



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

State	Imo State
Reporting Period	January 2024-December 2024
State SABER Coordinator	Chuks Chukwuemeka, Commissioner for Finance and Coordinating Economy Email: chuck@chuckwuemeka.com
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List of Contributing Entities	Imo State Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Land, Survey and Planning, Imo State Investment Agency, Internal Revenue Services, Ministry of Budget, Ministry of Commerce, Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria (Owerri Branch), United Bank of Africa, All Framers Association, Chamber of Commerce, Sunshine News, Trumpeta, Serene Society, GHARF, Civil Society Organisation and other Private Sectors
URL Link to the Published BERAP	https://www.investinimo.com/ Home page - IMMSG (imostate.gov.ng)
Is this Plan Approved by the State Executive Council (SEC)	Yes
If this was approved by the SEC, please state the date	13 December, 2023



IMO STATE
BUSINESS
ENABLING REFORM
ACTION PLANS
(IMOBERAP)

JANUARY 2024 -
DECEMBER 2024



IMO STATE
BUSINESS
ENABLING REFORM
ACTION PLANS
(IMOBBERAP)

January 2024 – December 2024

**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, Departments, and Agencies
NGF	-	Nigeria Governors Forum
NGOs	-	Non Governmental Organizations
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

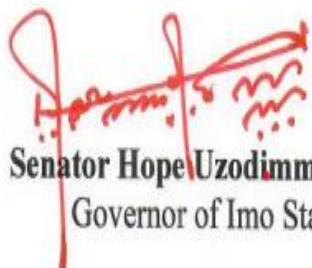
The Imo State Executive Council adopted the 2024-2024 Imo State Business-Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP) on 13th December 2023. The Business Enabling Environment Programme (SABER) is a three-year (January 2023- December 2025) performance-based initiative created jointly by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank. The program is a \$750 million operation comprising two main areas – a \$730 million Program-for-Results Financing (PforR) component and \$ 20 million 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 the 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. 2024- Dec.2024) designed as a coherent platform for continued economic development and social progress in Imo State. The plan provides a foundation for the state's continuous corporate, economic, and social growth. This strategy intends to develop the form 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 select ministries, departments, and agencies in six significant 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 do not doubt that the reform plan will increase the size of our economy, raise human capital, expand opportunity, put more people to work, and give social safety lines.


Senator Hope Uzodimma CON
Governor of Imo State



Acknowledgments

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 collecting, controlling, coordinating, and monitoring state revenues and expenditures, we have found the overall insights and joint responsibilities in the development process enlightening.

Firstly, I would like to thank His Excellency Senator Hope Uzodimma, who significantly contributed throughout the draft stage. His political drive and dedication to restoring Imo's greatness are unparalleled. I would want to thank in especially the members of the State Executive Council, who have been a tremendous source of support during several joint endeavours. Their input constructively directed us 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), Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector Sectors, and particularly, the Reigns Management Consult Limited which 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 2024. For those who have contributed in one way or another and are not mentioned therein, we greatly appreciate your efforts. Let us maintain the momentum as we work to implement the Plan and construct an Imo State that future generations will understand.




Chuks Chukwuemeka

Hon. Commissioner of Finance & Coordinating Economy



Underlying Objectives

Underlying Objectives

 INSTITUTIONALIZATION	 COLLABORATION	 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
<p>Build the capacity of the Agencies to deliver.</p> <p>Strengthen the capabilities of the Agencies for the longterm, to sustain the improvements on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Strengthen political will and determination by the government to effect changes and improvement</p>	<p>Foster cooperation between the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, and also Imo House of Assembly and Private Sector.</p> <p>Effective Coordination between all the relevant agencies to provide a unified view of implications and improvements.</p> <p>Proper planning to eliminate the critical binding constraints.</p>	<p>Be a 'moving target' to make Nigeria a progressively easier place to do business.</p> <p>Means to constantly measure and monitor the improvements.</p> <p>Effect hands-on implementation support for the changes and improvements.</p>

