

Ebonyi State Government Organizes Free Training Workshop on Access-to-Credit Facilities for Investors in Line with The People's Charter of Needs

In a strategic move to strengthen investment opportunities and support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), and in furtherance of the **People's Charter of Needs** agenda of **Rt. Hon. Bldr. Ogbonna Francis Nwifuru's** administration, the Ebonyi State Government, through the **Ebonyi Investment Promotion Agency (EBIPA)** in collaboration with the **Ebonyi State Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (EBSMEDA)**, has hosted an Access-to-Credit Facility Training Workshop for Investors in Ebonyi State.

The workshop, which took place on **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**, at the Staff Development Centre, Abakaliki, reflects **Governor Rt. Hon. Bldr. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru's** commitment to empowering the business community, promoting financial inclusion, and enhancing wealth creation opportunities across the state.

While declaring the workshop open, the Ebonyi State Commissioner for Finance, **Prof. Leonard Uguru**, noted that the training was carefully designed to equip entrepreneurs and investors with the financial knowledge and opportunities required to access credit facilities for sustainable economic growth. He noted that the initiative directly aligns with the governor's People's Charter of Needs policy, which prioritizes economic empowerment, job creation, and poverty reduction and in line with making the state investment hub of the globe.

In his speech the Commissioner for Trade and Investment, Ebonyi State **Chief Elechi Nnanna Elechi**, commended the organizers and participants saying that the workshop serves as a practical step toward eliminating systemic bottlenecks that discourage investors from investment in the state. He maintained that creating a simplified, transparent, and supportive financial ecosystem in the state is crucial for both local and foreign investors to troop into the state, stressing that Ebonyi state is committed to improving the ease of doing business as contained under the **People's Charter of Needs** mantra Governor Nwifuru's led administration.

Also speaking, **Dr. Stephen I. Odoh**, Director General of EBSMEDA, described the training as a milestone in Governor Nwifuru's vision of building an inclusive economy where small and medium-scale enterprises are supported to thrive in the state for profit maximization. He explained that SMEs form the backbone of every developing economy and noted that EBSMEDA will sustain partnerships with financial institutions to ensure Ebonyi entrepreneurs and investors have access to funding, mentorship, and capacity-building going forward.

In his remarks, **Mr. Joel Ebenyi**, Head of the Investment Promotion Unit, Ebonyi State, emphasized that the workshop demonstrates the government's practical commitment to creating an investor-friendly environment. He assured participants that EBIPA will continue to work tirelessly to remove barriers hindering private sector's access to credit facilities and poor profit in the economy, adding that the agency's mandate is to attract, facilitate, and retain investments in line with international best practices. He assured them that the agency is ever ready to promote and support every genuine investor in the state.

The technical sessions were facilitated by financial and development experts, including:

Mr. Chijioke Ahuakagha, Head of Development Finance, CBN Abakaliki

Mr. Asiegbu Chukwudi, State Manager, Bank of Industry, Abakaliki

Mr. Chigozie Asochukwu, Ebonyi SMEDAN Manager

Mr. Emeka Agha, Branch Manager, Globus Bank, Abakaliki

The speakers provided practical insights on how investors and SMEs can leverage government interventions, commercial banks, and developmental financial institutions to secure loans and grants. They further highlighted the importance of financial discipline, accountability, and proper business structuring as prerequisites for accessing credit facilities.

In a vote of thanks one of the participants **Mr. Emmanuel Eluu**, commended the government for creating a platform that directly addresses one of the biggest challenges facing them as entrepreneurs and investors which is having access to finance. He described the initiative as a bold step toward transforming Ebonyi into a hub for innovation, investment, and inclusive economic growth.

The workshop is part of a broader series of strategic interventions being carried out by Governor Nwifuru's-led administration to empower citizens, investors, stimulate industrialization, and build a people-centered economy, consistent with the spirit and vision of the **People's Charter of Needs**.



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