CROSS RIVER STATE ACTION ON BUSINESS ENABLING REFORMS (SABER)
PROGRESS REPORT
(approved by Cross River State Executive Council on 25th July 2024)

			Original action plan as published							**Progress Update**		
S/N	**Business Enabling Reform Areas**	**Reform Objectives**	**Action Steps**	**Description and Key Targets**	**Responsible MDA**	**Contributing MDAs**	**Budget**	**Planned Start Date**	**Planned End Date**	**Status**	**Description of Status**	**Next Steps**
1	Reduction of Business Entry Turnaround time	This reform area will reduce time spent on entry and post entry approvals, licenses and permits	1. Develop policy documents for setting up of State One Stop Investment Centre 2. Request State House of Assembly to amend the Cross River State Investment Promotion Bureau Law to accommodate State One Stop Investment Centre 3. Review the Cross River State Investment Promotion Bureau website to include State One-stop Investment Centre	State official One - stop business entry process for obtaining approvals, permits and licenses by Foreign direct investors and domestic direct investor from all relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies of Government	Cross River State Investment Promotion Bureau (CRIPB)	Cross River State House of Assembly, Ministry of Justices, Governor's Office, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology	10,000,000.00	10/01/2023	10/11/2023	**Ongoing** **Impact/implication:** 1. Reduction of business entry turnaround time for both foreign and domestic investors seeking to obtain approvals, permits and licenses from Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the state through Setting up of One Stop investment Centre will create transparency, eliminate corruption and create positive image of the state in business entry facilitation processes.	**Achievement:** 1. Collect data of existing business entry facilitation mechanism in the State. 2. Engage business owners and identified their challenges in the form of bureaucratic bottlenecks within parent MDAs in business entry facilitation and support services. 3. Evaluate the Investment Promotion Bureau Law to ascertain any provisions for setting up of One Stop Investment Centre. 3. Present the functions of the bureau within the law which mandates the bureau to conduct business entry facilitation on behalf of the state and request for issuance of Executive Order by the Governor mandating the Bureau to create Cross River State One Stop Investment Centre to reduce business entry turnaround time in the state. 4. Procure facilities to establish One Stop Investment Centre.	The State is awaiting the appointment of a Director General for the Cross River state Investment Promotion Bureau. The initive will be completed on or before November 2024
2	Improved Transparency in Land Administration and Landbased Investment Process	(i) This reform area will enhance the administration and management of land in the State; (ii) The reform will also improve trasparency of property registration and unlock capital from this asset class	Update published information on the process for obtaining CofO including all relevant MDAs, time frames and costs on the State official website	Ministry of Urban Renewal and Development (MURD) in collaboration with the Cross River State Geographical Information Agency (CRGIA) will continuously review and update published information on CofO application and issuance process. This will be useful for all applicants for private and government owned properties in the state.	MURD	CRGIA	4,500,000.00	01/01/2023	31/12/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** 1.) Publication of information on process for obtaining Certificate of Occupancy (CofO) will help guide all relevant stakeholders seeking CofO approvals or information on detailed procedures, timeframe, cost and contacts to obtain CofO in the State. 2.) It will enhance revenue generation in the state and ensure transparency in land administration.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data on Certificate of Occupancy application process from Micro, Small and Medium businesses in the state. 2. Engaged with potential investors and identified their operational challenges in the form of poor access to information on the process for obtaining Certificate of Occupancy within and outside the state. 2. Develop comprehensive and transparent process for obtaining Certificate of Occupancy (CofO) covering Procedures, Timeframe, Cost and key contacts, amongst others. 3. Publish the process for issuance of CofO on the state official website. 4. Enhance the state revenue generation	The State will further develop and adopt Framework for long term vision, goals and strategic directions to harmonize land and propoerty administration across the state in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
