

BUSINESS-ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLANS (BERAP) PROGRESS REPORT

State: **AKWA IBOM**

Reporting period: **FY 2023**

SABER Focal Person: **Pastor Mfon Udomah**

List of contributing entities: **Ministries of Lands, Water Resources, Transport, Trade and Investment, Petroleum Resources, Power, Finance, Economic Development, Agriculture & Rural Development; Governor's Office, Budget Office, AKICORP, AKWAGIS, UCCDA and AKIRS.**

URL Link to the published BERAP:

Is this progress report approved by the State Executive Council (SEC) **YES**
[AKSEXCO 2024/ 6th Meeting Conc. 11 (141, 142, 143)]

If this was approved by SEC, please state date: **July 26, 2024**

Is this progress report submitted to the House of Assembly **YES**

If this was submitted to the House of Assembly, please state date: **July 30, 2024**

AKWA IBOM STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
STATE ACTION ON BUSINESS ENABLING REFORMS (SABER) PROGRESS REPORT - 2023

| Original action plan as published | | | | | | | | | | | Progress update | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| S/N | Business Enabling Reform Areas | Reform Objectives | Action Steps | Description and Key Targets | Beneficiaries | Responsible MDA | Contributing MDAs | Budget | Planned Start Date | Planned End Date | Status Report | Description of Status | Next Steps |
| 1 | Improved efficiency in property registration and other land related matter | Quick intervention for a sustainable land management process | <p>(1) Build enabling systems for validation and verification.</p> <p>(2) Synergies enabling systems</p> <p>(3) Reduce in-person contact with MDA Staff.</p> <p>(4) Reduce application processing timeframe</p> | The General Public can apply for Land registration, CofO and Other Land related matters without visiting the related MDA | General public | Ministry of Lands and Water Resources | <p>* Office of the State Surveyor General</p> <p>*Land Use and Allocation Committee</p> <p>*Akwa Ibom Internal Revenue Service</p> <p>*AKWAGIS</p> | N65 million | 23/01/2023 | 31/03/2023 | <p>Completed/ On-going :</p> <p>Resulting Impact</p> <p>(1) Improved efficiency in property registration and land matters will ensure transactions are accelerated and clarity and security enhanced. (on-going)</p> <p>(2) Significant Reduction in time required to process land registration (Completed)</p> <p>(3) Increased Transparency (On-going)</p> <p>(4) Enhanced Security (On-going)</p> <p>(5) Increased and Improved Revenue Collection (Ongoing)</p> <p>(6) Reduced Corruption and Hassles by Fraudsters (Ongoing)</p> <p>(7) Citizen Engagement (On-going)</p> | <p>Achievement:</p> <p>I. (1) Enhanced synergy in Governance.</p> <p>(2) A higher volume of land registration yielded.</p> <p>(3) Increased Revenue</p> <p>(4) Quick and easy access to facilitate land-related transactions provided.</p> <p>(5) Fraud, litigation and unnecessary disputes minimized.</p> <p>(6) Investment and economic growth improved as Land titles and rights of Occupancy are secured.</p> <p>(7) Revenue leakages eliminated.</p> <p>(8) Corruption is minimized by streamlining work processes. This has been enhanced through User-friendly and more accessible processes while building trust</p> <p>(9) Aid Citizens' Compliance in terms of consistent payment of recurrent land use charges</p> <p>(10) Reduced processing time for Certificates of Occupancy and land instruments, and faster building permit issuance through joint inspections.</p> | <p>I. (1) Sensitization of stakeholders</p> <p>(2) Expanding the capabilities of AKWAGIS (3) Process Integration with other relevant agencies.</p> <p>(4) Increasing the usage of data analytics for policy development and urban planning.</p> <p>(5) Complete migration to automated Land registry services</p> <p>(6) Deployment of Machine learning for predictive analytics in Land Management</p> <p>(7) Strengthening measures to reduce in-person contact with MDA staff and shorten application processing times. This will involve Implementing an online system with a user-friendly portal, electronic document submission, automated status tracking, online payments, virtual consultations, digital signatures, a support centre, regular updates, and user training.</p> |

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| 2 | Improved investment promotion environment | Improved investment promotion | <p>(1) Implement physical and virtual one-stop Investment Committee</p> <p>(2) Conduct monthly business clinic for Entrepreneurs.</p> <p>(3) Maintain a Column (AKICORP Investment Platform) in the Pioneer Newspaper.</p> <p>(4) Partner with relevant MDAs to expedite service delivery</p> <p>(5) Provide relevant information needed for investment promotions.</p> <p>(6) Training of relevant staff for effective service delivery.</p> <p>(7) Provide for equity participation in the Government budget.</p> | <p>(1) Increase in the level of investment attracted to the State.</p> <p>(2) Activate a more conducive business environment for both local and foreign investors.</p> | Local and foreign investors, general public and entrepreneurs | Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation (AKICORP) | <p>*Ministry of Finance</p> <p>*Governor's Office (Foreign Direct Investment Office)</p> <p>*Office of the Secretary to the State Government</p> <p>*Ministry of Lands & Investment</p> <p>*Ministry of Trade & Investment</p> <p>*Ministry of Economic Development</p> | N1 billion | Jan-23 | Dec-23 | <p>On-going :</p> <p>Resulting Impact</p> <p>Improved investment promotion will create business friendly environment that will ensure economic growth, job creation, increased revenue, infrastructure development, diversified economy, and improved public services.</p> | <p>Achievement:</p> <p>(1) Implemented a physical and virtual one-stop Investment Committee to simplify the investment process, enhance coordination, improve investor support, and accelerate decision-making, leading to increased investments and economic growth.</p> <p>(2) Engaged with Entrepreneurs within and outside the State during the monthly business clinic for ongoing support, resources, and networking opportunities, boosting business growth and success.</p> <p>(3) Creation of enabling business environment for investment through the provision of good infrastructure, good road network, and the empowerment of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the State through Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme (EAP) scheme run by IBOM-LED.</p> | <p>(1) Conduct a business environment assessment to identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>(2) Host two (2) investment forums and roadshows in 2024 to showcase opportunities.</p> <p>(3) Invest in infrastructure development projects to support business growth, such as the construction of Ibom Industrial Park, Tourists' Site, Grace Estate, Ewet Luxury Apartments, Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre, and over 100 km of roads spanning across the State.</p> <p>(4) Establish business incubators and accelerators to support start-ups and innovation</p> <p>(5) Provide training and capacity-building programs for entrepreneurs and small business owners in 2024, the Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre and Ibom Leadership and Entrepreneurial Development Centre (Ibom-LED) will equip youth with various skills.</p> <p>(6) Drive innovation and economic growth by fostering partnerships between businesses, academia, and research institutions. Facilitate knowledge transfer through workshops and training, provide spaces for startups to develop ideas, and create forums for sharing resources and expertise.</p> |

