

ZAMFARA STATE ACTION ON BUSINESS ENABLING REFORMS (SABER) PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF BERAP 2023

PREAMBLE:

The State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER) Program is a US\$20 million 3-year (2023 – 2025) performance-based multi-sectoral intervention being coordinated by Ministry of, Budget and Planning in collaboration with State Ease of Doing Business MDAs (Commerce, Lands, Finance, Internal Revenue Service, Agriculture, Housing and ZITDA).

SABER seeks to incentivize and strengthen the implementation of business enabling reforms covering **Land Administration, Regulatory Framework for Private Investment in Fiber Optic Infrastructure, Public Private Partnership and Investment Promotion Frameworks, Tax Administration and the Business Enabling Regulatory Environment.**

2023 ACTIVITIES:

The process for obtaining CofO and Building Permit including all relevant MDAs, time frames and costs:

A team from the Result Area 1 (Zamfara Geographical Information System (ZAGIS) Agency, Zamfara Urban & Regional Planning Board (ZUREPB), Ministry of Housing & Urban Development developed the guidelines and submitted same to the SABER Secretariat. The secretariat arrange a technical session with representatives from State Ministry of Justice with the Result Area 1 Desk Officers to review the guidelines and ensure that the processes does not contradicted the existing state laws. The guidelines were finalized and uploaded to both the State Official Web-site, SABER Coordinating Secretariat Web-site as well as official web-site of ZAGIS.

Terms of References (TOR) for the creation of a data centric digital archive of CofOs with a searchable index in accordance with international good standards completed:

The Terms of Reference were fully adopted and hosted online after full scrutiny by the team of experts from the State Ministry of Justice.

State executive order issued on Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land Intensive Investment in Agriculture (FRILIA), or equivalent, commitment and process as per verification protocols, AND, FRILIA, or equivalent, adopted through State executive order as per verification protocols:

The Executive Order was drafted, approved by the State Executive Governor and adopted by the ZAGIS and State Ministry of Agriculture. The Executive Order was also adopted and published on the state official websites.

Regulation to adopt aggregate fees charged for broadband deployment on a per linear meter basis at a maximum of NGN145 per meter:

The regulation was passed through an Executive Order duly signed by the State Executive Governor and published online via state official websites.

The process for obtaining ROW including all relevant MDAs, timeframes, and costs:

The process for obtaining Right of Way was equally adopted in the same Executive Order and published online.

State-level technical PPP coordination agency mandated as the lead organization tasked with facilitation of PPPs:

Zamfara Investment Promotion Agency (ZIPA) law was enacted in by the State House of Assembly and additional guidelines were given through the Executive Order signed by the State Executive Governor as empowered by the establishment law. The said Law and Executive Orders were also published online.

Inventory of all investment incentives (Federal and State) available in the State and the number of entities receiving State investment incentives:

The inventories were gathered and published online.

The Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) mandated as the lead organization promoting investment into the State

ZIPA Establishment Law and additional guidance via Executive Order mandated the Agency to be leading organizations in promoting investment in the state. Additional information about the Agency was also provided online for the use of the general public.

Published on state official website(s): fees, procedures, and service delivery timelines of five key BEE State MDAs:

Executive Order was issued to the BEE MDAs to make the publications. All BEE MDAs have developed their procedures and published on the state official website.

Schedules of trade related fees and levies on inter-state movement of goods; AND, GRM for traders established including SMS/hotline for reporting and redress:

The schedules were extracted from the State Consolidated Revenue Law and published on the State official website.

Also, another Executive Order was issued on the establishment of of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for reporting and redress.

State allocated an operational budget to the State Committee on Export Promotion (SCEP) in the 2024 budget:

The allocation of operational budget for the State Committee on Export Promotion was made under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries in the appropriated 2024 Budget.

State export strategy and guidelines:

The state export strategy were developed and published on the state official website.

Legislation to adopt presumptive turnover tax regime for small businesses:

The state consolidated Revenue Laws was amended and such amendments were passed by the State House of Assembly and published on the state official website.

State subsumed business-related local government charges/fees/taxes into a consolidated demand notice:

The consolidated demand notice was developed and published on the state official website.

Judicial Committee established by the Chief Judge of the state judiciary:

The State Chief Judge established State Judicial Committee and published on the state official website.

Practice Directions of the small claims courts:

The Practice Directions for the Small Claims Courts was drafted and approved by the State Chief Judge and published online on the state official website.

State established and operated at least two small claims courts having tried at least one case each:

The State Chief Judge has established two Small Claims Courts and their cases were published on the state official website.

CONCLUSION:

For the betterment of good people of Zamfara State, the SABER Coordinating Secretariat has engaged a number of private sectors to develop the 2024 Business Enabling Reforms Action Plan (BERAP). The action plan was also published on the state official website for the general public.

SIGNED:

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