



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS ENABLING REFORMS ACTION PLAN (BERAP), OF THE PLATEAU COALITION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (PLACOBPA), AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE RAYFIELD, JOS PLATEAU STATE, ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER 2023.

1.0 PREAMBLE

To improve the business climate in Plateau State and as a participant in the ongoing SABER Project currently being implemented by the World Bank and states in Nigeria to incentivize and strengthen the implementation of business enabling reforms across Nigeria, a stakeholder workshop was held to develop Plateau State's Business Enabling Reforms Action Plan (BERAP) 2024.

The workshop was held at the Government House Rayfield, on Wednesday, 8th November 2023.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

The workshop was attended by the Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, ably represented by his deputy, Her Excellency, Ngo Josephine Piyo, Honourable Commissioners, heads of security agencies, representatives of relevant government ministries, departments and agencies, and individuals from the private sector and civil society who strategized on ways to enhance Plateau State's business environment.

3.0 PRESENTATION

This workshop was declared open by the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Hon. Caleb Mutfwang who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo. In her keynote address, she emphasized the Governor's commitment to fostering an enabling business environment as businesses are the lifeblood of every economy. She also stated the Plateau State's commitment to move from 10th place out of 36 States and the FCT in the latest PEBEC rankings to first five within a period of three years.

She thanked the Plateau State Ease of Doing Business Council, the Plateau State SABER Team and the Program Management and Results Delivery Office for their efforts in organizing the workshop.

There was a welcome address by Engr. Samari Modibbo, the Plateau State SABER Champion who also presented the objectives of the workshop.

4.0 TECHNICAL SESSION

Dr. Paul Adepelumi made a presentation on **State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER)**, current business challenges, opportunities, and the regulatory environment in Nigeria and Plateau State after which there was a breakout session where participants were divided into 3 groups focusing on specific sectors/DLIs.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the workshop and strategic planning session of the State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER), stakeholders who were present agreed on the following action steps to improve the business climate in Plateau State, Nigeria:

1. LAND ADMINISTRATION REFORMS:

A comprehensive framework will be developed to guide the long-term vision and strategic direction for land and property administration, with an emphasis on transparency, efficiency, and the support of local investment processes.

There should be review and implementation of land tenure laws.

The role of traditional rulers in land transactions should be modified to avoid conflict and litigation.

Government should embark on systematic land titling and recertification of old titles in the state and giving them geospatial identity.

Government should conduct capacity building for staff of relevant Ministries, Agencies and Departments such as the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town planning, PLAGIS, Jos

Metropolitan Development Board and other stakeholders such as traditional rulers on ethics, professional conduct and traditions.

Develop a template for Land valuation for resettlement purposes in partnership with associations like the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) and Association of Private Practicing Surveyors of Nigeria (APPSN)

2. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:

The processes for obtaining essential business documents, such as Certificates of Occupancy and Construction Permits, should be simplified and digitalized, reducing the time and complexity involved in these administrative procedures.

Properties in the state should be digitalized and information should be displayed on PLAGIS website which should be fully functional for easy access to Land information. PLAGIS should also be supported to function optimally.

3. INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE:

The state should commit to enhancing private investment in critical infrastructure, particularly in the expansion and improvement of fibre optic networks, to bolster digital connectivity and competitiveness.

4. STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS:

The Investment promotion agency (PIPRA) and PPP units in the state should be strengthened to provide more effective services, with a focus on enhancing government-to-business interactions by recruitment and training of competent staff.

5. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENTS

To facilitate a more favourable investment promotion environment, a PPP Fiscal Commitment and Contingent Liability (FCCL) Management Framework will be established and made publicly available.

6. IMPROVEMENTS IN GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS:

The judiciary is tasked with improving the speed and transparency of commercial dispute resolutions by committing to publish monthly performance reports for small claims courts.

7. INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT FOR INVESTORS:

A detailed inventory of investment incentives available at both federal and state levels will be compiled and published to provide clarity and support to current and potential investors.

6.0 CLOSING

The SABER program aims to foster a conducive business environment that encourages investment, promotes economic growth, and enhances the overall competitiveness of Plateau State.

Stakeholders are confident that if these action points are captured in the BERAP and implemented, there will be significant improvements in Plateau State's business environment and Plateau State will be a choice destination for investments and investors in Nigeria.

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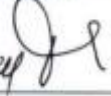


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