3	Improved Transparency in Land Administration and Landbased Investment Process		Update published information on the process for obtaining Construction Permits including all relevant MDAs, time frames and costs	Ministry of Urban Renewal and Development (MURD) in collaboration with other relevant MDAs will continuously review and update published information on Building Permit application and issuance process. This will be useful for all applicants for private and government owned properties in the state	MURD		4,500,000.00	01/01/2023	31/12/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** 1. Publication of information on process for obtaining Construction Permits on State official website will help guide all relevant stakeholders seeking approval for Construction Permits or information on detailed procedures, timeframe, cost and contacts to obtain Construction Permits. 2. It will enhance revenue generation in the state and ensure transparency in land administration.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data on Construction Permit application process from Micro, Small and Medium business in the state. 2. Engaged with potential investors and identified their operational challenges in the form of poor access to information on the process for obtaining Construction Permit within and outside the state. 2. Develop comprehensive and transparent process for obtaining Construction Permit covering procedures, timeframe, Cost and key contacts, amongst others. 3. Publish the process for issuance of Construction Permit on the state official website. 4. Enhance the state revenue generation	The State will further develop and adopt Framework for long term vision, goals and strategic directions for land and propoerty administration across the state in collaboration with relevant stakeholders

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11	4	Improved regulatory framework for private investment in fiber optic infrastructure		Publish online the process for obtaining ROW including all relevant costs and timeframe	Publish online the process for obtaining ROW including all relevant costs and timeframe	Publish online the process for obtaining ROW including all relevant costs and timeframe	Cross River State Ministry of Works and Housing	2,500,000.00	01/01/2023	28/02/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** 1. Publication of information on process for obtaining Right of Way on State official website will help guide all relevant stakeholders seeking approval for Investment in Fiber Optic Infrastructure or information on detailed procedures, timeframe, cost and contacts to obtain Right of Way Permits/ Renewal. 2. It will enhance revenue generation in the state and ensure transparency in Right of Way administration.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data on Fibre Optic Infrastructure (Right of Way) application process and renewal from existing private sector operators in the state. 2. Enagaged business owners in the Fibre Optic Infrastructre Business and identified their Right of Way entry challenges in the form of poor access to information on the process for obtaining Right of Way Permits and Right of Way Renewal Processes covering procedures, timeframe, Cost and key contacts, amongst others. 3. Develop the process for obtaining Right of Way Permit/ Renewal and published on the state official website. 4. Create a transparent and comprehensive process for obtaining Right of Way Permit and Renewal. 5. Enhance state revenue generation	1.) The State will further review aggregate per linear meter fees for braodband deployment, revise and publish Right of Way Fees. 2.) The State will commence identification, digitization and indexation of Right of Way Route across the state and review ROW legislation to encourage investors in the sector
12	5	Development of an effective PPP framework		Set up state technical PPP coordination unit/agency mandated as the lead organization tasked with facilitation of PPPs in the state	Set up state technical PPP coordination unit/agency mandated as the lead organization tasked with facilitation of PPPs in the state	Governor's Office	Ministry of Finance	60,000,000.00	01/02/2023	30/04/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** 1. Reposition the Cross River State Bureau for Public Private Partnership (BPPP) as the Coordinating Unit / Agency for the facilitation of state PPPs 2. It will enhance State PPPs initiatives, revenue generation and ensure transparency in the administration of Public Private Partnership projects and programmes in the state.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data on existing structure for coordination of Public Private Partnership framework in the State. 2. Engage with relevant stakeholders and identified the challenges in the form of ineffective and inefficient institutional structure to coordinate PPP initiative in the state. 3. Reposition the State Bureau of Public Private Partnership as the State Coordinating Unit/Agency for all PPP initiative in the state through adoption of the Agency (Bureau of Public Private Partnership) by the State Enabling Business Environment Council as the State coordinating agency for PPP projects and programmes. 4. Ensure that all PPP projects published on the official website and other media platforms are referenced to the State BPPP as coordinating unit. 5. Enhance state revenue generation 6. Provide a platform for easy access to State PPP initiatives	The State will further develop and publish on designated state official website - 1.) State PPP Fiscal Commitment and Contingent Liability (FCCL) Management Framework; and 2.) State PPP legal and institutional Framework, including guidelines and manual; and 3.) State PPP disclosure Framework and pipeline PPP projects.
