.3 Concluding, he expressed optimism that at the end of the meeting, a well thought out communique detailing comprehensive challenges and actionable recommendations for overcoming them would be produced.

4.0 Goodwill Messages

4.1 Goodwill Message by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Aviation

4.1.1 In his goodwill message, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Aviation, Engr. Hassan Musa welcomed participants to Borno State and appreciated the Governor of Borno State, Professor Babagana Zulum and the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning for choosing Borno State as the host for the 20th edition of NCDP meeting despite the security situation.

4.1.2 Concluding, he commended the Governor for the numerous achievements and transformations going on in all sectors in the state within a short period of time and wished the delegates a fruitful deliberation.

4.2 Goodwill Message by the Chairman, Network of Civil Society Organizations in Borno State and North East

4.2.1 In his goodwill message, Ambassador Ahmed Shehu, Chairman of the Network of the Civil Society Organisations in Borno State and North East thanked the organizers of the event for recognising CSOs and inviting them to be part of the meeting. He appreciated the Governor for the robust partnership and

collaboration between the CSOs and the Government of Borno State to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of insurgency in the State.

4.2.2 Speaking further, he said that Borno State had witnessed a lot of transformations under the leadership of Governor Babagana Zulum and advised the delegates to publicize the good works of the Governor by inviting investors to invest in the state. Concluding, he wished the delegates a fruitful deliberation.

4.3 Goodwill Message by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

4.3.1 In his goodwill message, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon expressed his delight for being part of the opening ceremony of the National Council on Development Planning meeting. He stated that as the country was preparing the Medium-Term Development Plan, the North East region presented a unique set of issues for peace, security and stability in the Lake Chad Basin.

4.3.2 He also stated that for the meeting to hold in Maiduguri was a testament to the resilience and determination of the people and leadership of Borno State and other North East states to put the tragedy of 12 years behind them. He described Professor Babagana Zulum as a symbol of hope, and congratulated him for developing a 25-year Development Framework and a 10-year Strategic Transformation Plan to restore the age-long honour, dignity and prosperity of the State.

4.3.3 He further stated that the crisis in the North East region was a complex emergency and had an intricate web of issues that required the collaboration of different actors in the search for a durable solution. He added that the humanitarian crisis in the North East was dynamic and remained one of the largest in the world.

4.3.4 Reeling out the statistics, he said that at the peak of the crisis in 2017, over 2.2 million people were displaced in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, and 303,963 Nigerian refugees were in the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger. While an estimated 1.9 million people were currently displaced in the BAY States, over 80 per cent of them were living in overcrowded internally

displaced persons (IDPs) camps in Borno State. He equally informed that although an estimated 1.6 million people had returned to relatively safer areas, they were still facing new challenges of periodic insecurity with limited access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.

4.3.5 Continuing, he commended the humanitarian community in Nigeria, including the Government, International Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Societies and the United Nations for alleviating human suffering, averting a famine, and bringing hope to millions of people affected by the conflict. To address humanitarian challenges, he noted that from global best practices, there were no humanitarian solutions to humanitarian problems and that the only solution to the crises in the northeast Nigeria was peace. He recommended a three-pronged approach required to find a lasting solution to the crisis in the northeast Nigeria as: the continuation of the counter-insurgency effort of the Nigerian Armed Forces; the counter- terrorism effort by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF); and the continuation of the life-saving assistance in pockets of acute humanitarian needs and addressing the root causes of the crisis.

4.3.6 Concluding, he said that though the situation seemed complex and insurmountable, with the collaboration of everyone, Nigeria would go a long way in finding enduring solutions to the immediate and underlying root causes of the crisis.

5.0 Opening Address by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning

5.1 In the opening address, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Dr. (Mrs.) Zainab Ahmed welcomed delegates to the meeting and informed them that the meeting was organized by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (FMFBNP) in collaboration with the Government of Borno State as a follow-up to the 19th edition which was held in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja in March, 2021.

5.2 She stated that the NCDP was a meeting of States' Honourable Commissioners of Budget and Economic Planning organized annually as a platform for Senior

Officials of the Federal and State Ministries, representatives of the Organized Private Sector, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations to engage in technical discussions on contemporary economic policy issues and to come up with effective and functional approaches towards enhancing economic management at both National and Sub-National levels.

