ABIA STATE BERAP 2024 PROGRESS

S/N	Business Enabling Reform Areas	Reform Objectives	Action Steps
1	**Improved transparency in Land Administration and Land-based Investment Process**	(i) This reform area will enhance the administration and management of land in Abia State. (ii) The reform will also improve transparency in property registration and unlock capital from this asset class.	A. Improve consensus among relevant MDAs on institutional and policy reforms being proposed and/or implemented including but not limited to developing and maintaining digital titling of all landed properties in Abia C. Improve and Publish the checklist of the improved process for obtaining a certificate of occupancy (CofO) including all relevant MDAs, timelines and cost on the state's official website. D. Improve and publish the process for obtaining construction permit including all relevant MDAs, timelines and cost on the State official website E. Phased indexation and digitization of existing CofOs registered from 1 January 2012 to December 31, 2024 in a digital archive in accordance with best practice. F. Utilize the mapped processes to conduct regular impact evaluations. G. Train relevant personnel on using the new framework effectively A. Establishment of the Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) B. Issuance of Executive Order on FRILIA C. Adoption and implementation of the FRILIA

| 2 | **Improved infrastructure for enhancement of business-enabling environment (regulatory framework for private investment in fibre optic infrastructure)** | To build a conducive legal, regulatory and institutional framework for a thriving digital economy. | A. Ensure an Executive Order on Right of Way in line with the existing Dig-Once Policy on broadband fees adopting aggregate fees charged for broadband deployment on a per liner meter basis at a maximum of NGN145 per meter

B. Maintenace of the aggregate per linear meter fees for broadband deployment

C. Publication of Right of Way (ROW) related requests by operators

D. Publication of framework for the ROW process in the State

E. Publish on the state official website, the process for obtaining ROW including all relevant MDAs, timelines, and cost.

F. Engage qualified service providers for the deployment of non-Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) fibre optic cable kilometres

G. Increase in total deployed GPON fibre optic cable kilometres against 2022 baseline meets target. |

| 3 | **Development of an effective PPP framework** | To establish effective Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models in the State | A. Develop and agree on frameworks to determine the PPP models required for various investment opportunities in the State.

B. Establishment of PPP legal and institutional frameworks, including Abia State Fiscal Commitment and Contigent Liability (FCCL) Management Framework, guidelines and the manual

C. Creation of PPP disclosure portal of the pipeline projects

D. Establishment of State Project Facilitation Fund with a minimum funding of 3% of the total pipeline estimated capital investment A. Update and publish an inventory/database of all investment incentives (Federal and State) available in Abia State

E. Update Abia State PPP website with relevant information for investors, including access to credit |

| 4 | **Improved Investment Promotion Environment** | To ensure improved business environment in Abia State.

 (i) To have an effective State investment promotion agency for service delivery to investors and targeted efforts towards attracting and retaining investment

(ii) To ensure transparency, easier access to information, and participation for the stimulation of investments in the State. | Published on state official website: Inventory of all investment incentives (Federal and State) available in the State and the number of entities receiving State investment incentives; AND The IPA is performing key functions as per the verification protocol;

AND

The IPA organized at least 2 information sessions for investors on access to credit and provided assistance to investors to link them to credit institutions, in the period 1 January 2024 till 31 December 2024. |

| 5 | **Increased Transparency of official fees and procedures** | (i) This reform area will increase transparency of official fees and procedures focusing on key business environment enabling MDAs in Abia State.

(ii) The reform will give easier access to regular information for greater regulatory efficiency, lower compliance costs and better regulatory quality.

(iii) Reduce overlapping of licensing requirements; | A. Sensitization on the schedule of trade related fees and levies on inter-state movement of goods

B. Online publication/update of schedule of trade related fees and levies on inter-state movement of goods on the state's official website.

