

2024 BUSINESS-ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLAN (BERAP), AKWA IBOM STATE														
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	List of Private Sector contributors	Estimated costs	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	A. Enhance transparency, streamline processes, and facilitate a more accessible, secure, and efficient system for land transactions in the State	Harmonize land administration processes through digitalization, standardized procedures, and interagency collaboration, integrating geospatial technology and robust data security	*General Public * SMEs *Private Investors *Applicants for land CofO *Business Owners *Applicants for Construction permits	Ministry of Lands and Town Planning (MLTP)	*Office of the State Surveyor General *Land Use and Allocation Committee *Akwa Ibom Internal Revenue Service (AKIRS) *Akwa Ibom Geographic Information System (AKWAGIS) *Uyo Capital City Development Authority (UCCDA)	*Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) *Nigeria Institute of Surveyors (NIS) *All Farmers Association of Nigeria (ALFAN) *Uyo chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (UYOCCIMA) *Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL Plc.)	N300 Million	30/01/2024	30/04/2024	On-going : Resulting Impact: ✓ Digitalization of processes over Primary Land transactions, searches, caveats and Issuance of Certified True Copies of title documents. (Ongoing). ✓ Integration of geospatial technology /security to foster interagency collaboration. (Ongoing) ✓ Enumeration of more than 70% of Buildings in Zone A classified towns. (completed)	Achievement: ✓ 100% Improved efficiency in processing land titles. The initial challenges included data integrity issues, limited technical capacity, cybersecurity risks, and inadequate infrastructure for seamless digital transformation. ✓ Enhanced interagency collaboration and data sharing. We hope to overcome resistance to change from established workflows and legacy systems. ✓ More than 70% of Buildings in towns classified under Zone A have been captured and can be transacted with via the Enumeration data.	Next steps: ✓ Expansion of the property Enumeration exercise to new towns under Zones Band C within the state. ✓ Full launch and issuance of E-Certificate of Occupancy. The completion of AKWAGIS Corporate headquarters. ✓ Other immediate actions include stakeholder sensitization, capacity building, robust cybersecurity implementation, infrastructure upgrades, and the establishment of clear digital policies and standards.
			A.1 Fostering public awareness and ensuring legal framework alignment, to achieve efficient property registration.	Formal launch of the land administration processes in the State										
			A.2. Establish and build consensus among relevant MDAs on institutional and policy reforms being proposed and/or implemented including but not limited to developing and maintaining digital titling of all landed properties in the State	Ensure at least 70% of buildings in major towns (Uyo, Abak, Itu and Ikot Ekpene) are enumerated and recorded										
			B1. Publish the process for obtaining CofO including all relevant MDAs, time frames and costs on the State official website	The Ministry of Lands & Town Planning in collaboration with Akwa Ibom Geographic Information System (AKWAGIS), will offer detailed guidance on obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy in the State.										
			B2. Publish the process for obtaining construction permit including all relevant MDAs, time frames and costs on the State website.	Uyo Capital City Development Authority (UCCDA) in collaboration with Ministry of Housing shall provide comprehensive information on the process of obtaining Construction permits in the State.										
			B3 Develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for creation of data-centric digital archive of CofOs with a searchable index in accordance with international standards	AKWAGIS in collaboration with Ministry of Lands to ensure end-to-end processing of land transactions at the data center and digital archiving of the electronically signed registered CofOs and other instruments										
			B.4. Digitization and indexation of existing CofOs in a digital archive	Ensure at least 75% of existing certificates are digitized and archived.										
			C. Establish Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA)	(i) Set-up FRILIA Steering Committee to develop FRILIA document to address challenges in Land administration for Agricultural and Industrial purposes in the State; (ii) Create a Multi-Stakeholders' Platform (MSP) for consultation on key issues		Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development			N100 Million	04/01/2024	30/04/2024			
			C.1. Issuance of Executive Order on FRILIA	The Steering Committee shall develop an Executive Order on FRILIA for review by the Ministry of Justice, before execution by the Governor.										
			C.2. Adoption and implementation of the FRILIA	FRILIA Steering Committee shall ensure the adoption and implementation of FRILIA in the State										

2024 BUSINESS-ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLAN (BERAP), AKWA IBOM STATE

[illegible]

