



STATE BUSINESS- ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLAN [BERAP] & PROGRESS REPORT

State	Imo State
Reporting Period	January 2023-December 2023
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List of Contributing Entities	Imo State Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Power & Energy, Ministry of Commerce & Industry Department, OCDA, IMOGIS and Reigns Management Consult Limited
URL Link to the Published BERAP	
Is this Plan Approved by the State Executive Council (SEC)	YES
If this was approved by SEC, please state date	25 th January, 2023



IMO STATE
BUSINESS
ENABLING REFORM
ACTION PLANS
(IMOBERAP)

JANUARY 2023 –
DECEMBER 2023



IMO STATE BUSINESS ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLANS (IMOVERAP)

January 2023 – December, 2023

**GOVERNMENT OF IMO STATE
NIGERIA**



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Acronyms

IMOBBERAP	-	Imo State Business Enabling Reform Action Plans
BERAP	-	Business-Enabling Reform Action Plan
SEC	-	State Executive Council
OCDA	-	Owerri Capital Development Authority
MDAs	-	Ministries, Department, and Agencies
NGF	-	Nigeria Governors Forum
SABER	-	Business Enabling Environment Programme
TSA	-	Treasury Single Account
PEBEC	-	Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council
PforR	-	Program-for-Results Financing
FMBNP	-	Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning



Foreword

Foreword



The Imo State Executive Council adopted the 2023-2024 Imo State Business-Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP) on 23 January, 2023.

The Business Enabling Environment Programme (SABER) is a three-year (January 2023- December 2025) performance-based initiative created jointly by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank. The program is a \$750million operation comprising two main areas – \$730million Program-for-Results Financing (PforR) component and \$20million technical assistance for investment project financing. The initiative, which is available to all states and the Federal Capital Authority, seeks to enhance land administration efficiency, the regulatory framework for private investment in fiber optic infrastructure, services provided by investment promotion agencies and public-private partnership units services offered by investment promotion agencies and public-private partnership units. It also aims to improve the efficiency and transparency of government-to-business services in participating states.

The SABER initiative also aims to offer additional incentives, such as employing results-based funding to improve the business climate and facilitate crowding-in of large-scale private-sector investments. The programme's qualifying requirements include drafting an annual action plan with private sector collaborators, which must be authorized by the State Executive Council (SEC) and publicized online. Imo State's government is dedicated to enhancing the business climate and has created the State Business Enabling Reforms Initiative (IMOBBERAP).

The IMOBBERAP is a one-year plan (Jan,2023- Dec.2023), designed as a coherent platform for continued economic development and social progress in Imo State. The plan provides a consistent foundation for the state continuous corporate, economic, and social growth. This strategy intends to develop the state as a knowledge-based economy, while also focusing on broadening the sources of economic growth. The plan will serve as an annual accelerator and reform tool, coordinating the effective delivery of priority reforms of selected ministries, departments, and agencies in six major areas: starting a business reform, dealing with construction reforms, registering property reforms, paying taxes reforms, trading across borders reforms, obtaining electricity reforms, and obtaining credits.

I have no doubt that the reform plan will increase the size of our economy, increase human capital, increase opportunity, put more people to work, and give social safety line.



Sen. Hope Uzodimma
Governor

Acknowledgements



The effective creation of this plan was made possible by the excellent cooperation, direction, support, and encouragement of several stakeholders. As a Ministry responsible for managing the finances of the Imo State Government, including managing, controlling, coordinating, and monitoring state revenues and expenditures, we have found the overall insights and joint responsibilities in the development process to be enlightening.

Firstly, I would want to begin by expressing my thanks and admiration to His Excellency, Senator Hope Uzodinma, who made such a significant contribution throughout the draft stage. His political drive and dedication to restoring Imo's greatness are unparalleled. I would want to thank the members of the State Executive Council, who have been a tremendous source of support during several joint endeavours. Their inputs directed us in a constructive manner throughout the Plan's development.

Similarly, I commend the enormous efforts of our Development Partners, particularly Nigeria's Governors Forum (NGF), the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning (FMBNP), and Reigns Management Consult Limited who offered technical help from the beginning stages of formulating this plan. I cannot fail to thank the technical officers throughout the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, as well as the Academia, Corporate Organizations, and Citizens' organizations for their insightful contributions to the Plan's content.

Finally, I would like to express my unreserved appreciation to the Management and Staff of the Imo State Ministry of Finance and the Imo State Technical Committee on Ease of Doing Business for their unwavering and persistent support in anchoring the processes that led to the formulation of the IMOBBERAP for 2023–2024. For those who have contributed in one way or the other and are not mentioned therein, we greatly appreciate your efforts. Let us maintain the momentum as we work to implement the Plan and construct Imo State that future generations will appreciate.