C. Issuance of State Executive Order to direct 5 Business Enabling Environment (BEE) MDAs to publish on State offcial website(s) their fees, procedures, Service Level Agreement (SLAs), Grieviance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and manadatory advance communication rule

D. Develop, publish and implement service level agreements (SLAs) in the 5 BEE MDAs

E. Online publication of a monthly report on the operation and implementation of the GRM and SLAs in the 5 BEE MDAs

F. Develop State Grievance Redress Mechanism E3 |

5	**Domestic and external trade competitiveness**	Promote export activities and position Abia State as an attractive export hub for investors through the implementation of the State Committee on Export Promotion (SCEP)'s mandate	A. Allocation of an operational budget to the SCEP in the 2024 budget B. Develop Abia State export strategy and guidelines C. Online publication of Abia State Export Strategy and Guildelines D. Increase the number of firms with export certificates from Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) attracted to Abia State by 50%

6	**Simplification of State and Local Business Tax Regimes**	This reform is aimed at making it easy to understand and make payment for tax in Abia State	A. Review the Abia State Board of Internal Revenue Law to adopt presumptive turnover tax regime for small businesses
			B. Establish a presumptive turnover tax regime for small busniesses in Abia State
			C. Subsume all business-related local government charges/fees/taxes into a consolidated demand notice
			D. Raise consolidated demand notices for all business-related local government charges/fees/taxes
			E Automate the process for the collection of taxes, levies and fees from businesses and generate e-receipt (QR code or unique payment ID) for all BEE MDAs
			F Embark on awareness campaign on registration in all Local Government areas
			G. Ensure continous technical support and public wareness campaigns to encourage registration and self service

7	**Quick determination of commercial disputes**	This reform area will improve the State Judiciary and strengthen access to an efficient commercial justice system	A.1 Publication on State Judiciary website the practice Directions of the small claims courts A.2 Populate and publish the Small Claims Courts Monthly Performance Reports

REPORT

Description and Key Targets	Status
1. Commence process for enumeration and recording of buildings in major towns (Umuahia, Aba North, Aba South and Ohafia LGAs) 2. Ensure 50% of existing certificates are digitzed and archived by December 31, 2024.	*1. completed* ***Impact:*** *** Availability of data for effective and efficient budgeting*** *** A global idea of the number of residents and possibility of widening the tax net*** *2. Completed* ** improved administration and management of land in the state* ** Improved turn-around time for property title processing* **increased confidence in the government* ** improved value for investments in land*
Set-up FRILIA Steering Committee to develop FRILIA document to address challenges in Land administration for Agricultural and Industrial purposes in the State;	*C ompleted:* ***Impact*** ** Improved investor confidence* ** A happy and cooperative community land owners* **Posibility of Job creation*

1.Approval of an Executive Order on the Right of Way tarriff at not more than N145 per linear meter. 2. Published and approve on the state offficial website the ROW related request, processes, timelines as well as frameworks for deployment across the state. 3.Ensure increase in total deployed non- Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) fibre optic cable across Abia State in at least 2,000km.	. *1. **completed:*** ***Impact*** ***a)** Boosts ease of doing business, especially for tech-enabled sectors and digital startups.* *B)Supports e-governance and digital service delivery by enabling faster internet connectivity to government institutions **.*** *2. **completed:*** ***Impact*** ***a)** Simplifies investor navigation of state regulations, increasing confidence among telecom and infrastructure providers.* *3. **Ongoing:***

1.Ensure the Maintenance of State-level technical PPP coordination unit/agency.	*1. completed:* *Impact* *Enables selection of the most suitable PPP models for infrastructure delivery, improving bankability and investor confidence. Ensures alignment of projects with fiscal sustainability and service delivery goals.*
2. Secure State EXCO approval for a Fiscal Commitment and Contigency Liability Mangement Framework.	
3.Published on state's official website, the PPP disclosure framework and Web-based disclosure portal/website that shows pipeline PPP projects.	*2. Ongoing:* *Challenge* *The PPP office is still working with NGF to get a tailor made FCCL management Framework for our state.* *3. ongoing:* *Challenge* *Our PPP Website is up and running, we are noe just expecting that it will be updated as advised.*
4.Establish State Project Facilitation Fund with a minimum funding of 3% of the total pipeline estimated capital investment	*4. Completed* *Impact* *Provides dedicated funding for pre-feasibility, transaction advisory, and preparatory work on PPP projects. Increases the bankability and readiness of projects for private investment.*