13	6	Improved Investment Promotion Environment		To publish and keep updated on state official website: Inventory of all investment incentives (Federal and State) available in the State, including information on (i) legal reference instrument, (ii) sectors, (iii) eligibility criteria, (iv) description of benefits, (v) duration, (vi) awarding and implementing agency, and (vii) year when the incentive was introduced	To publish and keep updated on state official website: Inventory of all investment incentives (Federal and State) available in the State, including information on (i) legal reference instrument, (ii) sectors, (iii) eligibility criteria, (iv) description of benefits, (v) duration, (vi) awarding and implementing agency, and (vii) year when the incentive was introduced	Cross River State Investment Promotion	Ministry of Finance, Cross River Inland Revenue Service	4,500,000.00	01/01/2023	31/12/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** 1. Publication of Inventory of all Investment Incentives (Federal and State) on State official website will help guide all stakeholders to identify relevant incentives available in the state. 2. It will encourage more investments thereby creating more revenue and jobs.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data on existing Inventory of Investment Incentives (both Federal and State) in the State. 2. Engaged business owners in all LGAs and Identified that there is no Inventory of Investment Incentives (Federal and State) in the State. 3. Develop Inventory of Federal and State Investment Incentives providing information on (i) legal reference instrument, (ii) sectors, (iii) eligibility criteria, (iv) description of benefits, (v) duration, (vi) awarding and implementing agency, and (vii) year when the incentive was introduced and publish on the state official website. 4. To encourage more investment and employment 5. Provide a platform for easy access of inventory of investment incentives (Federal and State) by Investors within and outside the state.	The Cross River State Investment Promition Bureau in collaboration with relavant stakeholders will develop a Framework for One Stop Investment Centre, identify new areas of incentives if possible and secure legal backing for implementation, Liaise with Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission to improve the state overall investment potentials .

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14	7	Improved Transparency of official fees and procedures	This reform area will increase transparency of official fees and procedures adding credibility and trust to the concerned MDAs and the State at large	The State MDAs will clearly state the formal process through which businesses are required to interact with the MDA in order to comply with a particular regulatory requirement. The information on fees, procedures and service delivery timelines related to a business regulatory process will be published on the state website	The State MDAs will clearly state the formal process through which businesses are required to interact with the MDA in order to comply with a particular regulatory requirement. The information on fees, procedures and service delivery timelines related to a business regulatory process will be published on the state website	Governor's Office	CRIPB; Ministry of Lands and Urban Development; Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources; Cross River State Water Board	6,000,000.00	01/01/2023	31/03/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** 1. Publication of information on Fees, Procedures and Service Delivery Timelines and Grievance Redress Mechanism for five State Business Enabling MDAs (Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Environment, Cross River State Water Board Services, Vehicle Inspection Office and Cross River State Signage and Advertisement Agency) on State official website will help guide all relevant stakeholders seeking services of the MDAs on detailed process to access their services in line with their Service Level Agreements as well as how to address any Grievances . 2. It will enhance revenue generation in the state and ensure transparency in service delivery.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data of existing businesses (Micro Small Medium Enterprises) in the state. 2. Engage business owners in all Local Government Areas of the State and identified their challenges in areas of poor access to information on fees, procedures and service delivery timelines by State Business Enabling MDAs in line with their Service Level Agreements and Grievance Redress Mechanism to address business enabling grievances. 3. Present the findings to His Excellency, the Executive Governor and request for issuance of Executive Order mandating the business enabling MDAs to publish information on fees, procedures and service delivery timelines in line with the respective Service Level Agreements and create a Grievance Redress Mechanism to address grievances. 4. Create information on fees, procedure and service delivery timelines for five business enabling MDAs. 5. Create Grievance Redress Mechanism for five business enabling MDAs to address grievances. 6. Publish information on state official website for easy access within and outside the state. 7. Increase transparency of official fees and procedures. 8. Enhance state revenue generation.	1.) The State Enabling Business Environment Council will work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to identify other Business Enabling Reform Ministries, Departments and Agencies. 2.) The Council will ensure all Business Enabling MDAs develop and publish on state official designated website Fees, Procedures and Timelines for Service Delivery, Service Level Agreements, Mandatory Advance Communication Rules of Upcoming Changes and Grievance Redress Mechanism.
