

**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE TWO DAY
WORKSHOP ON BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING
AND EVALUATION HELD AT THE TRANSCORP HILTON
HOTEL, ABUJA ON THE 30TH AND 31ST MARCH 2009**

Theme: "Making the 2009 Budget a success-identifying and facilitating critical success factors".

Further to deliberations at the 2-day Workshop, the participants made up of representatives of MDAs, the Resource Persons, Civil Society, the World Bank, the DfID, and personnel of the Budget Office of the Federation (**BOF**) came up with this Communiqué. It is believed that implementation of the recommendations contained herein would go a long way in aiding the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the FGN budgets if adopted.

These recommendations include that:

1. There should be strategic improvement in collaborations between the Executive and the Legislative arms of government to ensure passage of the annual Appropriation Bills before the commencement of the fiscal year it is meant for.
2. All projects or programmes in the annual FGN Budgets should be such that have been duly costed and which fall within Government's developmental programmes like the MDGs and the 7-Point Agenda while their inclusion should be subject to the approved macroeconomic constraints as contained in the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework. This is with an aim to avoiding project abandonment.
3. The practice of accelerated release of funds for execution of projects due to their specific characteristics should continue.
4. All MDAs, having set timelines for the completion of projects and programmes, should closely monitor their execution. They should send in regular monitoring reports, in formats advised by the BOF.

5. MDA officials responsible for failure to keep to set timelines should be promptly queried for the failure and sanctioned if found wanting.
6. MDAs should make funding provision for project monitoring, evaluation and report writing prior to their onset.
7. The Bureau of Public Procurement should intensify its current enlightenment drive regarding the Public Procurement Act, which is believed to be yielding much fruit already.
8. MDAs should be more open and transparent, and should encourage competitiveness in their procurement process. This is with a view to guaranteeing value for money expended.
9. Large MDAs, like Education and Agriculture & Water Resources, should have procurement officers dedicated to particular sectors within the MDAs. This is with a view to ensuring prompt and efficient processing of their procurement needs.
10. For projects relating to local communities, there should be adequate advertisement of procurement needs at the community level. This is with the aim of ensuring the community's involvement, and taking ownership (and so, protection) of those projects.
11. In view of the incidences of delays by banks in executing payment mandates which are already hindering the implementation of Government's programmes, the OAGF should quickly come up with stricter guidelines for banks willing to continue participation in the e-payment system. This should be in reference to specific timeframes for the execution of mandates, and sanctions for non-compliance with the guidelines.
12. MDAs should submit detailed workplans for projects along with their annual budget proposals to the BOF. This would serve as guide in the evaluation of performance on the projects.

13. MDAs should adopt the uniform monitoring templates provided by the BOF for monitoring, evaluating and prompt submission of periodic reports to the BOF.
14. Continuous training of MDAs' personnel involved in the monitoring and evaluation of projects in the annual Appropriation Bills should be encouraged. This is to ensure everyone involved in the process is on the same page at all times.