

SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF SOKOTO STATE, AHMED ALIYU SOKOTO PhD, FCNA, AT A ONE –DAY TOWN HALL MEETING WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS ON 2025 BUDGET PREPARATIONS FOR INPUTS, HELD ON MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2024 AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE SULTAN MACCIDO INSTITUTE OF QURANIC AND GENERAL AND STUDIES, SOKOTO.

PROTOCOL

It is with great pleasure, that I address you today on Citizen's engagement for the development of 2025 Budget for Sokoto State. We remain absolutely grateful to Almighty Allah for sparing our lives to witness this very important event, we thank him most profoundly for all his bountiful blessings that has earned us the ability to achieve the current feat.

2. The platform of Citizens consultation has become an annual exercise in which the State and non State Actors meet with the sole aim of showcasing our scorecard during the year and collectively plan for the coming year. The exchange of Ideas between the Citizens and Government has clearly demonstrated our collective resolve to carry everyone along in the development of the State at both conception and implementation level.

3. This Approach has further consolidated our Democratic principle of people participation which make it very necessary for all relevant Stakeholders to partake in this important component of budgetary processes in order to ensure their concerns are heard and taken into consideration.

4. I am touched and encourage with the maturity and the level of constructive engagement, robust discussions and inputs from all and sundry. I assure you that, your collective and individual concerns are heard and noted. Insha Allah, we shall go back and consolidate as much as possible your valuable inputs.

5. We shall continue to partner with Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), the World Bank, USAID State2State and other Development partners working in the State for a mutually beneficial collaborations for the overall good of our people.

6. Our resolve to develop an all-inclusive Budget for the year 2025 was borne out of our desire to accommodate the views and aspirations of different segment of the Society on how best to distribute wealth, and to spread programs and projects across the State. This would be channelled through emphasis for completion of ongoing projects and investing in Human Capital Development.

7. Accordingly, this administration through the instrument and window of the Community Action Resilient Economic Stimulus Program (CARES) shall continue to provide succor and relief to our people through the provision of Social Cash Transfer, Livelihood Grants to Economically Active Households, Agricultural Development through Fadama and Grants to

Small and Medium Scale Enterprises through SOSMEDA.

8. Distinguished audience, this administration would continue to inject funds into the Provision of Quality Education, Healthcare delivery, Environmental sanitation, and Hygiene to the Citizenry inline with the current Administration 9Point Innovative Smart Agenda.

9. Let me at this juncture reiterate our determination to bring about positive Change through effective Collaborations with Development Partners and Donor Agencies, by meeting our obligations for effective management of Development assistance and bringing development to our teeming Populace leveraging on the Partnership programmes.

10. Before I end my speech, I want to acknowledge the contributions, support and assistance we enjoyed from USAID State2state Project and other donor partners too numerous to mention. We sincerely acknowledged their immense contributions. I also appreciate the participation of the Civil Society Organizations and other Non-Governmental Organizations in this forum. For the religious leaders, women wing and youths; we thank you for your invaluable support and contributions to our common cause, We look forward to meeting here again next year Insha Allah. To our good people of the state, we profoundly appreciate your support, prayers and encouragement over the period. This has no doubt motivate us, in the achievement so far recorded. Thank you and Wassalamu Alaikum Warahamatullah.