5.3 She acknowledged that the theme of the 20th NCDP meeting which was “*Managing the Nigerian Economy for Sustainable Development in a Challenging Environment*” was carefully crafted to address the numerous challenges being faced by Nigeria in recent times. She encouraged the delegates to critically discuss and agree on the best adoptable approaches towards effective management of the nation’s economy to ensure equitable economic development across the federation.

5.4 Speaking further, she stated that both the Federal and State Governments must join hands together to build a Nigeria of our dream by ensuring the development of all sectors of the economy that would create wealth and jobs in line with Mr. President’s commitment to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in ten years.

5.5 She added that no plan would succeed without the collaboration of the sub-national levels and enjoined the states to key into the development plans and economic policies of the Federal Government for overall balanced economic growth and development.

5.6 Concluding, she implored delegates to take full advantage of the meeting and contribute meaningfully to the deliberations in order to actualize the economic aspirations of Nigeria and wished participants fruitful deliberations.

6.0 Welcome Address by the Executive Governor of Borno State

6.1 In his welcome address, the Executive Governor of Borno State, His Excellency, Professor Umar Babagana Zulum welcomed delegates to the NCDP meeting. He commended the Honourable Ministers of Finance, Budget and National Planning for graciously approving the request of Borno State to host the

meeting and thanked the Local Organizing Committee for working assiduously to ensure the success of the meeting.

6.2 The Governor also commended the organizers of the meeting for the choice of the theme “Managing the Nigerian Economy for Sustainable Development in a Challenging Environment”. He stated that no environment had been so challenged in the country than Borno in view of the 13 years of insurgency which was further exacerbated by the Corona Virus Pandemic. He added that holding the meeting in Maiduguri was a demonstration of what President Muhammadu Buhari had achieved in the fight against terrorism and encouraged the sustenance of the tempo for the region to fully return to complete normalcy.

6.3 Speaking further, he stated that Borno State was able to overcome its fiscal challenges by introducing a policy shift aimed at rejuvenating the process of revenue collection and management to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public resources. He added that some of the mechanisms and strategies put in place were the introduction of Fiscal Sustainability Plan adopted from the Federal Government, repositioning of the Borno State Board of Internal Revenue to boost the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA), automation of all tax administration system in line with the Joint Tax Board to improve the economy of the state, transformation of the Borno State Ministry of Land and Survey to Borno State Geographic Information Service (BOGIS) and enhancing its capacity to collect ground rent and ease the process of land acquisition for both individuals and corporate applicants to encourage business.

6.4 Continuing, the Governor informed that in order to provide dividends of democracy to the people, he constituted a Need Assessment Committee to identify and analyse the needs of the communities in alignment with the 25-Year Development Framework and the 10-Year Strategic Transformation Plan to build a secured, competitive agro-business and sustainable development. He also instituted an annual Town Hall Meeting organized by the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning to involve all stakeholders in the budget process.

6.5 Speaking on the National Council on Development Planning meeting, he said the Council should re-examine how the Federal and State Governments implement projects captured in the budget. He informed that Nigeria was good in preparing Plans but weak in their implementations. He wondered why governments should engage in construction of new projects while the on-going ones had not been completed.

6.6 Concluding, he expressed appreciation to the Development Partners and Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning for supporting Borno State in building the 800 Housing Units and many other interventions. He also requested that Borno State should be considered for supplementary budget. He equally commended President Muhammed Buhari for ensuring that peace was returned to the State.

7.0 Keynote Address by the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

7.1 Delivering the keynote address, His Excellency, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON expressed appreciation to the Governor and the people of Borno State for the hospitality and support in hosting the 20th edition of the Joint Planning Board/ National Council on Development Planning meeting. He thanked the Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning and the Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning as well as State Commissioners of Budget and Economic Planning for attending this important meeting in persons. He stated the fact that the meeting was holding in Maiduguri indicated the desire of all participants to support Borno State which over the years has faced security challenges.

7.2 Speaking on the achievements of the present Governor of Borno State, the Vice President stated that the Governor of Borno State and its good people had performed excellently to transform the economy of the State inspite of the security challenges and the limited resources. He confirmed that the development challenges do not rest squarely on paucity of funds as it is generally claimed.

7.3 Commenting on the importance of the meeting, the Vice President stated that the participants present were public service think-tank responsible for

planning and proffering appropriate solutions to overcome the multiple development challenges currently facing the nation. He was optimistic that their correct interpretation of critical issues, trends and events that influence socio-economic outcomes would be crucial.