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| 3 | Improved Infrastructure & Security | Create enabling environment for ease of doing business | (1) Provision/ rehabilitation of critical power infrastructure in the State (i.e distribution networks, transformers and injection sub stations, Solar lights, etc. | (1) Achieve improved public power supply that will enhance socio-economic activities | General public | Ministry of Power & Petroleum Development | Ministry of Rural Development & Cooperatives; Governor's Office (Power Sector); Ministry of lands & Water Resources; Ministry of Special Duties; Ministry of Housing | N30 billion | Jan. - 2023 | Dec. - 2023 | On-going : Resulting Impact Improved infrastructure and security attract investments, foster economic growth, and enhance the quality of life. | Achievement: (1) Ensured improved power generation and distribution at Ibom Power Company. | (1) Support the 572MW Ibom Power Plant to achieve optimal operation at 80% capacity, increasing output from 191MW to significantly benefit businesses in the State. |
| | | | (2) Improving power generation by increasing the capacity of Ibom Power Company | | | | | | | | | | (2) Continuously providing new roads and rehabilitation of dilapidated road infrastructure in the State. Over 100 km of roads spanning across the State have been earmarked for construction in 2024. |
| | | | (3) Improving connectivity in the State through construction of new roads and rehabilitation of dilapidated road infrastructure | (2) Achieve a more conducive business environment for both local and foreign investors | | AKICORP; Governor's Office | Ministry of Works; Ministry of Transport; Ministry of Special Duties & Ibom Deep Seaport; | | | | | | (2) Provision of new roads to connect remote areas accelerates trade and boosts economic activity in the State. |
| | | | (4) Development of Ibom Deep Seaport | | | | | | | | | | (3) Expand the Ibom Air fleet and operationalize the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Facility to establish the State as an aviation hub, promote hospitality, and position Akwa Ibom as a top destination while maintaining its peaceful environment. Specifically, we will upgrade airport infrastructure, attract airlines, partner for pilot training, invest in modern technology, and enhance MRO facilities. |
| | | | (5) Acquisition of additional Aircrafts for Ibom Airlines Limited | (3) Development of Ibom Deep Seaport ongoing, acquired additional aircraft for Ibom Airlines and completed the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Facility and terminal building at Ibom Airport to enhance regional trade, boost airline capacity, and provide local aircraft repair services in the State. | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (6) Completion of Repair and Overhaul facility (MRO) & Terminal Building at the Ibom Airport | (4) Provided critical infrastructure to security agencies and launched the Ibom Neighbourhood Watch network in the State | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (7) Provision of critical infrastructure to the Security Agencies in the State | (4) Continually support the security agencies and the state-owned security outfit to ensure the State is safe and conducive to businesses and tourists. | | | | | | | | | |

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| 4 | Simplified State Business Tax & Levy Collections | Stoppage of illegal collection of taxes and levies as well as enhancing professionalism in the collection of taxes and levies | (1) Harmonization of Road Taxes and levies | Elimination of multiplicity of taxes and touting. | Investors, General public and Business Persons | Akwa Ibom Internal Revenue Service (AKIRS) | Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation (AKICORP; Akwa Ibom Property Investment Company (APICO); Ministry of Lands & Water Resources; Ministry of Trade & Investment; Ministry of Economic Development | N410 million | 20/01/2023 | 31/03/2023 | On-going : Resulting Impact: A simplified tax and levy collection will guarantee a secure and transparent tax environment that fosters business growth, increases compliance, reduces fraud, and boosts internally generated revenue, attracting new businesses and enhancing economic development. | Achievement: (1) Harmonization with revenue collecting Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other stakeholders | (1) Meeting with the Local Government for harmonization of their taxes is ongoing to get their buy-in. |
| | | | (2) Electronic payment gateways for ease of payment of taxes and levies | | | | | | | | | | (2) A sensitization programme for stakeholders will be aggressively pursued. Host at least two (2) sensitization sessions in 2024. |
| | | | (3) Encouragement of voluntary compliance in payment of taxes and levies | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (4) Publication of approved list of taxes and levies | | | | | | | | | | (3) Full automation of the tax system to ensure seamless compliance by all stakeholders. This will involve Identifying and deploying technology, training personnel, acquiring equipment, creating public awareness, implementing regulations, integrating with existing systems, and establishing feedback mechanisms. |