Dr. Doris Uzoka-Anite

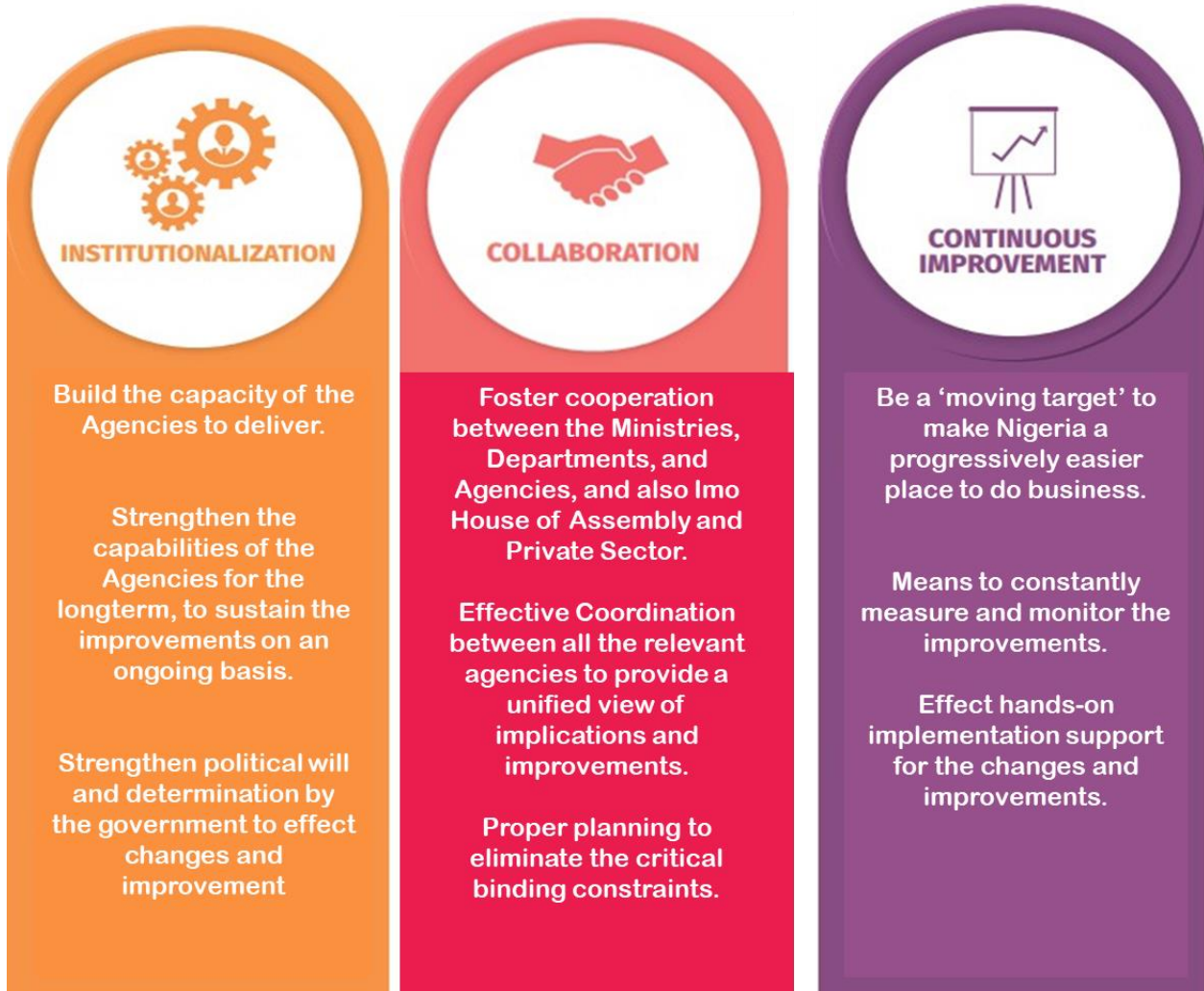
Hon. Commissioner of Finance & Coordinating Economy



Underlying Objectives



Underlying Objectives





Targets

Targets

STARTING
A BUSINESS



DEALING WITH
CONSTRUCTION
PERMITS



GETTING
ELECTRICITY



REGISTERING
PROPERTY



PAYING TAXES



TRADING ACROSS
BORDERS





Imo State Business - Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP)