Publication of an inventory of investment incentives (Federal & State) and list of recipients on the state's official website. Evidence that the IPA is operational and performing key functions, including: Investor support Promotion of investible projects Information dissemination At least 2 investor engagement sessions on access to finance conducted between Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2024. Documented evidence of assistance provided to investors in linking with credit providers.	*1. ongoing:* *Impact* *The ongoing publication of incentive information and transparency around beneficiaries builds trust among potential investors and promotes a more open business environment.* *2.onging :* *Impact* *The IPA's active performance of its functions (investor support, project promotion, and information dissemination) is laying the foundation for a more structured and responsive investment facilitation process in the state.* *3. ongoing:* *Impact* *Organizing information sessions and supporting investor-credit linkages are improving the ability of businesses to access financing opportunities, thereby stimulating private sector activity.* *4.ongoing:* *Impact* *Making information available online ensures that investors (local and foreign) can easily access key data about investment opportunities and incentives in Abia State.*

1. Published on state official website(s): fees, procedures, and service delivery timelines of five key BEE State MDAs.	**1. completed:** **Impact** *Enhances transparency, reduces corruption, and improves ease of doing business by providing clear, accessible information to the public and businesses.*
2. Ensure GRMs at two key BEE State MDAs are operational and a minimum of 50% of grievances received are addressed within the specified SLAs.	**2. completed:** *Impact* *Strengthens accountability and responsiveness in service delivery. Builds user confidence in public institutions and reduces business environment bottlenecks.*
3. Publish at least on a monthly basis on state official website(s): compliance with SLAs of five key BEE State MDAs.	**3. completed:** **Impact** *Promotes performance monitoring and drives timely service delivery. Encourages a culture of accountability and customer orientation among MDAs.*
4. Conduct advocacy meetings with groups and unions, embark on distribution of leaflets and fliers to sensitize operators with comprehensive information on trade related fees and levies for inter-state movement of goods.	**4 . completed:** *Reduces extortion and informal levies on transporters and traders. Promotes trade facilitation and compliance with harmonized fees and policies*

1. Sensitization campaigns will be coordinated and carried out by the SCEP and Ministry of Trade to attract new Exporters with incentives put in place to help Export business in the State.	*1 . ongoing:* *Impact* *Increases awareness of export opportunities and support programs, helping to grow the number of active exporters in the state.*
2. The State Export Strategy and Guidelines to facilitate the growth of Abia State's exports, will be published by the Ministry of Trade for easy access on relevant official state websites.	*2. completed:* *Impact* *Enhances access to export-related information and provides a roadmap for businesses and stakeholders to engage in export activities*
3. Published on state official website: schedule of trade related fees and levies on inter-state movement of goods.	*3 . ongoing:* *Impact* *Promotes transparency, reduces extortion, and supports fair and predictable trade practices across state borders.*
4. Ensure allocation of an operational budget to the SCEP in the 2024 budget. and Published on state official website: a state export strategy and guidelines.	*4. ongoing:* *Impact* *Ensures that the SCEP has the financial resources to implement export promotion programs and coordinate export activities.* *5. ongoing:* *Impact* *Increases user trust and satisfaction by ensuring timely resolution of business and trade-related grievances .* *6. ongoing:* *Expands the formal export base in the state, boosting economic*

1. Ensure Electronic platform established for the collection of taxes, levies, and fees from businesses with adoption ofof at least 75% of state collection of taxes and automated e receipt generation (QR code or unique payment ID) for all business-enabling environment related MDAs.	**1. completed:** *Impact* *Enhances efficiency, transparency, and accountability in revenue collection. Reduces leakages and improves taxpayer experience through digital payments and traceable e-receipts.*
	2. completed: *Impact* *Eliminates bottlenecks and duplicated processes, making tax compliance easier for businesses and improving revenue efficiency.*
2. Review the current collection process for tax, levies and fees; streamline the process by eliminating duplicated steps; develop and deploy an Electronic Payment Solution	**3. completed:** *Impact* *Reduces multiple billing and confusion for businesses. Promotes predictability and compliance through a single, consolidated notice.*
	4. completed: *Impact* *Simplifies tax compliance for small businesses and improves inclusion in the formal tax net, boosting IGR.*
3. Generate harmonized Demand Notice; print and serve consolidated Demand Notices.	**5 completed:** *Impact* *Streamlines billing and prevents double taxation. Improves compliance and reduces extortion at the local level.*
4.Ensure State amended existing legislation or passed new legislation to adopt presumptive	

