

**REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2025 STATE BUSINESS ENABLING REFORMS
ACTION PLAN (BERAP) FOR THE STATE ACTION ON BUSINESS ENABLING
REFORM (SABER) IN ANAMBRA STATE, held on 11TH DECEMBER 2024, AT
ANSIPPA CONFERENCE HALL AWKA**

INTRODUCTION

Anambra State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning put together a one-day stakeholders consultative meeting on the development of the 2025 State Business Enabling Reforms Action Plan (BERAP) for the State Action Plan on Business Enabling Reform (SABER) aimed at getting public and private stakeholders' input and adopting the corrections of the stakeholder's contribution for the 2025 BERAP.

The meeting was attended by Representatives of State actors such as the Honourable Commissioner for Information, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Ministry of Justice, ICT Agency, Ministry of Industry, Anambra Small Business Agency, Ministry of Lands, Anambra State Board of Internal Revenue Service, Ministry of Power and water resources and Manufacturers Association of Nigeria; responsible or contributory Ministries and Agencies that are actors for DLI 1-9 such as ANSIPPA, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Ministry of Justice, ICT Agency, Ministry of Industry, Anambra Small Business Agency, Ministry of Lands, Anambra State Board of Internal Revenue Service, Ministry of Power and water resources and Manufacturers Association.

For non-state actors, we have the President, Awka Chamber of Commerce, Engr Ikechukwu Egemba, civil society organization represented by Prince Chris Azor while the Social and Integral Development Centre (SIDECC) was represented by the Executive Director, Hon Ugochi Ehiahuruike, Representatives from Nigeria Bar Association Chairman Awka, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria etc.

Furthermore, the meeting was officially declared open by the Executive Director of ANSIPPA, Dr Ejike Osioma. In his opening remark, he gave a background of Ease of Doing Business in the State, stating that Anambra currently ranks 7th in the country and our aim is to be the 1st in Nigeria. He equally presented the Anambra State Draft 2025 BERAP to the stakeholders for input.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the stakeholders consultative meeting were as follows:

- a. To incentivize and strengthen the implementation of business enabling reforms

- b. To improve the business enabling environment using the guidelines stated in the verification protocols

KEY INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2025 BERAP

DLI 1: Deploy Digitally Enabled Land Administration Process with a view to achieving land transfer of title within 7 days

- The Permanent Secretary Lands stated that CofO now takes between 10 to 15 days, but they are hoping to reduce it further from January 2025.
- In addition, she stated that in line with the Governors directive, that the CofO are issued after the prospective investor has demonstrated a certain level of commitment to the State. Before then, a letter of comfort is issued.
- Furthermore, she said that the timeline quoted above applies only to the CofOs issued by her Ministry, that those that go to the Governor may take a longer time.
- The Ministry of lands was encouraged to sensitize and create awareness to the investing public that the process and timeline for obtaining a CofO has greatly reduced.
- There is need to ensure adequate women representation in the issuance of CofO in the State.

DLI 2: Improve Business Enabling Infrastructure

- The State to speed up the broadband distribution within the State to ensure that its completion before the end of next year.
- The stakeholders stated the need for Ministry of Information and ASBA to be added as a contributory MDA to relevant DLIs to ensure proper dissemination of information and inclusion of Ndi Anambra.

DLI 5: Increased Transparency of official fees and procedures

- The Ministry of Lands reported that they have settled over 65 cases that should have gone to court using Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRMs)
- Recommended the designation of a desk officer for the GRMs and DLIs to ensure that all the telephone lines are working correctly, resolution emails are working and responded to within the response time.

DLI 6: Improve domestic and external trade competitiveness

- The stakeholders agreed that there is a need to harmonize local government trade fees with that of state trade fees to avoid multiple taxation.
- AIRS reported that they are currently working to harmonize payee and withholding tax.

DLI 7: Simplified State and Local Tax Regime

- The stakeholders observed that the major problem faced in the state is the duplication of functions, there is need to harmonize ARTMA and other state agencies that collect revenues.
- The State should look at the possibility of having a single tax regime and cash payment should be criminalized.

DLI 8: Quick Determination of Commercial Disputes

- The stakeholders observed that the Ministry of Justice website is currently down, they need to work with ICT agency to get an alternative website up and running.
- The Ministry of Justice reported that the State currently has small claims courts in eight magistrate zones in the State, however there is a need to sensitize the public to the existence of these small claims courts so they can avail themselves of its services.

ACTION PLAN

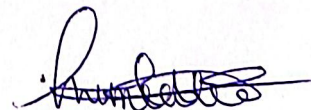
- a. The stakeholders resolved that the Ministry of Information and ASBA should be included in the relevant DLIs to ensure compliance with the DLIs.
- b. That there is a need for harmonization of local and State government tax fees to avoid duplication of fees.

CLOSING

Finally, the stakeholders consultative meeting ended by 5.30pm, with a closing prayer by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands.



Mrs Chiamaka Nnake
Hon. Commissioner MBEP/Reform Champion (SABER)



Chioma Ezenwa
Secretary (SABER)