7.4 The Vice President's address focused on five critical issues namely: COVID-19 Pandemic, Security, Climate Change, Fourth Industrial Revolution and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. Speaking on the consequence of COVID-19 Pandemic, the Vice President enumerated statistics on the prevailing cases of the Pandemic across the country. He cited an example of Lagos State where they had daily average of 6 confirmed deaths which represented 33% increase in fertility rate. He emphasized the need to pay adequate attention to the pandemic by making resources available to procure sufficient quantity of COVID-19 Vaccines and boost capacity to produce the vaccine locally.

7.5 Commenting on the issue of security, he confirmed that the insecurity was having a serious negative impact on food production and investment. He stated that government has taken steps to overhaul the security architecture and approved supplementary budget of almost N700 billion dedicated to improving security nationwide. He urged the meeting to come up with implementable policy and advise that would boost effective synergy between the Federal and the States overcoming the security challenges.

7.6 On Climate Change, the Vice President confirmed that though Africa contributed less to global warming, the continent may suffer most of the climate change consequences because the continent lacked the capacity and resources to adapt to the consequences of climate change impact. He confirmed that some of the consequences of the Climate Change were the recent flood heatwaves around the globe and Nigeria inclusive. He stated that the reduction in the use of fossil fuel as a mitigation strategy would negatively affect Nigeria because of the reliance on oil and gas as the major source of revenue and foreign exchange earnings. He called on participants to identify alternative sources of revenue generation and sources of environmentally friendly renewable energy.

7.7 Speaking on the Industrial revolution, the Vice President stated that there was a shift from the use of combustion engines to electric car which had serious implication on the demand of fossil fuel and loss of millions of jobs as well as resource for our industrial development. As Economic Managers, there is the urgent need for detailed and in-depth planning to leapfrog into the digital age and emphasized education as the key determinant. The Vice President also expressed the need for all tiers of government to invest in technology and related broadband infrastructure to support building skills of youth in digital technology. He confirmed that the present administration was working with the African Development Bank to launch the Nigerian Innovation Programme which would cost \$500m to support technology and creative sectors of the economy.

7.8 Commenting on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, the Vice President stated that while the Free Trade Agreement offered opportunities for our national development and advised that deliberate steps must be taken to take full advantages Agreement paying more and active interest to harness the available opportunities for our various States. He advised that the nation should put in place strategies that would support business that may be affected by the agreement while encouraging those at advantage to take full opportunity to improve on their activities. Speaking further, he stated that States should dedicate Units in their various Planning Ministries to monitor the African Continental Free Trade Agreement to ensure that Nigeria was in abreast with the activities of the agreement. He explained that the on-going investment in infrastructural development would improve our business competitiveness thereby improving our economy. He acknowledged that there was a need for sourcing resources to invest in production, infrastructure, provision of social services and social protection. However, he cautioned that this should not pose an undue burden on businesses in their search for more internally generated revenue and advised to eliminate multiple levies and charges and simplified the exiting lives and ensure that their collection methods were transparent and seamless. He advised the States to support the Federal in ensuring that broadband connectivity was achieved by 2023.

7.9 Drawing the attention of participants to the on-going development of the National Development Plan (2021-2025) and the Agenda 2050, he called on the meeting to ensure all the present development challenges should be properly captured in the plans. While emphasizing on the importance of coordination, he advised States to align their programmes to the plans to minimize duplication of efforts and waste. He commended the efforts of the States to have fully participated in the development of the NDP and the Agenda 2050 and advised the States to align their Plans to the national plan in order to guide investment decisions in the public and private sectors. He pledged that the Federal Government was ever ready to offer the needed technical assistance required from the States to develop their respective plans. The need for to generate growth, eradicate poverty, develop our human capital and build up the infrastructural backbone for long time development not be over stressed. He called on all states to work in synergy in achieving the target of lifting 100m Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

7.10 Concluding, the Vice President thanked the organizing Committee and other key stakeholders for their efforts to ensure the success of the meetings and wished participants fruitful deliberation while awaiting the outcome of the meeting and declared the meeting open.

8.0 Consideration of the Report of the 19th NCDP Meeting held on 26th March, 2021

8.1 The Report of the 19th NCDP held on 26th March, 2021 at the Nigerian Air Force Conference Centre and Suites, Abuja was considered with the following amendments:

- i. The Senior Special Adviser to the President on SDGs was omitted on the attendance list and was to be added;
- ii. Page 3, Item 4.2. Replaced word "is" with the word "was"; and
- iii. The Report to be paginated;

8.2 Thereafter, motion for the adoption of the 19th NCDP Report, as amended, was moved by the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning, Taraba State and

seconded by the Honourable Commissioner for Finance and Budget, Adamawa State.