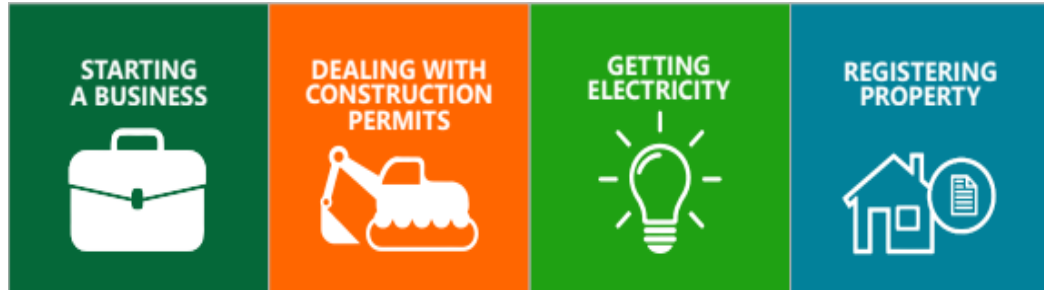


Targets





Targets





Imo State Business - Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP)



1	REFORM AREA	REFORM OBJECTIVES	ACTION STEPS	DESCRIPTION & KEY TARGETS	BENEFICIARIES	RESPONSIBLE MDA	CONTRIBUTING MDAs	LIST OF PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTORS	ESTIMATED COSTS	PLANNED START DATE	PLANNED END DATE
2	ACCESS TO CREDIT	1.To provide MSME with opportunities for credit 2 To take Business owners through the processes and Procedures for accessing Credits	1. To have stakeholders engagements on the conditions, Processes and Procedures for accessing credits from commercial Banks. 2. To organise market women & Men, farmers into groups and Associations in order to present themselves suitable for credits	To help 50 market men & women, Artisans, farmers process their applications for credit	SMEs, Market Men & Women,Artisans	The Director General, Imo State Investment Promotion Agency	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade & Investment	BOI, BOA, Commercial Banks	20M	February, 2024	December, 2024
3	Improve Land Administration and Local-Based Investment Process: Implementation of Framework For Responsible And Inclusive Land-Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) model for Imo State	1. To enhance administration of land and local - based investment process in Imo State in line with global best practise. 2. Enhance transparency of property registration across the State. 3. Enhance swift allocation of land to local and foreign investors 4. Enhance revenue base of government and local communities	1. Brief State Governor on FRILIA model and obtained approval to implement Imo State FRILIA model. 2. Identify relevant stakeholders including relevant MDAs, Local Government representatives, Community leaders, Traditional Rulers, Security establishments, Farmers Associations, amongst others. 3. Create a Multistakeholders platfrom (MSP) for consultation on land Investment using FRILIA model 4. Develop implementation action plan and line of activities, delivery timeframe and report template	To have 70% of investment in Agribusiness in conformity with the FRILIA Framework	Imo State Government, Local Governments, Host Communities, Existing and prospecting investors and private Land owners	Ministry of Lands	Office of the Surveyor - General, Imo State Geographical Information Agency, Imo State Investment Promotion Agency, Ministry of Budget, Ministry of Trade & Investment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Governor's office	Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, Imo State Branch, AFAN	N100,000,000	Jan-24	December,2024



Imo State Business - Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP)



