

**Minute of meeting of Kogi State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER) Members held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Spring building conference hall, government house Lokoja.**

**Attendance**

1. Mr Olajide Samuel	Permanent Secretary B&EP	Member
2. Mathew Abuka	DG DMO	Member
3. E.O Bayode	SFTAS Focal Person	Member
4. Chief Femi Ajisafe, PHD	D.P1 KOCCIMA	Member
5. Mr Samuel Enejoh	DG KOCCIMA	Member
6. Salihu Mustapha. O	Surveyor General	Member
7. Sani Daniel	COSS/AD	Member
8. Kareem Yahaya	Ag. DGIS	Member
9. Abdullateef A Bello	PA HCF	Secretary

- The meeting commenced by 1.18pm.
- Opening Prayers was said by DG KOCCIMA Mr Samuel Enejoh.
- Mr Bayode gave the OPEN REMARK (on behalf of the Commissioner of Finance) of the meeting emphasizing on the lack of commitment from some members and urge all hands to be on board to help the State achieve the targets and benefits the program promises.
- Mr Bayode gave an overview of the SABER program highlighting the key program features and the present status of the SABER Program in Kogi State.
- A response from Mr Sani Daniel appreciating the presentation from Mr Bayode and suggested that such sensitization on the program should be done regularly to give other members who are not well informed more insight into the program.

2. The next Agenda was the presentation of the 2023 BUSINESS ENABLING REFORM ACTION PLAN (BERAP).

- Mr Bayode read out briefs from the BERAP 2023 and the need for the State SABER CHAMPIONS to work assiduously towards achieving the 2024 BERAP before the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline while we await the template from PEDEC.

Furthermore, Mr Bayode listed out the following as Next Step of actions:

- ESTABLISHMENT of State Ease of Doing Business COUNCILS to provide oversight for reforms approval, implementation and tracking SABER reform implementations.
- ESTABLISHMENT of SABER SECRETARIAT.
- Provide the contact details of a focal person for SABER (SABER Champion) and the heads of the following MDAs – MINISTRY OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING, STATE AUDITOR GENERAL, STATE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, DEBT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY, PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGENCY, STATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, MINISTRY OF LANDS/LAND BUREAU, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTRY OF TRADE & COMMERCE
- STATES TO SHARE EVIDENCE OF PRIOR RESULTS ACHIEVED with the PCU in Home Finance Department of the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning.
- Take advantage of ongoing TA from NGF, PEDEC, DMO and the FMFBNP and encourage implementing MDAs to attend virtual sensitization sessions

3. Comments and Responses

- Salisu Mustapha asked about how the progress report will be reported and also how to liaise with other MDAs and agency in putting together the BERAP for each DLIs their ministry is responsible for.

- Mr Bayode responded that the lead MDAs are saddled with the responsibilities to call for meetings with other agency and MDAs that share the same DLIs to discuss and deliberate on what is needed for drafting a well detailed BERAP for 2024.
- Chief Femi Ajisafe, PHD narrated an incident somewhere around the State where the tax collectors harassed and forced him to pay a tax on his Sienna Vehicle, he complained about multiple taxation and the need to harmonize them.
- Mr Bayode responded that the issue he highlighted one of the major reform objectives of the SABER program.
- Salisu Mustapha also complained about lack of incentives like network data to follow up on virtual meetings which Mr Mathew Abuka seconded.
- Chief Femi Ajisafe, PHD representing the private sectors asked where the private sector comes in what is expected of them.
- Mr Bayode: the program is essentially for the private sector and business environment to thrive.....the private sector must participate according to the directives of the program as they are in the fields of business and will be able to indicate the areas necessary to work on and their inputs and professional contributions are very important in order to assist the State in tackling several bottlenecks that are frustrating the ease of doing business in the State.

4. The meeting was called to an end by 2.30pm and refreshment was taken by all members in attendance.



**Mukadam Asiwaju Asiru Idris**  
**Chairman**



**Abdullateef A Bello**  
**Secretary**