9.0 Matters Arising from the Report of the 19th NCDP Meeting held on 26th March, 2021

i. The need for the professionalization of the Planning Officer's Cadre both at the National and Sub-Nationals

Comments/Observations

9.1 The representative of the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation stated that due to the importance of the Planning Cadre, the Head of Service of the Federation through a Service-Wide Circular in July, 2020 requested for conversion of relevant Federal Civil Servants to the Planning Cadre and that the shortlisted 253 Staff were undergoing a 3-Month training organized by the Nigeria Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER) in collaboration with the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation and the Centre for Management Development (CMD).

9.2 Also commenting, most of the States Honourable Commissioners at the meeting confirmed that their States had already professionalized and pooled the Planning Cadre, however, suggested for a uniformed structure across the States.

Decision

9.3 The Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning implored the State Commissioners to come up with a uniform structure which could be presented to NEC and later to FEC for adoption into the Federal Civil Service System.

ii. Establishment of Economic Planning Boards in order to strengthening synergy and serve as a framework for implementation of National Plans

Comments/Observations

9.4 Representatives from Adamawa, Enugu, Taraba, and Benue States disclosed that they already had their Economic Planning Boards in place.

Decision

9.5 The Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning suggested that a Team should be constituted to carry out a SWOT Analysis on why most States were yet to set up their Economic Planning Boards in order to take a decision.

iii. Need for States to recognise and integrate Local Government Areas into their Development Plans and Programmes

Comments/Observations

9.6 The Permanent Secretary, Kaduna State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning stated that the Kaduna State Government had already complied in line with the directive by integrating the Local Government into their current Development Plan. He also informed that the State had put in place a M&E framework to track the implementation of the State plan.

Decision

9.7 The HMSBNP stepped down the discussion to the Community of Practice (CoP) meeting where the Director, National Monitoring & Evaluation, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning would make a presentation on the subject.

iv. States to adopt and evolve a common template and time-frame for the development of their Medium Term Plans

Comments/Observations

9.8 All the States present at the meeting disclosed that their States had Medium Term Development Plans, but it was observed that those Plans were not in uniformity. Also commenting, the Director, Macroeconomic Analysis, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning implored the various State Governments to key into the Medium Term National Development Plan and the Nigeria Agenda 2050 that was being prepared by Federal Government, in collaboration with the States, Private Sector and other Stakeholders.

Decision

9.9 The HMSBNP noted that there was no commonality in the various plans of the States. He further advised the States to align their plans with the MTNDP 2021-2025 and the Agenda 2050.

10.0 Presentation and Consideration of the Major Conclusions of the 20th Joint Planning Board Meeting held from Tuesday, 3rd – Wednesday, 4th August, 2021

10.1 The Resolutions of the 20th Edition of the JPB meeting were presented by the Permanent Secretary, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Olusola Idowu, and as follows:

1. The 20th edition of the Joint Planning Board (JPB) meeting organized by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (FMFBNP) in collaboration with the Borno State Government was held from the 3rd – 4th of August, 2021 at the Multipurpose Hall, Government House, Maiduguri, Borno State. The theme of the meeting was ***"Managing the Nigerian Economy for Sustainable Development in a Challenging Environment"***.
2. The meeting was formally declared open by the Secretary to the Government of Borno State, Alhaji Usman Jidda Shuwa, fwc. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Borno State, Hajia Maryam Shehu, fna, gave the Welcome Address while Mrs. Olusola O. Idowu, the Permanent Secretary, Budget & National Planning, Abuja and Chairman of the JPB gave the Opening Remarks virtually. Goodwill messages were received from the representatives of the United Nations' Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator; and the President, An-Ansar Foundation; and the Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State. The Acting Director, Special Duties (FMFBNP), Dr. (Mrs.) Gloria K. Ahmed set the Agenda for the meeting.
3. The main objective of the meeting was for critical Stakeholders and delegates to deeply discuss on the best adoptable approaches towards the effective management of the nation's economy to foster equitable economic development across the States of the Federation. It was also an excellent

opportunity for discussions on how to steer the ship of governance and meet the needs and aspirations of the citizenry amidst the turbulent socio-economic climate.

