

BENUE STATE ACTION ON BUSINESS ENABLING REFORMS (SABER)

Original action plan as published										Progress		
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	Transparency of official fees and procedures	The objective of this reform was to increase transparency of official fees and procedures focusing on key business environment enabling MDAs.	The State published on the State government websites approved fees and procedure	The Governor signed a State Executive Order issued to direct five State BEE MDAs to publish on State official website(s) their fees, procedures, SLAs, GRM, and mandatory advance communication rules of	Benue State Internal Revenue Service	Ministry of Lands, Survey and Solid Minerals, Ministry of Trade and Investment, Benue State Urban Development Board, Benue State Internal Revenue Service, Benue State Public Procurement Commission	25,000,000.00	01-Jan-23	01-Dec-23	Complete	1. A State Executive Order was issued to direct five State BEE MDAs to publish on their fees, procedures, SLAs, GRM, and mandatory advance communication rules of upcoming changes. These publications can be found on the Ministry of Finance website via this link (https://www.mofep.be.gov.ng/alltenders).	Due to the importance of this reform, it is continued in the 2024 action plan cycle by: 1. Provision of five additional State BEE MDAs publish on State official website(s) their fees, procedures, SLAs, GRM, and

			<p><i>The State provided government approved Point of Sale (POS) at key business environment enabling MDAs</i></p>	<p>The Benue State Internal Revenue Service (BIRS), provided Point of Sale (POS) machines across the key business environment enabling</p>														<p>2. A feedback mechanism was provided on the Ministry of Finance (https://www.mofep.be.gov.ng/), Benue State Planning Commission (https://www.benueplanning.be.gov.ng/contracts/) and Public Procurement Commission</p>	<p>mandatory advance communication rules of upcoming changes.</p> <p>2. Ensuring that the State respond within 24 hours to a</p>
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2	Simplifying business premises permit registration and licensing renewal	This reform was aim at simplify the process of business premise permit registration and renewal within the Benue State Ministry of Trade and Investment	Provision of a e-Registration portal	Develop a business premises permit e-Registration portal for Ministry of Trade and Investment	Ministry of Trade and Investment	Benue State Internal Revenue Service	15,000,000.00	01-Jan-23	01-Dec-23	Complete This reform reduced the long time it takes business men and women to apply for new permit or renewal	1. The State government through the Ministry of Trade and Investment deployed a business premises permit e-Registration and renewal portal, which can be accessed through this url (https://be-mti.com.ng/BPR/signup.php). The portal is developed along with the Ministry's website that can be accessed via this url (https://be-mti.com.ng/). Business Premises Permit (BPP) is a mandatory annual permit that all businesses operating in a particular premise(s) within the State must obtain as specified in the Section 12 of the Benue State Registration Business Places Edict, 1979. The portal, which was deployed since March 31st, 2023, has few	1. Conducting of sensitization sessions to educate and facilitate the use of the portal as this portal serve as a one-stop solution, offering timely businesses easy access to registration forms, records, and payment systems. 2. Placement of advertisement/jingles about the portal to reach out to a broader audience 3. Training of
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3	Make land registration simpler and more transparent though the introduction of Computerize Land Titling and Registration	This reform was adopted to improve access to land and manage land-based resources for sustainable development, while strengthening land rights to increase productivity and secure livelihoods	The major action step was to provide a central database for all geospatial data and information, and deliver maps, reports and analysis	Develop a central database for all geospatial data and information, and deliver maps, reports and analysis, as well as processing capacity for multiple applications targeting to increase levels of investment	Ministry of Lands, Survey and Solid Minerals	Benue State Internal Revenue Service	6,546,629,075.00	01-Jan-23	01-Dec-23	Complete This reform improved access to land and manage land-based resources for sustainable development, while strengthening land rights which has increased productivity and secure livelihoods.	1. To achieve this reform, the BENGIS which is a service agency owned by Benue State Government for computerization and optimization of geospatial business process created a central database for all geospatial data and information, and will deliver maps, reports and analysis, as well as processing capacity for multiple applications. The BENGIS has a website (http://benuegis.org/) through which applicants can easily download application forms to process their land title without necessary having to come to the office.	1. Continuous collection of geospatial data and information for analysis and reporting. 2. Provision of a dedicated e-mail for all correspondence regarding registration and title issues with the aim of responding within 24 hours of issue reported. 3. Integration of payment platform on the computerize system for ease of fee payment by land owners.