Original action plan as published

Progress update

2024 BUSINESS-ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLAN (BERAP), AKWA IBOM STATE

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	List of Private Sector contributors	Estimated costs	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date	Status Report	Description of Status	Next Steps
			G. Development and adoption of aftercare and retention program	Develop and implement an aftercare programme that caters to existing investors.										
			H. Creation of Business Support Office (BSO) to provide comprehensive assistance for start-ups and existing businesses.	This office will serve as a resource hub providing guidance and support throughout different stages of business development.						04/01/2024	31/03/2024			
4	Transparency of official fees and procedures	This reform area will increase transparency of official fees and procedures focusing on key business environment enabling MDAs	A. Finalise process mapping and developing business regulatory processes in BEE MDAs	Business regulatory process mapping signed off by all included MDAs and approved by the relevant authority	*Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) *Contractors *Women organizations *Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Service (AKIRS)	*Ministry of Economic Development, *Ministry of Trade and Investment, *Ministry of Health, *Ministry of Education, *Ministry of Transport *Akwa Ibom State Environmental Protection and Waste Management Agency (AKSEWMA) *Nigerian Agric. Quarantine Services (NAQS)	*Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) *UYOCCIMA *Mamufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN) *African Women Agric. Business Network (AWAN) *Small and Medium Enterprises Dev. Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) *NIRSAL	N150 Million	04/01/2024	04/06/2024	On-going : Resulting Impact ✓ The publication of official fees and procedures has boosted public trust, enabling businesses to clearly understand costs and processes, thereby encouraging investment. (completed)	Achievement: ✓ The reform has also led to a sharp decline in unofficial payments and rent-seeking behaviour. ✓ The use of standardized fees and digital payment systems has improved government revenue collection. ✓ Likely challenges include maintaining up-to-date information, ensuring public access, preventing hidden charges, and promoting consistent enforcement across agencies.	Next steps ✓ Intensify awareness campaigns across all senatorial districts to ensure inclusivity. ✓ Regularly update and audit the published fees and timelines to maintain accuracy and integrity. ✓ Ensure the MDAs operate with online portals, dashboards, and SMS notification systems that provide real-time status updates on submitted applications.
5	Increased Transparency of Fees and Levies for Inter-State Trade and Enhanced Exporter Certification	To enhance the transparency of fees and levies for inter-state trade and to strengthen exporter certification in order to promote a more conducive business environment.	A. Establishment and online publication of schedule of trade related fees and levies on inter-state movement of goods	Provide comprehensive information on schedule trade related fees and levies on inter-state movement of goods	*Government Agencies *Traders *Business owners in the State *Entrepreneurs *General Public	Ministry of Trade and Investment	*Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Service (AKIRS) *Ministry of Transport *Ministry of Justice *Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) *Raw Material and Research Development Council (RMRDC) *Nigerian Agric. Quarantine Services (NAQS) *Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) *NAFDAC *Technology Incubation Centre (TIC)	*National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) *Association of Nigerian Exporters (ANE) *Small and Medium Enterprises Dev. Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) *Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) *UYOCCIMA *Mamufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN)	N100 Million	04/01/2024	30/06/2024	On-going : Resulting Impact ✓ Stakeholder engagements have been initiated, the baseline assessment is completed, and a new schedule of trade-related fees and levies for inter-state movement of goods has been established and published on the AKIRS website.	Achievement ✓ The Ministry of Trade and Investment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and relevant MDAs, conducted a baseline assessment of fees affecting inter-state trade. A new fee structure has been approved and published, marking a milestone in streamlining trade processes.	Next Step: ✓ Digitize fee structures and processes via relevant e-platforms ✓ Launch awareness campaigns and training for stakeholders

