

Overview

- The State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER) Program is a \$750 million 3-year (2023 –2025) performance-based intervention being jointly implemented by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, the Secretariat of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), Debt Management Office (DMO) and the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) Secretariat, supported with financing from the World Bank.
- 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**

Overview

- The Business Enabling Reforms Action Plan (BERAP) is an annual document prepared by the state, approved by the State Executive Council, and published on an official state website, outlining the state's 12-month detailed plan to improve the business-enabling environment.
- It is important to note that the BERAP is one of the Eligibility Criteria to qualify the State to participate in the 2024 Programme for Results.
- The deadline for the submission and upload of the BERAP on the State official website is 31st December 2023, following the adoption of the State Executive Council.

Overview

- The Sokoto State Business Enabling Reforms Action Plan (BERAP) 2024 contains the State Government's ongoing and planned reform initiatives, projects and programmes in 18 MDAs that their implementation will have a positive impact on the ease of doing business in the State.
- The initiatives and projects cut across **four** critical areas and **Eight** indicators.
- The four areas are:
 1. Improved Land Administration and Land Investment Process
 2. Increased fiber optic network deployment and access to broadband
 3. Increased Sustainable Large-Scale Investments
 4. Quick determination of commercial disputes

Overview

- The Eight Indicators

1. Improved transparency and sustainability of property registration process (including construction development) **where we intend to operationalise the SOGIS and digitalise processes.**
2. Increased fiber optic network deployment and access to broadband **where we intend to increase the total kilometres of deployed fibre optic cable across Sokoto State.**
3. Development of an effective PPP framework for States where we intend to increase new PPP projects.
4. Improved Legal and Policy Environment for Investment where we intend to improve investment promotion coordination and aftercare services for existing investments and businesses.
5. Increased transparency of official fees, procedures, service level agreements and institution of grievance resolution mechanisms.
6. Increased trade in interstate and exports where we intend to increase export businesses and reduce bottlenecks to interstate trade .
7. Harmonized and more transparent taxes where we intend to improve tax collection and administration.
8. Quick determination of commercial disputes where we intend to monitor the small claims courts for efficiency.

**Sokoto STATE
SABER ACTION PLAN**

For 2023

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2023

Reform Objective: Enhance the transparency and efficiency of registering and administering land titles.

S/N	Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Estimated Costs	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
1	Improved Land Administration and Land Investment Process	Enhance the transparency and efficiency of registering and administering land titles.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Streamline the processes for obtaining CofOs and Building Permits and publish processes, timelines and fees on the Ministry of Lands and Surveys & URPB websites Drive online payment of fees and submission of forms Creation of a data-centric digital archive of CofOs and building permits with a searchable index 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A transparent and seamless online payments and registration process for CofOs and building permits; Terms of reference (TOR) issued for the creation of a data-centric digital archive of CofOs and building permits with a searchable index. 	Investors, businesses and the general public	Ministry of Lands and Housing, Urban & Regional Planning Board (URPB)	SOIRS		30/1/2023	28/4/2023
		Improve land administration and increase land investments in agriculture.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understudy experience of implementation in Kaduna and Ogun States. Develop a Framework For Responsible And Inclusive Land-Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) 	Executive Order to establish a transparent foundation for the procedures, processes, and organizational arrangements to govern large-scale and inclusive agribusiness investments in Sokoto State	General Pubic, particularly, Farmers, the Local Community and Investors	Ministry of Lands and Housing, Urban & Regional Planning Board (ssURPB)	Min of justice, Min of Commerce and Ministry of Agric. , Min. of environment		30/1/2023	29/9/2023

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2023

Reform Objective: Improve the chances of receiving investments in Broadband technology by making the process of obtaining Right of Way (ROW) transparent, affordable and accountable.

	Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
2	Increased fiber optic network deployment and access to broadband	Improve the chances of receiving investments by making the process of obtaining Right of Way (ROW) transparent, affordable and accountable.	1. Compile and publish on the state official website: the process for obtaining ROW including all relevant MDAs, timeframes, and costs.	Transparency and accountability in the process of ROW with official information online on process for obtaining ROW to guide potential investors	Investors, businesses and the general public	SSURPB	MCIT, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovations, IRS	1/30/2023	28/7/2023
3	Increased Sustainable Large-Scale Investments	Stimulate sustainable large-scale investments through public-private partnerships and robust investment promotion framework.	1. Strengthen technical Public-Private Partnership Policy (PPP) coordination to facilitate investments particularly with the green economic zone.	A published pipeline of large-scale public-private collaborations in Sokoto State.	Investors and the general public	SBPP	State House of Assembly, Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Finance	30/1/2023	29/9/2023
			2. Strengthen and expand investment promotion services	Issue an executive order to mandate the investment co. to coordinate investment promotion.	Investors and the general public	Sokoto Investment Co	State House of Assembly, Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Commerce		
			3. Amend the IPA law to further strengthen investment promotion coordination.						