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4	Reducing and formalising the number of taxes, charges and levies affecting small businesses and professionalising tax collection.	This reform objective was formed to boost savings and investment, leading to further production and reduced unemployment in the State.	Reduce high marginal tax rates	Lower marginal tax rates on the returns to assets (such as interest, dividends, and capital gains) to encourage saving	Benue State Internal Revenue Service	Benue State House of Assembly	No Cost	01-Jan-23	01-Dec-23	Complete This reform has reduced high marginal tax rates	<p>1. The Benue State Revenue Administration Law, 2022 has been very useful in the achievement of this reform. The law helps the State in checking the knotty issue of multiple taxation and boost the revenue of the state and Local Government Areas, LGA. Beginning from 2023, tax payers in the State only pay for Land Use Charge which is a consolidation of ground rent, property tax and tenement rate thereby making it a one stop payment as well as payments for signages and mobile adverts.</p> <p>Benue State was among the few States in the country after Kaduna State which had consolidated their collections with local governments in the State. The harmonisation provides</p>	<p>1. Continuous lowering of marginal tax rates to attract investment into the State.</p> <p>2. Provision of a tax payment portal to enhance and make tax payment simpler.</p>
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5	Improving access to commercial courts and alternative conflict resolution	This reform was targeted at increasing access to justice, reducing cost, to support economic development of the State	The action step was to provide Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, using Mediation as a dispute resolution mechanism by which the parties in a dispute refer their dispute to an independent neutral third party, improving the Legal Environment for Business and Investment in the State.	Use Mediation as a dispute resolution mechanism by which the parties in a dispute refer their dispute to an independent neutral third party, improving the Legal Environment for Business and Investment	Ministry of Justice	Benue State House of Assembly	No Cost	01-Jan-23	01-Dec-23	Complete This reform area has increased additional small claim courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution centres in the State	1. The Citizens' Right Directorate at State Ministry of Justice is saddled with the responsibility of facilitating easy access to justice by indigent or vulnerable groups like women, children and people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA). The directorate uses alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods to facilitate resolution of dispute outside the normal court adversarial system.	1. Provision of additional small claim courts in the State. 2. Appointment of both an in house Mediation Registrar and lawyers who appointed as court accredited mediators to handle disputes before they are placed before the judge. 3. Provision of court room technology, especially the recording of court proceedings and e-base legal research.
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6	Enhancing public-private dialogue	This reform was aim at building an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding between public and private sectors, improving social cohesion and civil society	The action step was to create a platform which mobilises public-private discussions through physical encounters under the umbrella of the Ministry of Justice	Promoting Public-Private Dialogue in Benue State with the target to provide a structured, sustainable and well-informed platform for the mobilisation of public and private actors. Building institutional frameworks in which the private sector can participate and effectively contribute to the decision-making process is	Ministry of Justice	Benue State House of Assembly	No Cost	01-Jan-23	01-Dec-23	Complete This reform has promoted Public-Private Dialogue in Benue State with the target to provide a structured, sustainable and well-informed platform for the mobilisation of public and private actors	1. In fulfilment of this reform, a Benue Local Investors Forum was organized in December 2023 to give policymakers, regulators, the private sector, development partners and other key players the opportunity to engage in frank and focused conversations, share technical expertise on key financial inclusion issues, develop more informed policy, and encourage innovation and investment. The Forum which was organized by Benue Investment and Property Management Company (BIPC) held at the government house in Makurdi with more than a hundred both individual and private sectors in attendance.	1. Due to the importance of this reform, it is continued in the 2024 action plan cycle by creating an Online Discussion Forum Site to Enhancing public-private dialogue 2. Organizing more Investment forum to promote public private dialogue with a view to attract investment into the State.
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