MINUTES OF ONE-DAY TOWN HALL MEETING HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL, MUSA USMAN SECRETARIAT ON THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2019:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- 1. His Excellency, Prof. (Engr.) Babagana Umara Zulum, fnse, mni, the Executive Governor of Borno State,
- 2. Hon. Alhaji Abdulkarim Lawan, Speaker, Borno State House of Assembly ably Represented by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Engr. Abdullahi Musa Askira.
- 3. His Lordship, Justice Kashim Zannah, the Chief Judge of Borno State ably represented by His Lordship, Justice Babagana Karube.
- 4. Alhaji Usman Jidda Shuwa, fwc, the Secretary to the State Government,
- 5. Members of Borno State House of Assembly,
- 6. Members of Borno State Executive Council and Special Advisers,
- 7. His Eminence, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-Amin Elkanemi, the Shehu of Borno ably represented by the District Head of Maisandari, Alhaji Abba Bukar,
- 8. Alhaji Mohammed Hassan, the Head of Civil Service, Borno State.
- 9. Alhaji Ali Bukar Dalori, Party Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC),
- 10. Alhaji Bulama Mali Gubio, mni, Chairman, Borno State Civil Service,
- 11. Permanent Secretaries,
- 12. Chief Executives of Extra-Ministerial Departments and Agencies,
- 13. Amb. Ahmed Shehu, Executive Director, Network of Civil Society Organizations and Members of Various Social Groups,
- 14. District Heads and Community Leaders.
- 15. Over 1,000 other Invited Guests, full list of which is attached at the end of this Minutes of Meeting.

The meeting commenced with the arrival of invited guests and participants from 9.00 a.m. and their registration. The Town Hall Meeting was preceded by the Swearing-in ceremony of three Members of Borno State Executive Council designate immediately on the arrival of His Excellency Professor (Engr.) Babagana Umara Zulum, fnse, mni, at 10.00 a.m.

- 2. Immediately after the Swearing-in ceremony, the Town Hall Meeting proper commenced at about 10.30 a.m. with the welcome address delivered by the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning. The Honourable Commissioner welcomed His Excellency, Professor (Engr.) Babagana Umara Zulum, fnse, mni to the Town Hall Meeting which he described as first of its kind in the long history of Borno State. He said the organization of the Town Hall Meeting was one of the many reforms being undertaken by Government in order to make the Budget Process in the State as Transparent as possible in tune with the Global Best Practices and the Policy Thrust of the Present Administration which emphasizes on Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability.
- 3. The Honourable Commissioner further added that one of the key demands of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) is the involvement of the citizenry in the Budget Process. He said Government is about people hence their involvement in the Budget Process is a must going by the long standing philosophy of "Government of the people, by the people and for the people". The Honourable Commissioner enumerated the participants at the Town Hall Meeting to include all stakeholders of the State including the Political Class being led by the Leader, His Excellency the Executive Governor of Borno State, State and Local Government functionaries - the executors of the budget, traditional and community leaders and the Network of Civil Society Associations in Borno State. He urged participants to openly discuss the Budget Process with the sole aim of capturing the basic requirements of the people for the purpose of imputing same in the State's Development Plan strategy to be implemented beginning from 2020 Budget, tagged the "the Citizens Budget" and subsequent budgets in the years ahead over a 10-year Development Plan period. The outcome of the Town Hall Meeting, Honourlable Commissioner said, would ensure the Citizen's ownership of the Budget and thus will enable them to follow their Budget. He concluded his Keynote Address by announcing the existence of a dedicated Website of Borno State Government www.bornostate.gov.ng/budget. The Website, he said, has a feedback mechanism on which Government and Interested Parties could interact freely.

- 4. The Honourable Speaker, Borno State House of Assembly made the first presentation soon after the Keynote Address by the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Development. The Honourable Speaker, first and foremost congratulated the newly Sworn-in Members of the Borno State Executive Council and wished them a successful tenure. The Honourable Speaker also congratulated the Government for organizing the Town Hall Meeting by bringing along all stakeholders to discuss freely and contributing their views to be captured in the 2020 Citizens Budget. He said the greatest handicap of Government was paucity of funds against numerous competing demands of the people. The Honourable Speaker advised participants to explore all avenues aimed at improving the internally generated revenue (IGR) as the meagre resources accruing to the State from the Federation Account could no longer meet the requirements of the State, badly affected by the activities of insurgents for over a decade. He urged Government both at Federal and State levels to intensify efforts to bring to an end the insurgency. The Honourable Speaker concluded his presentation by assuring the gathering that the Honourable House of Assembly would co-operated with the Executive Arm of Government to ensure speedy consideration and approval of the 2020 Appropriation Bill as soon as it is submitted to the House.
- 5. The Women Representative, Barrister Fatima Shehu made the second presentation of the day. She thanked His Excellency, Professor (Engr.) Babagana Umara Zulum, fnse, mni, for creating a space for the women in Borno State to provide their inputs into the 2020 Citizens Budget. She said women in Borno State were honoured and highly appreciative of the gesture. The Women Representative conveyed to His Excellency, the key demands of women in Borno State which include the need to have a gender sensitive budget that recognize and appreciate gender dimensions. Women in Borno State demand not only a seat but representations at the decision making platforms and that the 2020 budget should address livelihoods and empower women who, as a result of the activities of insurgency, have become heads of their households. She therefore prayed to Government to make adequate provisions in the 2020 budget aimed at supporting such women to take care of their families. The Women Representative also brought to the gracious attention of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Borno State

the issue of the United Nations Child Rights Act (UNSCR) 1325 which had been domesticated in the State and National Action Plan (NAP) developed but unfortunately it was not included in the previous budgets of the State. The five (5) Pillars in the NAP, she emphasized, will help in the process of peace-building within our destroyed communities. The Women Representative, at the end of her presentation presented a copy of Citizen's Charter, a compilation of the Citizens needs developed by the Network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The document, she said, contains all requirements aimed at improving the lives of women in particular and the good people of Borno State in General.