SN	Business Enabling Reform Areas	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description and Key Targets	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDAs	Estimated costs2	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
1	Starting a Business	Reduce time spent for initial registration of a business with state authorities	1.Drive adoption of e-registration for company registration by creating awareness.	• One less procedure and 72 hours saved in registering a business in Imo state	Imo State Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Corporate Affairs Commission	NG65,800,000	30/1/2023	15/7/2023
			2. Eliminate inspection for business premises registration by changing regulation/Law.						
2	Dealing with construction permits	1.Improve dispute resolution for issues related to building code	Create and implement an independent dispute resolution mechanism for compliance issues related to building code requirements	• Faster and more efficient dispute resolution – 80% of queries resolved within 7 days	Owerri Capital Development Authority – OCDA	Imo State Ministry of Land	NGN55,000,000	20/2/2023	10/6/2023
		2. Reduce cost and time to obtain development permits.				Imo State Ministry of Justice Imo State Internal Revenue Services			
3	Registering Property	1.Ensure availability of land information online.	1.Drive the adoption of land plot information and make it available online.	• Strict adherence to the 30- day process to obtain the Governor’s Consent in Imo State. • E-signature accepted for Governors’ Consent in Imo state.	Imo State Lands Administration and Geographic Information Service	Imo State Ministry of Land	NGN170,600,000	30/1/2023	10/6/2023
		2. Simplify and optimize the process of obtaining the Governor’s Consent.	2.Clearly defined fee schedules made available to public			Owerri Capital Development Authority – OCDA			
			3.Statistical information on land disputes available online						



Imo State Business - Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBEPAP)



4	Getting Electricity	Further reduce time to get connected to the grid by deploying online systems 2. Ensure compliance to revised procedures and timelines for getting connected to the grid	4. Ensure compliance to revised procedures and timelines for getting connected to the grid 5. Clearly state the compliance procedures and 44-day timeline for new connections to the grid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce time for getting electricity by 10 days' Notice based system for works that involve crossing of road. 	Imo State Ministry of Power & Energy	IEDC	NGN66,500,000	10/2/2023	18/7/2023
5	Paying Taxes	Simplify the process and FMF reduce the time for paying taxes	1. Map existing process for tax payment 2. Conduct MDAs stakeholder engagement to discuss harmonization and payment of all State Taxes to TSA Account. 3. Individual, all large and medium size enterprises to be registered on e-filing system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce average time for filing and paying taxes by 50% Automation of process for registration of personal income tax in Imo State 	Imo State Inland Revenue Services & Imo State Ministry of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imo State Ministry of Commerce and Industry Imo State Ministry of Land Imo State Ministry of Commerce and Industry 	NGN65,000,000	25/1/2023	13/8/2023
6	Inter State Trading	Simplify the systems and procedures to increase the transparency and efficiency of Imo State interstate border.	1. Conduct stakeholders meeting to sensitize and elicit their commitment on the number of roadblocks in the State. 2. Published list of all approved checkpoints, available online and disseminated in local media. 3. Eliminate all illegal roadblocks on major trading routes in Imo State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable quicker and easier movement of goods across borders into Imo State Enforce removal of illegal roadblocks Ensure compliance with reduce documentations at the State border 	Imo State Ministry of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imo State Ministry of Commerce and Industry Nigeria Police Force Nigerian Custom Services 	NGN45,500,000	02/2/2023	15/7/2023
7	Enforcing Contract	Improve the judicial process by providing easy access to cost-	Specialized magistrates trained to handle commercial cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the time it takes to resolve cases related to 	Imo State Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imo State Ministry of Justice 	NGN44,700,000	20/2/2023	02/5/2023



Imo State Business - Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP)







	effective resolution of debt recovery disputes involving small claims of five million naira (N5m) and below.		commercial contract		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Imo State Ministry of Land			
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Enabling Institutions

Enabling Institutions

To achieve the reforms stated above, different arms of government particularly the Legislature and specific MDAs will form alliances and formulated initiatives which are targeted towards streamlining processes as well as cost (in terms of fees and time) of doing business in Nigeria. These stakeholders include the Imo State Executive Council, the Imo State House of Assembly, the Imo State Policy Council and; the Imo State Ministry of Finance and Reigns Management Consult Limited.

 <p>State Executive Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the governments strategic priorities are being appropriately support by the Sector Implementation Plans (SIPs) and fiscal allocations. ▪ Determine the timelines for the implementation of key initiatives. ▪ Prioritize initiatives based on project impact and degree of complexity. ▪ Track and monitor initiatives under execution and take corrective actions when necessary.
 <p>Policy Councils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen collaboration, information sharing and minimize deviations from roadmap. ▪ Take decisions, approve MDA proposals and report via memoranda to the Executive Council. ▪ Integrate policy and fiscal planning. ▪ Ensure that policies are implemented as intended and evidence-based reports and prepared and submitted to the Councils which will in turn forward to the Governor and the State Executive Council.
 <p>State House of Assembly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make law that supports the implementation of this plan. ▪ Carry out regular oversight functions. ▪ Provide administrative processes, procedures, and clear reporting structures within the Public Service.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide technical support ▪ Offer support to data-rich gathering and assessment ▪ Monitoring & evaluation ▪ Provide support towards achieving sustainable infrastructure ▪ Support reform design and implementation.



Conclusions



Conclusions

The 1-year Imo State Business -Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP) 2023 is, a step in the right direction. These efforts of the Imo State Government and the respective stakeholders in driving and implementing the promised reforms are sustained, the overall goal is to strengthen the implementation of business-enabling reforms in Imo State.