15				The Executive Order will codify the need for business facing MDAs to establish transparent and efficient service delivery, communication and grievance redress systems	The Executive Order will codify the need for business facing MDAs to establish transparent and efficient service delivery, communication and grievance redress systems	Governor's Office	CRIPB; Ministry of Lands and Urban Development; Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources; Cross River State Water Board; Vehicle Inspection Office	2,500,000.00	01/03/2023	30/06/2023			
16	8	Simplification of State and local business tax regimes		Amend existing legislation to adopt Presumptive Turnover Tax regime for small businesses	Amend existing legislation to adopt presumptive turnover tax regime for small businesses	CRIRS	Ministry of Finance	8,500,000.00	01/01/2023	30/04/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** 1. Legislation of Presumptive Tax Regime for all Small Businesses below annual sales turnover of N25,000,000.00 or threshold stated in Section 15 (1) of the VAT Act 1993, as amended operating in the state. 2. Legislation of Business related Local Government Charges, Fees and Taxes into a consolidated Demand Notice to simplify tax administration and compliance in the state.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data of existing Tax Legislations for Micro Small Medium Enterprises in the state. 2. Engaged business owners and relevant tax authorities in all Local Government Areas of the State and identified their operational challenges in the form of multiple taxations. 3. Creation of a unique and simplified tax administration through the introduction and Legislation of Presumptive Turnover Tax for small business and Legislation for State to subsumed business - related Local Government Charges, Fees and Taxes into a Consolidated Demand Notice. 4. Publish information on state official website for easy access by relevant stakeholders. 5. Increase transparency of tax administration in the state. 6. Enhance state revenue generation.	1. The State Enabling Business Environment Council Tax Committee will identify other areas of tax reforms 2. Host relevant stakeholders on any area of tax administration that will promote small businesses in the state for consideration.
17				Pass legislation for state to subsumed business related local government charges/fees/taxes into a consolidated demand notice to simplify tax administration and compliance in the state	Pass legislation for state subsumed business-related local government charges/fees/taxes into a consolidated demand notice to simplify tax administration and compliance in the state	CRIRS	Ministry of Finance	8,500,000.00	01/01/2023	30/04/2023			

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18	9	Quick determination of commercial disputes	To improve the timeline for determination and execution of judgment on commercial disputes in the state	The Chief Judge of Cross River State will set up the Judicial Committee to coordination the ongoing establishment and administration of Small Claims Courts	The Chief Judge of Cross River State will set up the Judicial Committee to coordination the ongoing establishment and administration of Small Claims Courts	Cross River State Judiciary	Ministry of Justice	5,000,000.00	01/02/2023	31/03/2023	**Done** **Impact/Implication:** Establishment of two Small Claims Courts will serve as an Alternative Dispute Mechanism with jurisdiction to hear Commercial and liquidated money demand cases with a maximum claim value of NGN10,000,000 in the state.	**Achievement:** 1. Collected data of existing Courts in the State. 2. Engaged business owners in all Local Government Areas and identified their challenges in dispute resolutions in the area of commercial and liquidated money demand cases. 3. Creation of an Alternative Dispute Mechanism through establishment of two Small Claims Courts in the state 4. Creation of Judicial Committee with minimum of 3 members to oversee the operations of the Small Claims Courts. 5. Creation of the Small Claims Court Practice Directions to guide the Courts. 4. Publish the Small Claims Courts on the State judiciary website and state government website to create awareness.	The State judiciary will increase the number of small claims court to cover all the senatorial distrcits in the state.
19				Judicial Committee will coordinate the drafting and publishing of the Practice Direction of the SCCs in Cross River State	Judicial Committee will coordinate the drafting and publishing of the Practice Direction of the SCCs in Cross River State	Cross River StateJudiciary	Ministry of Justice	5,000,000.00	01/02/2023	31/03/2023			
20				The Chief Judge of Cross River State will designate/ establish at least 2 SCCs in the state to drive quick determination of commercial disputes	The Chief Judge of Cross River State will designate/ establish at least 2 SCCs in the state to drive quick	Cross River State Judiciary	Ministry of Justice	65,000,000.00	01/02/2023	31/03/2023			