

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON THE STATE ACTION ON BUSINESS ENABLING REFORMS (SABER) PROGRAMME HELD AT SHUKURA CORAL HOTEL SOKOTO, ON SUNDAY, 26TH DECEMBER, 2024.**

**1. ATTENDEES AT THE MEETING:**

**Sokoto State Government Representatives;**

- Muhammad Bello Sifawa - Secretary to the State Govt. Sokoto State.
- Hon. Haruna Abbas Bashir ACA- Commissioner for Comm. and Industries
- Habibu Isa Tambuwal - Permanent Secretary for Commerce & Ind
- Dr. Nasiru Dan Iya - Permanent Sec Ministry of Digital Economy
- Bala Muhammad Mahe - Director, Dept of Management Office

NB: Remaining representatives are on the attached List.

**Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce;**

- Muazu Y. Maaji President, Sokoto Chamber of Commerce
- Abubakar Usman Basakkwace V.P. Sokoto Chamber of Commerce
- Muhammad Gazali Deputy President, SOCCIMA

NB: Remaining representatives are on the attached List.

**2. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING:**

To engage key stakeholders on the progress, achievements, and implementation strategies of the Business Enabling Reforms Action Plan (BERAP) in Sokoto State, with a view to fostering collaboration, gathering feedback, and strengthening investor confidence for improved ease of doing business.

### **3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING:**

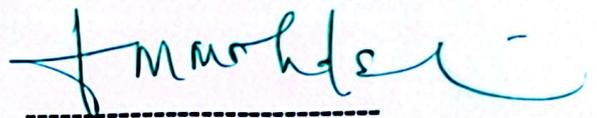
- The meeting commenced at 4:00 PM with an opening prayer led by Alhaji Muazu Ma'aji, Chairman of the Sokoto Chamber of Commerce.
- There were opening remarks by Honorable Commissioner for Commerce and Industries the Focal Person for the SABER Programme; who welcomed all participants and expressed appreciation for their presence. He highlighted the objectives of the SABER Programme and shared notable achievements recorded so far by the Sokoto State Government.
- A presentation was delivered by Mal. Bala Mahe, who outlined seven key reform areas under the SABER Programme. He explained each item in simple terms, including in local language, to enhance understanding. Following the presentation, participants raised questions and offered observations on various aspects of the reforms.
- The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce commended the presentation and emphasized the need for stakeholders to focus their questions and comments on the issues presented. He expressed the Chamber's readiness to support the programme by facilitating investor engagement, provided there is clear support from the State Government and Ministry of Commerce. He cited examples from other states that have achieved success through investor partnerships and encouraged proactive follow-up.
- The programme consultant assured stakeholders that the State Government remains fully committed and ready to engage any number of credible investors brought into the state under the SABER framework.
- The Honorable Commissioner reaffirmed this commitment, assuring stakeholders that all matters raised would be duly conveyed to the State Executive Council for appropriate consideration.
- A representative of Sarkin Rishiri, Alhaji Altine, requested clarification on whether mechanisms exist—particularly through the Chamber of Commerce—to support small businesses in acquiring land or obtaining Certificates of Occupancy.
- The Past Chairman of the Chamber commended the Government's support for small businesses and recommended the development of cluster markets to encourage commercial synergy. He also raised concerns over revenue collection practices affecting small businesses and urged for more coordinated and SME-friendly approaches.

**4. CONCLUSION:**

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment by all stakeholders to work collaboratively toward improving the business environment in Sokoto State under the SABER Programme.



Muhammad Bello Sifawa  
**Secretary to the Council,  
Secretary to the State Government**



Hon. Haruna Abbas Bashir, ACA  
**State Reforms Champion,  
Hon. Comm. (Commerce & Industries)**