<p>Improve Land Administration and Local Based Investment Process: Harmonized the process of land acquisition across the state</p>	<p>1. This initiative will enhance swift allocation of land to local and foreign investors. 2. Enhance transparency of property registration across the State. 3. Enhance revenue base of government and local communities</p>	<p>1. Identify and engage relevant stakeholders on land administration across the 27 local governments area of the state and relevant government MDAs on harmonized land acquisition process. 2. Prepare preliminary document of harmonized land acquisition process. 3. Present the document to the governor and House of Assembly for consideration and approval. 4. Implement the approved document</p>	<p>To achieve transparency of process of land acquisition in the state</p>	<p>Land and Property owners in Imo State</p>	<p>Ministry of Lands</p>	<p>Office of the Surveyor - General, Imo State Geographic Information Agency, Imo State Investment Promotion Agency and Ministry of Local Government Affairs</p>	<p>AFAN, OCCIMA</p>	<p>20,000,000</p>	<p>Jan-24</p>	<p>Dec-24</p>
<p>Improve Land Administration and Local Based Investment Process: Simplify and Digitalized the process of obtaining Certificate of Occupancy</p>	<p>1. To enhance administration of land and local - based investment process in Imo State in line with global best practise. 2. Enhance transparency of property registration across the State. 3. Enhance swift allocation of land to local and foreign investors 4. Enhance revenue base of government and local communities</p>	<p>1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current archive, identify relevant stakeholders, and develop a detailed plan for the digitization process, including budget considerations and timelines 2. Establish standardized digital formats and metadata protocols for CofOs to ensure consistency and interoperability, facilitating a smooth integration with the searchable index. 3. Implement a systematic</p>	<p>Unified Formal process and Technologically support standard for land acquisition across the state from government, host communities, business entities and private individuals.</p>	<p>Imo State Government, Local Governments, Host Communities, Existing and prospecting investors, traders and others</p>	<p>Imo State Geographic Information Agency</p>	<p>Ministry of Lands, Office of the Surveyor - General, Imo State Investment Promotion Agency, Ministry of Budget, Office of the State Statistician General</p>	<p>AFAN, OCCIMA</p>	<p>50,000,000</p>	<p>10th of January 2024</p>	<p>25th February 2024</p>
<p>Improve Land Administration and Local Based Investment Process: Simplify, harmonized and digitalized the process of obtaining Construction Permit</p>	<p>1. To enhance administration of land and local - based investment process in Imo State in line with global best practise. 2. Enhance transparency of property registration across the State. 3. Enhance swift allocation of land to local and foreign investors 4. Enhance revenue base of government and local communities</p>	<p>1. Develop a preliminary Review and framwork to simplify the process of obtaining Construction Permit in the State. 2. Engage with relevant stakeholders for input and consensus across the 27 Local Government. 3. Obtained Executive and Legislative approval on areas where such orders are required. 4. Digitalized the process for easy access 5.</p>	<p>To build a functional website for the Owerri Capital Development Agency</p>	<p>Land and Property owners in Imo State</p>	<p>Ministry of Lands, Owerri Capital Development Authority</p>	<p>Office of the Surveyor - General, Imo State Geographical Information Agency, Imo State Investment Promotion Agency, and Ministry of Local Government Affairs</p>	<p>Nigeria Institute of Town Planners, NSE</p>	<p>50,000,000</p>	<p>10th of January 2024</p>	<p>5th February 2024</p>



Imo State Business - Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP)



