

**MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDERS INTERACTIVE SESSION FOR 2026
BUDGET PREPARATION HELD ON TUESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2025 AT
THE EKEREMOR LGA COUNCIL SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE HALL,
EKEREMOR TOWN, BAYELSA STATE.**

PROGRAMME

- (1) Opening Prayer
- (2) Introduction of guests
- (3) Chairman's Opening Remarks
- (4) Response by Stakeholders
- (5) Interactive Session
- (6) Vote of thanks
- (7) Closing Remarks
- (8) Closing Prayer

OPENING PRAYER

The meeting started with an opening prayer made by Hon(Pst) Bolouperemor E. James, councilor representing Ward 12 at about 11:15am. The master of ceremony, Mr. Godspower Owelenze recognized the members on the high table as follows:

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| 1. Hon. Onniye Isaac .Z. | - | Executive Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Ebieri Clark | - | Vice Chairman |
| 3. Hon. Benni N. Sylvester | - | Leader of the Legislative Assembly |
| 4. Mr. Tabai Kelly | - | Political Secretary |
| 5. HRH Edward Oyaotu | - | Paramount Ruler of Isampou
Community/Chairman Ekeremor
L.G.A Council of Chiefs |
| 6. Chief Angiama Kijor | - | Rep of Ekeremor Town Paramount
Ruler. |
| 7. Mr. Tiwei T. Tuamokumo | - | Head of Local Govt. Administration |
| 8. Mr. Dokubo Custom | - | Director of Adm. & General Services |
| 9. Mr. Tamaraubrakemi Lokpobiri | | Dir. Of Finance / Treasurer |
| 10. Mr. Keme ThankGod | - | Cashier of the Council |

Others that were recognized were: Honourable, Councilors, Supervisory councilors, Special advisers, Heads of departments, Traditional rulers, Community Development Committee (CDC) Chairmen, Youth presidents, Women leaders and other opinion leaders.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Executive Chairman, Hon Onniye Isaac Z. thanked God for keeping all attendees alive with sound health to be part of this all-important meeting and expressed satisfaction with the massive turn-up of stakeholders despite the short notice.

The Chairman further, said that the main agenda of the interactive session was to identify key projects that the citizens would want to include in the council's budget for the next fiscal year. This process is called citizens participation with particular reference to matters relating to primary health care and education. The chairman also said, that the gathering was to strengthen collaboration between community leaders, traditional rulers

and government with a view to addressing the problems and needs of the people, adding that several health programmes had been carried out since he assumed office as the executive chairman of Ekeremor Local Government Area. He also revealed, that this exercise was very important to the State Government, Donor Agencies and World Health Organization (WHO). He continued that budget preparation involves communities where their problems and demands will be captured with projects to be sited in their respective communities.

Responding to the above, HRH Edward Oyaotu, Paramount Ruler of Isampou Community, and Chairman Traditional Rulers Council, Ekeremor Local Government Area commended the Donor Agencies and the State Government for bringing this land able initiative to the knowledge of the people at the grass-root. HRH Edward Oyaotu also applauded the efforts of the council chairman, Hon. Onniye Isaac for providing the enabling environment for this critical stakeholders' meeting and other support rendered to the L.G.A. He further appealed to the council chairman to involve concerned citizens to monitor the budget implementation process.

The Executive Chairman of council took to the floor and in his concluding remarks said that he had another meeting with His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of the State later in the day and directed the Head of Local Government Administration, Mr. Tiwei T. Tuamokumo to co-ordinate and preside over the interactive session.

The Head of Local Government Administration, Mr. Tiwei T. Tuamokumo informed the house that himself, Executive Chairman and other HOD's were invited to a meeting with the Honourable Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning on Friday, 28th November 2025. In that meeting, they were briefed about the new order of preparing annual budget, which they called citizens budget using bottom - top approach. It is a method that encourages citizens full participation in the council's budget preparation and community leaders are to take full responsibility of projects that would be sited in their respective communities. The Head of Local Government Administration, Mr. Tiwei T. Tuamokumo, advised participants to take the exercise seriously and warned against writing names of persons that might not be present at the interactive session. He concluded his remarks by asking participants to sit in a form of round table ward by ward or

community by community. At this junction the participants collapsed into smaller groups and the real interactive session began.

He further revealed that forms will be issued to the participants for them to fill in their names, their communities, the projects that would be sited in their respective communities, participants phone numbers for easy contact and signed off. The signed project forms will then be submitted back to the Head of Local Government Administration, Mr. Tiwei T. Tuamokumo for collation and further necessary action. The Head of Local Government Administration also revealed that the whole budget process from preparation to final passage by the legislative Assembly and signed into law by the Executive Chairman should be concluded by 30th of December, 2025.

In his closing remarks, the Head of Local Government Administration, Mr. Tiwei T. Tuamokumo thanked all participants for their attendance in spite of the short notice. He informed the participants that the Executive Chairman of council had given approval for provision of some funds for their logistics which were paid through their respective Ward councilors and representatives.

After the interactive session by participants, completed project suggestion/request sheets were submitted Ward by Ward commencing from Ward I to Ward 12.

It should be noted that all the Wards were co-ordinated by their respective Councilors and Chiefs. However, Ward 5 Councilor was absent, but was co-ordinated by the Vice Chairperson, Hon. Ebiere Clark. In a similar vein, Ward 11 councilor was also absent, but the Ward was co-ordinated by Hon. Itoko Edwin, Supervisory Councilor for works.

While contributing, the councilor representing Ward 2, Hon. Eyioyagha Ebikonbowei made an appeal that in view of the short notice of the meeting given to the people, communities that were not fully represented at the meeting should be allowed to go home with the project suggestion/request sheet and meet with their critical stakeholders and submit same the following day. This idea was unanimously accepted by the house and grace period was given to those few communities to do the needful and submit same to the Head of Local Government Administration the following day.

At the conclusion of the interactive session, Mr. Dokubo Custom, Director of Administration and General Services gave the vote of thanks. The interactive session came to a close at 3:20pm with a closing prayer offered by the Special Adviser on Religion to the Executive Chairman, Pastor Samuel E. Karamor.

Recorded by

Hon. Tabai Skelly
Political Secretary