1. Set up Judicial Committee established by the Chief Judge of the state judiciary; and published on State judiciary website practice Directions of the small claims courts. 2.Ensure state established and operated at least two small claims courts having tried at least one case each. 3. Monthly performance reports for small claims courts for 2023 (from inception of the courts to December 2023) to be made available to the public on state Judiciary's website by 31 December 2024. 4.Ensure 30% of cases disposed within 60 days, as recorded by the time to disposition report. 5. Ensure 10% of judgments are executed within 30 days, as	*1. completed:* *Impact* *Provides governance and operational guidance for small claims courts, enhancing transparency, accessibility, and consistency in court processes.* *2. completed:* *Impact* *Improves access to justice for MSMEs and citizens through fast, low-cost resolution of commercial disputes.* *3. completed:* *Impact* *Enhances transparency and accountability in judicial performance, and encourages public confidence in the court system.* *4. completed:* *Impact* *Demonstrates efficiency and prompt resolution of disputes, making the small claims court system more credible and attractive.* *5. completed:* *Impact* *Increases enforcement of judgments, reinforcing trust in the legal system and incentivizing court use among businesses.*

Progress update

Description of status	Next step
1. Achievements: we have commenced the process for enumeration which is being anchored by Abia Inland Revenue Services in partnership with the Ministry 0f Lands for need assessment and expansion of tax net **Challenges:** 2. Achievement: 50% of existing CofOs have been digitized and are undergoing archiving	*Ensure a 100% completion of the enumeration process *Ensure digitization is ongoing as more CofOs get approved
The Steering and Technical Committees are engaging investors utilizing the FRILIA toolkit which doubles as a win-win situation for the government, investors and the citizens	Ensure all future projects are implemented utilizing the FRILIA toolkit as a guide

1.Achievements : *Executive Order signed by the Governor and communicated to relevant MDAs.*	1. (a) Disseminate the Executive Order to all relevant MDAs, telecom operators, and local governments.
New tariff structure adopted by the Ministry of Works and implemented across LGAs.	(b) Monitor compliance by the state and local authorities to prevent unauthorized tariff variations.
Aligned with the National Economic Council (NEC) recommendation to promote broadband expansion.	2. (a) Regularly update the website content with any changes to the RoW process or regulations.
*2 .**Achievement** :RoW related requests, application procedures, documentation requirements, and timelines officially published on the state's website.*	(b) Train front-line staff and local government officers on the use and enforcement of the published framework.
*3. **Challenge*** *We did not have companies who indicated interest initially. But currently, Collaboration with telecom providers and infrastructure companies initiated.*	3. (a) Establish a monitoring framework to track actual fibre kilometres laid against target.
Strategic routes and urban/rural coverage zones identified for deployment.	(b) Secure permits and RoW clearances to facilitate infrastructure rollout.
Civil works commenced in key corridors to lay fibre infrastructure.	4. (a) Finalize current GPON infrastructure audit to compare accurately with the 2002 baseline.
Network roll-out underway/achieved in major urban and peri-urban areas.	

1. Achievements: *Investment sectors and potential PPP project types identified by the PPP agency. Draft framework developed and under review with relevant MDAs and legal advisers.*	1. Approve and adopt the framework; conduct training and rollout for MDAs and PPP stakeholders.
2. Achievements: *Draft legislation and FCCL manual prepared and sent back to NGF for their input and approval. Inter-agency consultations held. Legal reviews completed for alignment with national PPP policies and frameworks.*	2.Submit legal and policy instruments for State Executive Council approval and begin capacity building for implementation.
3. Achievements: *Portal design completed; list of pipeline projects compiled and metadata being reviewed. Coordination ongoing with ICT team and PPP unit.*	3.Ensure regular updates with project details, stages, and documents.
4. Achievements: *Fund structure defined, pipeline capital estimate calculated.*	4. Ensure timely approval and disbursement of fund through; develop disbursement guidelines.