4. The meeting was structured into two (2) Technical Plenary Sessions, three (3) Parallel Sessions and two (2) Side Events though held in plenary. A total of fourteen (14) papers were presented by Resource Persons, including a lead paper on **“Managing the Nigerian Economy for Sustainable Development in a Challenging Environment”**. The Technical Sessions focused on the following sub-themes:

- a) Tackling Humanitarian Challenges;
- b) Managing Insecurity in Nigeria;
- c) The Convid-19 Pandemic;
- d) Humanitarian Issue and Food Security: The Perspective of International Partners; and
- e) Empowering IDPs through Skill Acquisition for Self-Reliance and Economic Growth.

5. The JPB meeting was held as hybrid (physical and virtual). The participation at the meeting was impressive with 628 delegates participating (598 physically and 30 virtually) drawn from 21 States of the Federation and the FCT, namely: Adamawa, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Delta, Enugu, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe and Zamfara were in attendance. Others in attendance included 13 State Commissioners, 21 State Permanent Secretaries, 44 Directors-General and Directors of Planning, Research & Statistics from the Federal and State Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Representatives of Development Partners, Organized Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations and the Media.

6. Arising from exhaustive discussions and deliberations, delegates unanimously recommended the following:

- **Managing the Nigerian Economy for Sustainable Development in a Challenging Environment**

- i. Factors hindering economic growth, employment, and support for businesses should be addressed at all levels of Government in order to achieve balanced and sustainable development in a changing environment;
 - ii. States to objectively create and sustain growth poles as well as ascertain baselines of their current GDP and development in order to track progress; and
 - iii. National and Sub-National Governments should create ecosystems based on the comparative advantage of different economic corridors as critical part of our national strategy.
- **Status Report on the Implementation of key Resolutions of the 19th Edition of the JPB/NCDP Meetings**
 - i. The JPB Secretariat should be strengthened to effectively track implementation of the key resolutions of the annual JPB/NCDP meetings and circulate the draft report to States for confirmation and validation of submissions within the period of 2-4 weeks before final report is produced.
- **Strategic Approach towards addressing Humanitarian Challenges in Nigeria**
 - i. Humanitarian Programmes/ Interventions should be integrated into all aspects of governance for effectiveness and sustainability;
 - ii. Both National and Sub-National Governments should engage the Youths in more productive ventures and enlightenment programmes for inclusiveness and reduce restiveness;
 - iii. National and Sub-National Governments should facilitate a centralized coordination of interventions through the use of technology in order to ensure that every intervention reached its destination; and
 - iv. States to adopt a regional approach in addressing issues around humanitarian crisis such as Almajiri practices, as well as, security challenges.
- **Security Challenges in Nigeria: Implications for Sustainable Economic Growth and Development**

- i. The Federal Government to develop a strong and well-equipped Military and Paramilitary Forces, as well as, establish Armed Forest and Border Guards equipped with modern surveillance devices.
- **Managing Humanitarian Issues through the MTNDP 2021-2025 and Agenda 2050**
 - i. Government at all levels should promote Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), implementation of Disability Act, infrastructural development with focus on rural development, inclusive healthcare and education, access to resources to solve the lingering humanitarian issues in Nigeria; and
 - ii. As a core goal of the MTNDP 2021-2025, States should adopt the principle of inclusiveness and openness in plan formulation and implementation that will provide lasting solutions to humanitarian crises in Nigeria.
 - **Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities for Economic Development**
 - i. The CBN should continue to maintain stable foreign exchange rate, lower interest rate and encourage Commercial Banks to make funds available to the MSMEs for increased economic activities; and
 - ii. Government at all levels should upgrade their health infrastructure especially at the primary healthcare level to support local manufacture of critical drugs/vaccines in order to cater for health needs of the populace.
 - **Innovative Approaches, Methods and Tools for undertaking Monitoring & Evaluation process under challenging environment**
 - i. States should strengthen their Result-Based M&E Systems as well as Management Information Systems (MIS) to promote accountability, transparency for enhance delivery of projects & programmes; and
 - ii. States should reach out and collaborate with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to build their capacity to generate reliable and efficient data for planning purposes.
 - **Ensuring Food Security in Nigeria towards Sustainable Development**

- i. Federal and State Government should fully integrate Food Security and Nutrition in their programmes and ensure that households have access to social protection programmes;
- ii. National and Sub-National Government should encourage the use of mechanized farming methods by providing the required resources and creating enabling environment for food security;
- iii. States should ensure that at least 10 per cent of their annual budgets are dedicated to Agricultural development in line with the Malabo/ Maputo Declaration in order to accelerate national development and food security;
- iv. National and Sub-National Governments should make Agriculture more attractive to all Nigerians especially the Youths through the provision of necessary incentives;
- v. National and Sub-National Government should ensure that farming inputs are channeled to the targeted beneficiaries; and
- vi. Government at all levels should encourage research into high yield crop species with short gestation periods resilient and consistent with climate change impacts.