2024 BUSINESS-ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLAN (BERAP), AKWA IBOM STATE												Progress update		
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	List of Private Sector contributors	Estimated costs	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date	Status Report	Description of Status	Next Steps
			D. 1 Online publication of Akwa Ibom State Export Strategy and Guidelines 2.0	The Ministry of Trade and Investment shall publish the State Export Strategy and Guidelines for easy accessibility								On-going : Resulting Impact ✓ The review of current exporter certification processes has been completed to enhance efficiency and reduce bottlenecks. This information has been published on the State's website. (completed)	Achievement ✓ An optimized procedure for exporter certification has been developed and published on the state's website for transparency.. ✓ The challenges include low awareness, limited digital access, procedural bottlenecks, and inconsistent compliance by exporters and officials.	Next Steps: ✓ Increase the number of firms with export certificates from Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) attracted to the State ✓ We propose to organize an Export Investment Summit. This event aims to bring together key stakeholders to discuss opportunities and strategies for enhancing export investment initiatives. ✓ Digitize fee structures and certification processes via relevant e-platforms
		E. Increase the number of firms with export certificates from Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) attracted to the State	SCEP and Ministry of Trade and Investment shall make sensitization campaign to attract new Exporters with incentives put in place to help Export business in the State											
		F. Organize an Export Investment Summit	To facilitate international trade and investment opportunities to bring together key stakeholders, showcase export potential, attract foreign investors, and foster partnerships to enhance global market access for local businesses.											
		G. Establishment of Domestic Export Warehouse (DEW)	Streamline export processes and enhance logistical efficiency to improve storage and distribution capabilities, reduce export lead times, lower operational costs, and promote a conducive environment for increased export volumes.											
		H. Organization of International Trade Mission to abroad	To promote bilateral trade and explore business opportunities to facilitate networking, showcase domestic products/services, foster partnerships, and attract foreign investment for mutual economic growth and global market expansion.											
		I. Establishment of ISO1725 certfied/ accredited laboratory for testing made-in- Akwa Ibom products	To ensure quality compliance to enhance product quality, build consumer confidence, meet international standards, and promote export competitiveness for Akwa Ibom-based products.											
6	Simplification of State and Local Business Tax Regimes	To enhance the procedures of payment of tax in the State	A. review the existing State revenue law to adopt presumptive turnover tax regime for small businesses A. 1 Establish a presumptive turnover tax regime for small businesses in Akwa Ibom State	To review the Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Service Law Achieve 100% growth in both number of taxpayers and value of taxes collected	*Small Businesses - Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) *Business Owners * Investors	Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Services (AKIRS)	*Ministry of Finance *State Budget Office (SBO) *Ministry of Justice *Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly (AKHA) *Ministry of Commerce, *Ministry of Local Government Affairs	*Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) *UYOCCIMA *African Women Agric. Business Network (AWAN) *Small and Medium Enterprises Dev. Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) *Association of Nigerian Exporters (ANE) *All Farmers Association of Nigeria (ALFAN)	N50 Million	04/01/2024	30/04/2024	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. (Ongoing)	Achievement: ✓ Harmonization with revenue-collecting Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other stakeholders. ✓ Deployment of electronic payment gateways such as AUTOREG, InterSwitch PayDirect Platforms, etc ✓ The challenges include resistance to change, inadequate taxpayer education, and weak enforcement mechanisms.	Next Steps: ✓ Meeting with the Local Government for harmonization of their taxes is ongoing to get their buy-in. ✓ More sensitization programmes for stakeholders will be aggressively pursued. Host at least two (2) sensitization sessions in 2025. ✓ Automate the tax system for compliance using technology, training, equipment, public awareness, regulation, integration, and feedback..

2024 BUSINESS-ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLAN (BERAP), AKWA IBOM STATE														
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	List of Private Sector contributors	Estimated costs	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date	Status Report	Description of Status	Next Steps
7	Quick determination of commercial disputes	To improve the State Judiciary and strengthen access to an efficient commercial justice system	A. Establishment of State Judicial Committee by the Chief Judge of Akwa Ibom State Judiciary	The chief Judge of Akwa Ibom State Judiciary shall obtain the approval of the Governor for the establishment of Judicial Committee	*Small Businesses - Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) *Business Owners *Investors	Akwa Ibom State State Judiciary	*Ministry of Justice *Office of the Secretary to the State Government * AKIRS *Ministry of Trade and Investment *Ministry of Transport	*Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) *UYOCCIMA *African Women Agric. Business Network (AWAN) *Small and Medium Enterprises Dev. Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) *All Farmers Association of Nigeria (ALFAN)	N30 Million	04/01/2024	30/06/2024	On-going : Resulting Impact ✓ Reforms for quick resolution of commercial disputes in the State has improved the business environment. (completed) ✓ This reform has enhanced investor confidence by reducing the uncertainty and financial risks associated with prolonged litigation. (Ongoing)	Achievement: ✓ Faster adjudication, with most cases resolved within 60 days. ✓ Decongestion of mainstream courts, allowing commercial matters to be handled more efficiently through simplified procedures and limited adjournments. ✓ The challenges will include incidents of slow judicial processes and limited legal capacity.	Next Steps: ✓ Foster stronger collaboration between the judiciary, bar associations, and business communities to promote more affordable and accessible pathways to justice. ✓ Strengthening judicial capacity, streamlining case procedures, and training legal personnel.