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2023

Reform Objective: Increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency in service delivery of five BEE state MDAs while promoting openness. Enhance trade and promote exports from the state

Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date	
4	Enabling Firm Operations and Regulatory Regorms	Increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency in service delivery of five BEE state MDAs while promoting openness.	<p>1. State Government to mandate Five BEEs: BPP, SOWB, URPB, IRS & MCIT to publish their processes, fees, and service level agreements (SLAs).</p> <p>2. The Five BEEs to institute and adopt Grievance Redress Mechanism that will ensure fulfilment of obligations.</p>	<p>The government will issue an executive order to mandate the five BEEs to ensure they fulfil their obligations to the private sector in line with established service level agreements and continually communicate to ease the experience of businesses and investors.</p>	Investors, Businesses and the general public.	Ministry of Justice	SBPP, SOWB, URPB, IRS & MCIT, Ministry of Agriculture	6/2/2023	30/6/2023
		Developing guidelines to enhance trade and promote exports from the state	1. Develop the state export strategy and guidelines	A purposeful, clear and focused path towards boosting trade activities and proceeds for the state.	Investors, business persons and the general public	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and trade	Ministry of Agriculture, Internal Revenue Service, SCEP	2/4/2023	31/7/2023

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2023

Reform Objective: Establish and operationalize small claims commercial courts to improve access to commercial courts and offer alternative, prompt dispute resolution.

	Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
5	Quick determination of commercial disputes	Establish and operationalize small claims commercial courts to improve access to commercial courts and offer alternative, prompt dispute resolution.	1.To set up the judicial committee and establish small claims courts.	The establishment and operationalisation of a minimum of two small claims courts.	Litigants, businesses and the general public.	State High Court	Ministry of Justice. IRS.	11/1/2023	30/6/2023

**Sokoto STATE
SABER ACTION PLAN**

For 2024

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2024

Reform Objective: Adoption of the FRILIA Framework and digitalization of processes.

S/N	Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Estimated Costs	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
1	Improved Land Administration and Land Investment Process	1 Digitalise processes to reduce inefficiencies, opacity and fraud while ensuring that land transactions are carried out fairly and effectively.	1. Prequalify vendors and obtain approval for procurement of GIS infrastructure. 2. Review, update, and publish the process, relevant organizations, fees, and timelines for obtaining a CofO and construction permits.	1. To Operationalise the SOGIS and ensure that at least 50%-70% of CofOs registered are digitized. 2. Continuous improvement in land registration processes for transparency, efficiency and accountability.	Investors, businesses and the general public	Ministry of Lands and Housing, Urban & Regional Planning Board (URPB).	Internal Revenue Service.		30/1/2024	31/10/2024
		2 Adoption of the Framework For Responsible And Inclusive Land-Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) to increase inclusivity and investments in land administration for agricultural (and non-agricultural) purposes.	1. Set up steering and technical committees to develop the FRILIA framework. 2. Understudy the experience of implementation in Kaduna and Ogun States. 3. Establish the guiding principles for FRILIA. 4. Review regulations and laws, local policies and strategic documents. 5. Identify and consult key stakeholders. 6. Develop toolkit. 7. Conduct training and stakeholder disclosure exercise.	1. Obtain an Executive Order to establish a transparent foundation for the procedures, processes, and organizational arrangements to govern large-scale and inclusive agribusiness investments in Sokoto State	General Pubic, particularly, Farmers, the Local Community and Investors	Ministry of Lands and Housing, Urban & Regional Planning Board (URPB)	Ministry of Justice, Sokoto Investment Co., Min of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture , Ministry of Environment		30/1/2024	27/9/2024

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2024

Reform Objective: Increased transparency in the process of obtaining Right of Way (ROW) to gain investor confidence and improve the ease of doing business for operators.

	Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
2	Increased fiber optic network deployment and access to broadband	3 Increased transparency in the process of obtaining Right of Way (ROW) to gain investor confidence and improve the ease of doing business for operators.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the regulation of NGN 145 aggregate per linear meter fees as published on the website 2. Compile and publish all approved ROW-related requests on the website monthly. List to include the location, aggregate fees paid, and requesting operator. 3. Review, update and publish the process, timelines and requirements for obtaining ROW-related approvals. 4. Engage operators and potential investors to encourage further deployment of fibre optic cables across Sokoto state. 	A minimum 5% increase in total kilometres of deployed fibre optic cable across Sokoto State.	Investors, operators, businesses and the general public	Sokoto Urban and Regional Planning Board (SSURPB)	Ministry of Commerce, Investment Co.	30/1/2024	27/9/2024

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2024

Reform Objective: To expand the state's capacity for sustainable large-scale investments and improve investment promotion and business sustainability.

	Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
3	Increased Sustainable Large-Scale Investments	4 To expand the state's capacity for sustainable large-scale investments by strengthening the public-private partnerships (PPP) framework and ensuring transparency for investor confidence.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the BPP & PPP organization with staff and structure. 2. Develop and publish all statutory frameworks and policies. 3. Conduct training and hold capacity workshops for staff regularly. 4. Engage stakeholders and hold workshops with the private sector. 5. Build a pipeline of PPP projects, update, and publish them. 	A 20% increase in new PPP arrangements.	Investors, businesses and the general public.	Sokoto Bureau of Public Procurement (SBPP)	State Assembly, Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Commerce, Investment Co	30/1/2024	27/9/2024
		5 Improve investment promotion and business sustainability.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enact the IPA law to further strengthen investment promotion coordination. 2. Structure IPA to strengthen investor relations and provide investor aftercare services. 3. Organize training to boost all staff capacity and continuous learning. 4. Review incentives. 	Emergence of an agency that will coordinate and facilitate investment promotion in the state. It will facilitate the state's 2024 investment summit and co-organize investment workshops and information sessions to showcase the state's investment strategy and incentives.	Sokoto state government, potential investors, businesses and the general public.	Sokoto Investment Company	State Assembly, Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Commerce	30/1/2024	27/9/24

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2024

Reform Objective: Improve MDAs' service delivery efficiency, transparency, accountability and openness to support growth of businesses and increased investments.

Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
4 Enabling Firm Operations and Regulatory Reforms	6 Improve MDAs' service delivery efficiency, transparency, accountability and openness to support growth of businesses and increased investments.	Four MDAs - IRS, Waterboard, URPB, and SBPP, will develop and publish service level agreements (SLAs), as well as institute and adopt grievance redress mechanisms to ensure the fulfilment of obligations.	Grievance resolution mechanisms at the four MDAs are operational and a minimum of 50% of grievances received are addressed in line with the specified SLAs. The service level agreements of each of the four MDAs will be published to allow easy evaluation of their service delivery.	Investors, Businesses and the general public	SOIRS, Waterboard, URPB, SBPP.	Ministry of Commerce	8/1/2024	28/6/2024

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2024

Reform Objective: Encourage easy inter-state trading and promote export businesses from the state

Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date		
4	Enabling Firm Operations and Regulatory Reforms	7	Encourage easy inter-state trading and promote export businesses from the state	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalise the State Committee on Export Promotion (SCEP). Constitute a forum for the promotion of exportation of the principal exportable products of the State; Strengthen collaboration with the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC). Organize stakeholder engagements and export enlightenment programmes. Hold consultations with stakeholders along interstate routes and destinations of the state's export products. Publish and publicise the use of the MCIT grievance resolution mechanism by traders and businesses. Regularly update and evaluate the trade grievances and resolution records based on service level agreements (SLAs) and send reports to the MDAs and the EODB Council. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least a 10% increase in the number of export-certified firms in the state. An effective feedback and grievance resolution mechanism that supports trade 	Investors, business persons and the general public	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism	Ministry of Agriculture, Sokoto Investment Promotion Agency, Internal Revenue Service	8/1/2024	27/9/2024

Sokoto State SABER Action Plan 2024

Reform Objective: Strengthen access to an efficient commercial justice system.

	Business Enabling Reform Area	Reform Objectives	Action Steps	Description & Key Targets	Beneficiaries	Responsible MDA	Contributing MDA	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
5	Quick determination of commercial disputes	Strengthen access to an efficient commercial justice system.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create awareness and hold stakeholder sensitization programmes on the filing of cases in the small claims courts and expected efficiency in case disposition and judgement execution. 2. Magistrates generate and submit signed and approved performance reports - the time to disposition indicator and the execution indicator, monthly. 3. Collate monthly performance reports for 2024 and publish them on the judiciary website by March 2025. 4. Evaluate performance reports and conduct regular training and capacity-building workshops for magistrates and stakeholders. 	Improving the efficiency in case disposition (within 60 days) and judgment execution (within 30 days).	Litigants, businesses and the general public.	State High Court	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Commerce	8/1/2024	25/3/2025