- 6. At this juncture, the Secretary to the State Government invited His Excellency, Professor (Engr.) Babagana Umara Zulum, fnse, mni, to deliver his address.
- 7. His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Borno State, while delivering his address expressed his happiness on the organization of the Town Hall Meeting. This forum, he said, avails all stakeholders the opportunity to discuss freely the requirements of their respective communities with the ultimate aim of capturing the same views in the 2020 Citizens Budget and any other developmental documents such as the proposed 10-year State Development Plan. His Excellency recalled that few days from the beginning of his tenure, he commissioned stakeholders to go to their communities to carry out need assessment of their people and present same to Government for consideration. This Town Hall Meeting and earlier directives to stakeholders on the same issue, no doubt symbolizes the ideals of participatory democracy or in short, the making of Government of the people, by the people and for the people. His Excellency assured the gathering that his administration's 10-Pact Agenda would be implemented religiously and effort would be made to develop suitable and realisable budgets under his tenure that would be tailored towards meeting the need assessments of the people. His Excellency directed the Department of Budget and Planning to work hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Local Government and Emirates Affairs in order to capture the needs of the people at the grass root. His Excellency further informed the gathering that the dilapidated facilities within the Musa Usman Secretariat and other Government Offices would be rehabilitated to make the places conducive for the

Civil Servants to work comfortably, effectively and efficiently. His Excellency expressed his appreciation for the Citizen's Charter Report presented to him and thanked the Members of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for their invaluable contributions towards improving Budget Process in Borno State. His Excellency similarly thanked the Honourable Commissioner, Management and Staff of Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning for organizing the Town Hall Meeting and tasked the Ministry of Finance, the Department of Budget and Planning in particular to keep up the good work.

- 8. The third presentation of the day was made by the State Party Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Honourable Ali Bukar Dalori. The Chairman commenced his presentation with the expression of profound gratitude to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Borno State, Professor (Engr.) Babagana Umara Zulum, fnse, mni, for making it possible for the convocation of the Town Hall Meeting aimed at developing the Citizen's Budget 2020. He described the occasion as first of its kind. The Chairman said that the Town Hall meeting was a welcome development and it came at the right time. The Chairman recalled that during their electioneering campaign, their Party made a lot of promises and assurances to the good people of Borno State and this forum would enable the citizens to clearly determine what they want the Government to do for them. The Chairman used the opportunity to congratulate His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Borno State for successfully executing numerous people oriented projects within the first 100 days of his tenure. His Excellency, he said, had proven his capabilities of executing people-oriented programmes and projects throughout his tenure through his wellthought out 10-Pact Agenda and Citizens Budget 2020. The Chairman said that going by His Excellency's hard work and good governance posture, he is confident that in no distant future, Borno State would be turned into a comfortable and peaceful place for the good people of the State. The Chairman concluded by making fervent prayers for peace to reign in Borno State in particular and the Nigerian Nation in general.
- At this juncture at about 11.30 a.m., His Excellency, the Executive Governor, owing to demands requiring his attention on other important State matters, excused himself and mandated the Secretary to the State Government,

Alhaji Usman Jidda Shuwa, fwc, to Chair the occasion on his behalf. His Excellency also directed all Members of the Executive Council and other State and Local Government functionaries to remain and participate actively till the end of the occasion.

10. The fourth Presenter of the day was the Representative of the Shehu of Borno, His Eminence, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-Amin Elkanemi and that of other traditional Rulers in Borno State. First and foremost, the Representative congratulated His Excellency, the Executive Governor for a successful first 100 days in office and his successful achievements during the same period. He said the Traditional Rulers had noted with delight that His Excellency, within that short period had resuscitated the State and Local Government Civil Authorities. The Representative expressed the concern of the Traditional Institution over the lack of clear Constitutional provision or mandate on their role in the Society. He said the Traditional Rulers play significant roles within the Society in terms of maintaining law and order, education of their subjects and development of agriculture. Other area of concern for the Traditional Rulers was the issue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). He said IDPs are desperate to return to their respective communities. The Traditional Rulers commended the efforts of the security Agencies so far and also appealed to Government to intensify efforts to, not only curb the activities of insurgents but also fast-track the reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement of all affected communities to enable IDPs return. Furthermore, the Traditional Rulers reminded Government that Borno is home for prayers and therefore the culture of engaging the services of Ulamas and Clerics to pray for lasting peace to reign in Borno State in particular and the Nigerian Nation in general must be sustained. The Traditional Rulers further appealed to Government to invest massively in the area of Agriculture since farming is the mainstay of the generality of the people of Borno State. Conducive atmosphere in terms of security and provision of farm implements must be made available to enable the people engage on their farming activities. The Traditional Rulers noted with deep sadness, the high numbers of out of school children roaming the streets. The current effort of Government of constructing schools at various locations must be sustained and that the schools must be equipped with sufficient teaching

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