**THE MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE DELTA STATE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SSG**

PRESENT:

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| S/NO | NAME | POSITION |
| 1. | Chief Patrick Ukah | SSG, Member |
| 2. | Dr. Barry Gbe | Comm. Of Economic Planning, Member |
| 3. | Dr. Kingsley Emu | Chief Economic Adviser, Member |
| 4. | Mr. Reginald Bayoko | Head of Service, Member |
| 5. | Hon. Paul Nmah | Chairman DIDA, Member |
| 6. | Olorogun Lucky Oghene-Omoru | DG DIDA, Member/Secretary |
| 7. | Mr. Cornelius A. Semiteje | PS Min. of Finance, Member |
| 8. | Mr. Omamuzo Erebe | PS/SG Min. of Justice, Member |
| 9. | Mr.Ovuezirie Emmanuel | PS Min. of Lands & Survey, Member |
| 10. | Mr. Emuoghenerue E.O. Kelly | Exec. Dir. DBIR |

IN ATTENDANCE:

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| S/NO | NAME | POSITION |
| 1. | Mrs. Aubogu Anthonia Toritseju | P.S. Min. of Trade & Investment rep. HON. Commissioner Trade & Investment |
| 2. | Mr. S.E.O. Dieteke | P.S. Office of SSG |
| 4. | Mrs. Okodiya Ovoriose Eloho | DCR/CR, State High Court Rep. Chief Registrar High State Court of Justice |
| 5. | Mr. Jerome Morka | SSA Office of SSG |
| 6. | Mr. Anthony C. Abuah | DA Office of SSG |
| 7. | Mrs.Juliet Uwejeyan | Dir. MDA, Delta State Internal Revenue Service |
| 8. | Ms. Faith Ossai Odeareduo | Director One Stop Shop, DIDA  SABER Desk Officer  (08032752042, faithossai23@gmail.com) |
| 9. | Mr. Iloba Sylvester | PRO, DIDA  (08034911819,azunke2008@yahoo.com) |

1.0. OPENING:

1.1. The meeting commenced at 10:04am with an opening prayer by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Investments. The SSG in his opening remarks formally welcomed all present and stated that the essence of the meeting is to inaugurate the Delta State Council on Ease of Doing Business which he said is under the aegis of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) with the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the Chairman. He thereafter listed the members of the Council as follows;

1. His Excellency the Governor, Chairman
2. Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Trade & Investments, Member
3. Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Economic Planning, Member
4. Head of Service, Member
5. Chief Economic Adviser, Member
6. Permanent Secretary, Ministry Finance, Member
7. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands & Surveys, Member
8. Permanent Secretary and Solicitor-General, Ministry of Justice, Member
9. Chairman Delta State Investments Development Agency (DIDA), Member
10. Chairman Delta State Board of Internal Revenue, Member
11. Chief Registrar State High Court of Justice, Member
12. President Delta State Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture
13. Director General Delta State Investments Development Agency, Member/Secretary

1.2. He emphasized that both at the Federal and State levels the overall objective of the Council is to remove critical bottlenecks and bureaucratic constraints to the ease of doing business.

1.3. The SSG further stressed that in line with the Federal Government directive and to enhance the business climate in the State , the Terms of Reference of the Delta State Council have been broken down to include the following;

i. Remove bureaucratic constraints, trade encumbrance to doing business and make Delta State a progressively easier place to start and grow a business.

ii. Strengthen the implementation of Business Environment Reforms and deepen collaboration among MDAs, using focal persons towards achieving Socio-Economic advancement.

iii. Ensure transparency and efficiency in the business environment through the strengthening of the State’s website with critical and quality information on Government laws, policies and programs to aid Business Owners and Investors.

iv. Institute electronic filling of taxes and tax payment.

v. Establish specialized/small courts for quick resolution of Trade/Business Disputes.

vi. Ensure Delta State achieves performance in Result Areas and meet eligibility criteria to access the World Bank backed funds of the 3years State Action on Business Enabling Reform Programme SABER.

vii. Constitute a Technical Committee consisting of SABER representatives from the listed World Bank disbursed linked indicators as contained in the eligibility criteria matrix.

1.4. He called on members to study the SABER Report with a view to making significant effective contributions towards creating a more friendly and productive business environment in Delta State.

1.5. The SSG thereafter formally inaugurated the Delta State Ease of Doing Business Council on behalf of His Excellency, Governor who is the Chairman of the Council.

2.0. COMMENTS:

2.1. The Chief Economic Adviser, Dr. Kingsley Emu informed the Council of an existing Report on SABER that will serve as a working document.

The Secretariat was therefore mandated to circulate both the soft and hard copies of the Report to all members.

2.2. The Director General, Delta State Investments Development Agency (DIDA), Olorogun Lucky Oghene-Omoru emphasized the need to work with all the relevant MDAs as outlined by the World Bank as well as constant engagement of the SABER representatives from the MDAs in order to carry them along.

2.3. The Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning, Dr. Barry Gbe noted that the World Bank and the Federal Ministry of Finance and Budget Planning came up with a reform framework on Ease of Doing Business which is performance driven and forms the basis for the World Bank to give grants to States.

3.0. VOTE OF THANKS: The Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning, Mr. Barry Gbe, in his vote of thanks thanked His Excellency, the Governor for finding the members fit to serve in the Delta State Council on Ease of Doing Business. He emphasized that the members possess the requisite capacity to deliver on the assignment given to them. He promised that the Council will ensure that they create a good business environment that subsequent administration can build upon.

4.0 CLOSING:

4.1 The meeting came to an end at 10:44am with the closing prayer said by Mr. Benson Ojoko DFA Office of SSG.

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Chairman Secretary