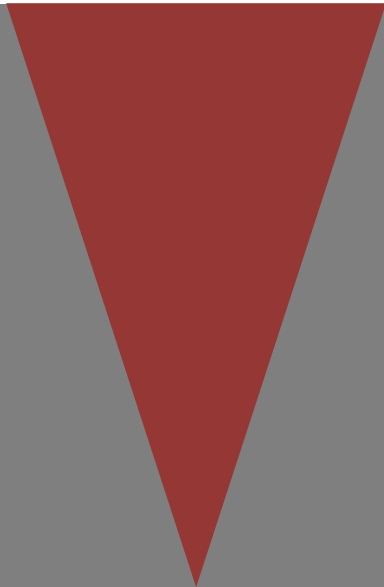
7	<p>Improve Land Administration and Local - Based Investment Process: Digitization and Indexation of existing CofOs in a digital archive recognizing gender equality</p>	<p>1. To enhance administration of land and local - based investment process in Imo State in line with global best practise. 2. Enhance transparency of property registration across the State. 3. Enhance swift allocation of land to local and foreign investors</p>	<p>1. Develop a template for digitization and indexing of existing CofOs in the state digital archive 2. Upgrade Imo State Geographical Information Agency official website 3. Create a data centre for Lands cluster digital documentations 4. Collate and input existing CofOs in the state digital archive 5. Publish on State Geographical Information Agency</p>	<p>1. Ensure that minimum of 25% of existing CofOs are indexed and digitalized before December 2024 2. Provide vital information on CofO title holders in the State for government, investors, title owners, host communities and business institutions</p>	<p>Imo State Government, Local Governments, Host Communities, Existing and prospecting investors, Financial Institutions, Land Title owners and developers</p>	<p>Imo State Geographical Information Agency</p>	<p>Ministry of Lands and State Surveyor - General Office</p>	<p>Civil Society Organisations,</p>	<p>475,000,000</p>	<p>10th of January 2024</p>	<p>5th December 2024</p>
8	<p>Improve Regulatory Framework for Private Investment in Fiber Optic Infrastructure: Ensure Imo State Government maintain aggregate per linear meter fees for broadband deployment and publish ROW process and fees</p>	<p>To increase investment in optic fibre infrastructure</p>	<p>1. Develop a revised draft template of Process of obtaining Right of Way. 2. Engage stakeholders for input and consensus 3. Engage with ICT department to program the revised process to state website 4. Create awareness of the revised process 5.</p>	<p>Quarterly report on investment in optic fibre infrastructure 2. Quarterly stakeholders engagement</p>	<p>Government, Investors and general public</p>	<p>Ministry of Digital Economy & E-Government</p>	<p>Imo State Internal Revenue Service, Imo State Investment Promotion Agency</p>	<p>Estate Surveyors & Valuers</p>	<p>20,000,000</p>	<p>Jan-24</p>	<p>Dec-24</p>
9	<p>Increase Transparency of Fees and Levies for Inter-State Trade and Increase Exporter Certification: Create Desk office within the Ministry of Trade & Investment for Nigeria Export Promotion Council to encourage, register and issue export certificate to local base investors</p>	<p>This initiative will enhance easy access to Nigeria Export Promotion Council and increase issuance of Export Certificate to investors</p>	<p>1. Identify relevant stakeholders and forward invitation 2. Organize monthly sensitization workshops for local investors across the 18 local government on export promotion and application process. 3. Collaborate at request to Nigeria Export Promotion Council to Create a desk office within the Plateau State Ministry of Commerce to Guide and monitor the process 4. Publish results on numbers</p>	<p>To publish monthly report on number of Export Certificates issued by Export Promotion Council to local investors. 2. To maintain a functional ICT Unit in the Imo State Investment Promotion Agency</p>	<p>Local investors, State Government, Exporters, Cooperative societies, host communities</p>	<p>Imo State Ministry of Trade & Investment</p>	<p>Nigeria Export Promotion Council, State Export Promotion Council, Imo State Investment Promotion Agency, Ministry of Industry, Imo State Ministry of Transport, Nigeria Export processing Zone, Nigeria Port Authority, Standard Organisation of</p>	<p>OCCIMA</p>	<p>10,000,000</p>	<p>10th of January 2024</p>	<p>10th December 2024</p>



Imo State Business - Enabling Reform Action Plans (IMOBBERAP)







10	Simplified State and Local Business Tax Regimes:To Create consolidated Demand notice	This reform is aimed at unifying the process of tax payment, making it transparent and accountable, and to avoid multiple taxation	1. Organized stakeholders workshop on Presumptive Turnover Tax for Small Business across the 18 local governments area 2. Develop a draft Presumption Tax Legislation for review and consensus 3. Forward draft to the State Governor for endorsement and request for legislation by the State House of Assembly 4. Create electronic payment platform for collection of presumptive tax and	Achieve 100% growth in both number of taxpayers and value of taxes collected	Imo State Government, General Public	Imo State Internal Revenue Service	Ministry of Justice, House of Assembly, Governor's office	Imo State Almagamated Market Traders Association,ISAMATA	30,000,000	10th of January 2024	10th March 2024	
11	TIMELY DETERMINATION OF CASES AND EXECUTION OF JUDGEMENTS	To increase access to justice by the rural dwellers	To build 2 additional small claims court in Orlu and Okigwe zones	To determine 70% of cases	General public, legal practitioners, state government	Imo State Judiciary	Ministry of lands, Governor's office, Accountant - General Office, Ministry of Justice		100000000	10th of January 2024	10th December 2024	
12	MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS OF SMALL COURT ACTIVITIES	To ensure timely disposition of cases and execution of judgement for the state small claims courts	1.To train Court officials on Simple computer application 2. Create and Equip functional ICT units within the small claims court registry	To produce monthly reports within 4 days of the following month	Small Claims Court Litigants	The Chief Judge, Imo State Judiciary	Ministry of Justice	NBA, Owerri Branch	100,000,000	Jan-24	December,2024	



Enabling Institutions

Enabling Institutions

To achieve the reforms stated above, different arms of government, particularly the Legislature and specific MDAs, will form alliances and formulate initiatives to streamline processes and costs (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, the Imo State Ministry of Finance, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector Organizations, and our partner 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) 2024 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.