

REPORT OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND ACCESS TO CREDIT TRAINING MEETING ORGANISED BY THE MANAGEMENT OF EBONYI INVESTMENT AND PROPERTY COMPANY LTD FOR INVESTORS IN THE STATE HELD ON THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2024 AT THE IPA CONFERENCE HALL, CENTENARY CITY SECRETARIAT, ABAKALIKI.

1. Opening Prayer: The meeting commenced with an opening prayer said by Mr. Victor Olughu (Head of Accounts of Ebonyi Investment and Property Company LTD) at exactly 10:45am.

2. Attendance: Representatives of CSOs, Private organizations and some Govt. functionaries

S/N	NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE NOS
1.	Emmanuel Nwafor	SALTCCIMA	08035485995
2	Linus Okoh	RIFAN	07038868271
3	Stephen I Atuma	MATAN	07068025771
4	Nwankwo I Moses	NASME	08033382645
5	Chinagorom Okereke	ASSOWE	09063151424
6	Nwebonyi Francis John	ARTISAN	09078909969
7	Hyacinth Nwoga Uguru	EBCCIMA	08036490001
8	Nnenna Otuonye– Chris	MAWOFED	07032214643
9	N.N Nwoba	NABLM	08037419585
10	Henry Awuregu	SCCI	08036758278
11	Okiti Felix	NASSI	08038426593
12	Irem L. Onu	Ebonyi Export Club	08034443680
13	K.c Okezie	EB-CSOs	08063360120
14	Peter Oba	EBSMATA	0803549820
15	Mojibade Ekuma	PS-MCI	08033412715
16	Joel Ebenyi	Head IPA	08064519230
17	Victor Olughu	Rep. EBIPC LTD	08065862476
18	Nnanna Lilian	Rep.EBSMEDA	08164502532

19.	Oguzor Ofia Nwali	HC-MCI	
20	Dr. Stephen I. Odo	DG-EBSMEDA	08036794591
21	Theodore Assochukwu	SMEDAN	08064936188
22	Chukwudi Nwofor	Rep-CBN	08037110406
23	Chukwudi Asiegbu	Rep-BOI	08033835262
24	Emeka Eze	Rep-Globus Bank	08165901775
25	Winnie Ogbu	CEO-Winnie Bakery	08035499414
26	Chief Elechi N. Elechi	HC-MOTI	08033474407

3. Opening Remarks: In his opening remarks, the Hon. Commissioner, Ebonyi State Ministry of Trade and Investment Chief Elechi N Elechi welcomed participants to the training. He said that the essence of the training was to equip investors in the state on relevant information on accessing credit facilities from government and relevant agencies for investors in the state. He stated that relevant heads of credit firms were invited to speak to investors on the seamless possibilities of accessing funds for businesses in the state.

4. Keynotes address: In his keynote address, the DG, EBSMEDA Ebonyi State Dr. Stephen Odo appreciated the management of the Investment company for their thoughtfulness to repositioning businesses and investments in the state through an elaborate training for ease of doing business in the state. He equally noted that there were so many credit facility firms in the state that were ready to partner with EBSG under the able leadership of the state governor to facilitate grants and loans for start up businesses and for business expansions in the state. He mentioned the likes of Bank of Industry, Central Bank of Nigeria, Bank of Agriculture, NEPC, NIPC and several commercial banks. He enjoined the attendees to pay attentive interest and ensure

that information was assimilated for optimum accessing of credit facilities for successful thriving of businesses in the state.

5. Formal declaration of the workshop open: The programme was formally declared open through a message delivered by the Commissioner of Commerce and Industry, Ebonyi State, Chief Oguzor Ofia Nwali.

6. Paper presentations:

➤ **FUNDING PROSPECTS FOR INVESTORS THROUGH SMEDAN**

The Head of SMEDAN, Ebonyi State office Mr. Theodore Asochukwu elaborately enlisted varieties of federal government funding for businesses in the country. He outlined directorates for the investors wishing to take available funding opportunity through the Federal Ministry of Trade, Industry, Commerce and Investment. The forms issued to investors during the programme were to aid them facilitate all processes for investment opportunities through funding by FGN through SMEDAN office.

There were questions by the investors and were answered by SMEDAN staff.

➤ **AVAILABLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY IN CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA.**

In his presentation, the Head of Planning, Research and Statistics of CBN, Ebonyi State Office Mr. Chukwudi Nwofor stated that CBN has various number of interventions for businesses in various states of the federation. He enlisted the available funding opportunities with CBN and stated the criteria and eligibility for accessing them. He equally stated the categories of businesses and available funding as listed below:

- Women Entrepreneurs Financing Scheme
- Agric Small and medium Enterprises Investment Scheme
- N500m grants for graduates and start ups
- CBN Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme
- CBN business grants among others.

There were questions by the investors and were answered by CBN staff.

➤ **AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR CERTIFIED EXPORTERS**

The Permanent Secretary, Ebonyi State Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Mojibade Ekumah took time and speak extensively on available funding for licensed exporters who took the advantage of ONSOP opportunities in the state for export development. She listed exportable products being sponsored by EBSG in partnership with NEPC. He urged investors to always attend state export promotion council for relevant information that will guide them in exportation.

Mrs. Mojibade announced that his office in partnership with NEPC and EBEPC will help interested exporters in securing investment licenses for their ease of exportation in the state.

At the end of this session, questions and answers were entertained.

➤ **LUNCH BREAK.**

The segment was made available for lunch break with underground interlude garnished with sound lullaby.

➤ **PRESENTATION BY BOI, EBSMEDA AND COMMERCIAL BANKS SPEAKERS.**

The session witnessed marathon of presentations by various speakers who were drawn from Bank of Industry, Ebonyi state office, EBSMEDA and Zenith Bank presenters.

The Bank of Industry state coordinator Mr. Chukwudi Asiegbu outlined the basic checklist for accessing funds from BOI and enlightened participants on how to develop an acceptable business plan.

The DG, EBSMEDA, Dr. Stephen Odo gave elaborate information on the ongoing empowerment programme of EBSG and FGN. He gave a detail lined up programme by the state government which hinges on ensuring available funding and training for investors in the state. The information gave the audience the opportunity to get relevant information on available credit facilities through the state government with zenith bank. The various empowerment programmes of Ebonyi state government such as:

- Street to skills
- One man, one hectare
- NG-CARES empowerment programme of EBSG
- CBN Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme handled by EBSMEDA in collaboration with Globus Bank/BOI
- Various skill acquisition programmes among others.

He also stated available funding partnership with Zenith Bank PLC for businesses in the state.

The session drew the programme to a climax as there were questions by the investors and were answered by the presenters.

➤ **CLOSING/VOTE OF THANKS**

- In his Vote of thanks, the Head of Investment Promotion Agency in the state Mr. Joel Ebenyi appreciated everyone that attended the programme including the guest speakers.

Mr. Joel Ebenyi equally announced that the programme will be a periodic one as next training workshop will be made available in the 2nd quarter of the year 2024.

He appreciated the investors, CSOs, the State Chamber of Commerce, MSME groups and the media other social commentators who graced the event for wide coverages.

He announced that Ebonyi Investment Promotion office will continue to engage investors. Linking them to available funding with persisted investment promotion in the state.

- The event was formally declared close with a prayer said by Mrs. Winnie Ogbu at exactly 4: 37pm.

➤ **GROUP PHOTOGRAPH**

Group photographs and exchange of contacts followed immediately.