

Enough Is Enough Nigeria

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Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Democracy wins yet again! - EiE Nigeria & BudgIT commend the National Assembly for Opening their Budget

BudgIT and EiE Nigeria wish to commend the leadership of the National Assembly for releasing the breakdown of their 2017 budget. The #OpenNASS campaign, a four-year extensive advocacy campaign finally hits a milestone on its key demand which is to make public the budget of the people's representatives and other institutions covered in the National Assembly budget. This budget was last made available to the public in 2009.

Since 2010, the National Assembly has spent almost \$3.3 billion without public accountability, and in 2013, EiE, BudgIT & other stakeholders decided it was time for openness in the legislative arm.

The OpenNASS campaign commenced under the leadership of Senator David Mark in the 7th Assembly but failed to yield results during his tenure. After protests, FOI requests, petitions, countless engagements online & offline and several promises, the legislative arm of the government has finally released a detailed breakdown of its 2017 budget to the public. We commend the Chairman of the National Assembly & Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki, who promised to open the budget details of the National Assembly and delivered. We believe that after the exit of the current National Assembly from public service; this will count as a worthy legacy that generations ahead will guard jealously.

We also acknowledge the increment in the budget of the National Assembly from the proposed N115 billion to N125 billion. We will analyse the details of the budget comprehensively and release our findings shortly.

Our request for the details of the National Assembly budget has always been about improving public sector efficiency and the image of the National Assembly as the highest organ of accountability. We will continue to advocate for transparency in all government establishments to craft a more democratic society that protects the interest of its people and values citizen engagement.

Today, we celebrate Nigerians who added their voice to this campaign, in their capacity as active citizens. You have shown that persistence and collaboration are our best weapons to take back control of our country from secrecy and opacity when we all occupy our ‘Office of the Citizen’!

Having achieved the first goal of the OpenNASS campaign, which is to make the National Assembly budget open and accessible to the public, we will ensure funds are utilised judiciously. BudgIT and EiE Nigeria will keep pushing to attain the four others goals of the campaign –

- 1) replace voice voting with electronic voting so citizens can follow the voting of their representatives;
- 2) maintain a functional website and make public the attendance records at plenary;
- 3) Work with the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Committee (RMAFC) to review and reduce the salaries & allowances of legislators;
- 4) Provide an audit of the N1.15 trillion (\$5.75 billion) the National Assembly received between 2005 – 2014.

We look forward to continued engagement with the National Assembly to achieve these objectives.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

www.opennass.ng

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Enough Is Enough Nigeria (EiE) is a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to instituting a culture of good governance and public accountability in Nigeria through active citizenship. EiE’s #RSVP – Register/Select/Vote/Protect is a key voter education campaign. EiE was an integral part of the #OccupyNigeria movement in 2012 and is very active in the #OpenNASS campaign.

BudgIT is a civic tech organization, raising the standards the standards of transparency, citizen engagement & accountability most especially in public finance. BudgIT’s innovation comes with a creative use of government data by either presenting them in simple tweets, interactive format or infographs.