■ **Empowering Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through Skills Acquisition for Self-Reliance and Economic Growth**

- i. National and Sub-National Government should encourage enrollment into Polytechnics, Monotechnics and Technical Schools in order to produce highly skilled and competent manpower required by the public and private sector and for self-employment;
- ii. That States and Federal Government should focus on developing production and distribution chains for the goods already being produced by the IDPs to sustain their empowerment and be self-sufficient when they return to their host communities; and
- iii. National and Sub-National Governments should ensure that effective communication mechanism with the IDPs is put in place to ensure common understanding.

■ **Managing the Nigerian Economic Growth and Development in a challenging environment in the Humanitarian context**

- i. Federal Government should facilitate the security of critical roads linking Borno State to Chad, Cameroun and Niger Republic to enhance commercial activities; and
- ii. Government and NGOs should invest on core households' activities that generate income; such as farming, animal husbandry, fishing and handicraft as a livelihood alternative

■ **Health and Economic Development: Epileptic in developing Countries, An issue in Nigeria and the Way Forward**

- i. State and Local Governments should adhere to the National Governance Framework of health-led development policy in order to achieve the potential positive benefits of functional and effective health systems.

7. The motion for the adoption of the major conclusions of the JPB meeting was moved by the Executive Secretary, Enugu State Planning Commission and seconded by the Permanent Secretaries of Niger and Nasarawa States.

8. The delegates expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning and the Borno State Government, as well as, all the Honourable Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries and all other participants for the successful hosting of the 20th edition of the JPB meeting.

9. Delegates resolved to recommend the outcome of the Board's 2-Day meeting to the National Council on Development Planning (NCDP) for consideration and endorsement.

11.0 Adoption of the JPB Resolutions by the NCDP

11.1 The motion for the adoption of the Resolutions reached at the 20th JPB meeting was moved by the Honourable Commissioner, Budget and Economic Planning, Gombe State and seconded by the Permanent Secretary for Budget and Economic Planning, Kaduna State.

12.0 Closing Remarks by the Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning

12.1 The Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning expressed gratitude to members for the serious levels of engagements for the 3 days' event. He promised that the outcomes of the deliberations would form the ground work towards setting up of a very robust, effective, and functional trans-economic implementation framework across the states of Federation and FCT to remodel Nigeria in assuming its rightful position in the global economic ecosystem.

12.2 He also appreciated the host of the 20th edition of JPB/NCDP meetings – the Borno State Government for exceeding all expectations of hospitality which made the event a very memorable one.

12.3 Speaking further, he thanked the Presenters, Panellists and Discussants who took time to prepare the impressive papers which carefully tackled issues affecting the nation's developmental aspirations with the attendant alternatives in resolving them.

12.4 Continuing, he conveyed appreciation to the members of the Planning Committee and event organizers for the effort made in bringing together the gathering of like minds to brainstorm on contemporary economic issues in Nigeria. He also thanked the Management of the FMFBNP for providing support towards the successful hosting of the event despite the challenges of resource availability.

12.5 Concluding, the HMS-BNP expressed appreciation to the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, for his continuous support and participation at the annual event.

13.0 Vote of thanks by the Permanent Secretary, Borno State Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

13.1 The Permanent Secretary, Borno State Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning expressed appreciation to the Executive Governor of Borno State for his immense support towards the successful hosting of the JPB/NCDP meeting in the State. She also thanked the Honourable Minister of State, the Permanent Secretary, BNP, and the team from the FMFBNP for working with them and supporting the Local Organising Committee to ensure the success of the meetings.

She thanked all the delegates for attending the meeting and wished everyone safe journey to their various destinations.

14.0 Closing/ Adjournment

14.1 The 20th NCDP meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. with a rendition of the second stanza of the National Anthem as the closing prayer.

JPB/NCDP Secretariat

Special Duties Department

Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (National Planning Arm)

Abuja

6th August, 2021