1.challenges *Inventory of Federal and State investment incentives and the list of beneficiaries has been drafted and is undergoing review for completeness and accuracy before being finalized for web publication.*	1. Finalize and publish the inventory and recipient list on the official Abia State government or IPA website.
2.challenges *The IPA has commenced operations and is currently engaging with investors, promoting select projects, and sharing information, but still building internal capacity and formalizing processes for consistent service delivery.*	2. Strengthen operational processes and document standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure consistent, efficient delivery of IPA functions in line with SABER protocol.
3.challenges *At least one information session has been held; planning is ongoing for additional sessions. Initial efforts to connect investors with credit institutions have begun, with follow-up support being documented.*	3 Hold a second investor information session before December 31, 2024, and compile documentation showing successful investor-credit linkages
4. challenges *The development of the IPA's online presence is in progress. The website framework has been designed, and initial content is being compiled for upload. Some key documents, such as investment guides and project profiles, are still being finalized.*	4 Complete the upload of relevant investment materials (incentives, investor guides, project directory) and officially launch the IPA website to the public.

1.Achievements: *Fees, processes, and service timelines compiled for the five key MDAs.* **2.Achievements:** *Grievance Redress Mechanism units set up with dedicated personnel and reporting templates* 3. **Achievements:** *SLA compliance tracking tools deployed. First set of monthly reports generated and under review.* 4. **Achievements:** **Challenges:** *None reported*	1.*Finalize and publish verified information online; establish a routine update mechanism to keep information current.* 2.*Fully automate GRM reporting where possible; conduct periodic reviews to improve responsiveness and achieve or surpass 50% resolution benchmark.* 3.*To begin consistent monthly publication of SLA performance on official platforms; ensure reports are user-friendly and accessible*

Achievements: *Abia State has published its Export Strategy and Guidelines to support export growth, while other key activities like sensitization, GRM effectiveness, and budget allocation for SCEP are ongoing.* **Challenges** *: These activities are ongoing largely because they are process-heavy, involve multi-stakeholder coordination, and require sustained administrative commitment. Most reforms like these are incremental by nature, not one-off actions.*	1.Disburse funds to SCEP and monitor implementation progress; upload and regularly update export documents on official platforms. 2.Roll out large-scale awareness campaigns; track participation and resulting export inquiries or registrations. 3.Strengthen follow-up mechanisms and train staff to close cases faster and consistently meet or exceed SLA benchmarks.

1.Achievements: E-payment platform developed; QR-code-based e-receipts activated. Over 60% of BEE-related MDAs onboarded. **2.Achievements:** Process mapping and review completed. Manual steps identified and removed. Deployment of electronic solution initiated in pilot MDAs. **3.Achievements:** Harmonized templates developed. Printing completed and pilot serving of demand notices i nitiated in selected LGAs. **4.Achievements:** **5.Achievements:** **Challenges:** None reported	1.Ensure remaining MDAs adopt the platform; enforce e-payment use and track adoption rate to reach or exceed 75% 2.Fully roll out the electronic solution across all revenue-generating MDAs; train relevant staff and monitor compliance. 3.Complete state-wide rollout of harmonized demand notices and embed into annual revenue operations.

1.Achievements: Judicial committee formally constituted by the Chief Judge. Practice directions drafted, approved, and uploaded to the state judiciary website. **2.Achievements:** Two courts designated; judicial officers trained; at least one case successfully heard in each court . **3.Achievements:** Reports from January to December 2023 compiled; formatting and verification for online publication ongoing. **4.Achievements:** Case tracking system set up; preliminary data indicates improved case turnover nearing the 30% benchmark **5.Achievements:** Execution data collection initiated; capacity-building for court bailiffs and enforcement officers in progress. **Challenges:** None reported	1.Disseminate practice directions to legal practitioners and court users; monitor implementation across small claims courts. 2.Expand awareness among the business community; monitor operations to scale up based on demand and performance. 3.Upload all reports to the state judiciary website by the December 31, 2024 deadline; and create a routine for future reporting. 4.Strengthen judicial performance monitoring; implement workflow improvements to consistently meet and exceed 30% disposal target. 5.Finalize and implement fast-track enforcement procedures; monitor and report on execution timelines to improve compliance .