

# Edo facilitating business ease, growth with land administration reforms

NAOMI EWANSIHA &  
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The Edo State Government is leveraging technology to boost investment inflow into the state, facilitating ease of doing business, and promoting business growth through the land administration reforms of the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led

administration.

The ease and convenience in processing title documents for landed property and the improved land administration system has opened the state for economic growth and attracted several investors, according to the Managing Director of Edo Geographic Information Service (EdoGIS), Mrs Osaro Grace Aihie.

Aihie, in an interview with journalists in Benin City, said the state has done so much to enhance the ease of doing business through reforms in land administration.

"Ease of doing business comprises that the investors should have a fair playing ground and the people should be carried along to understand what the

investors have come to do. So, what we do is sit together and discuss. Where there are problems, we look at the problems and look for a solution and everybody agrees, then we go on. That is the ease of business we are talking about," Aihie said.

"We have ensured that businesses and investors don't have bottlenecks that are stopping

them from doing their business. We also make the people understand that if they cooperate with the investors, they are likely going to get employment and other benefits. These are the things we do. We don't fight; problems are to be solved. We sit down, look at the problem and solve it. A little to the right, a little to the left, and everybody is hap-

py. And when it comes to the title, if you say you have a land somewhere, we will look at our records and tell you that from the records, this or that person is the true owner and problems are solved," she said.

The EdoGIS MD continued

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# The Nigerian Observer

...that the people may know



**NACCIMA to meet OPS, other stakeholders over bank recapitalisation**

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# Air Peace pushes expansion drive despite internal, external conspiracies

BILL OKONEDO, WITH  
AGENCY REPORTS

Air Peace, Nigeria's leading airline, which recently primed itself for a bigger share of the Nigeria/UK passenger market by undercutting foreign airlines by 66 per cent on airfares, says it is contending with strong internal and external conspiracies and resistance in its expansion drive.

Air Peace has pegged its economy class ticket at N1.2 million on the Lagos-London route, while findings show that foreign airlines charge an average of N3.5 million for economy class tickets from Lagos to London.

Aviation industry stakeholders and other Nigerians were excited on Saturday as over 260 passengers travelled with Air Peace on its inaugural flight from Lagos to London, seven years after the last indigenous airline, Medview, operated this most lucrative international route.

Allen Onyema, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Air Peace Airlines, says the airline is planning to begin flights to New York and Houston by the end of 2024, and is even in the process

## ● slashes Lagos-London fares by 66%

of purchasing more aircraft for this purpose.

Onyema spoke in an interview programme on Arise Television, Monday. He said Air Peace is ready and prepared to take on more flights, revealing that there are seven Air Peace flights going into Gatwick Airport from Nigeria daily.

While celebrating the beginning of Air Peace's direct flights from Lagos to London, however, Onyema also shared the struggles and sabotage faced by his airline in trying to achieve the long-awaited Lagos-London flights.

Explaining the struggles faced, the Air Peace CEO said,

"You suffer what I call both internal and external conspiracies. It took us seven years. We got the designation I think about six and a half years ago to go into London. Since then, it has been cat-and-mouse game.

"We actually procured our three (Boeing) 777s because of this route, not for any other

route... However, we were not allowed to go.

"Whether you like it or not, there is what is called international aero politics which is very dirty. We applied for the TCO. TCO means Technical Country Operators permit, you must get that one before you start going into any European country, UK

inclusive. And the TCO organisation from Europe wrote our Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority- Do you know Air Peace? Do you know about their designation? And we were denied. My own country denied us, so they threw it back.

"We went back to the NCAA, they said, oh, we didn't tell them.

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**Dangote, Mikano, Rain Oil, 104 others benefit from FG's tax exemption**

— NIPC —Pg 2



JUMAT PRAYERS:

President Bola Tinubu (right); Vice President Kassim Shettima (2nd right), and others during Jumat prayers at the National Mosque, Abuja.

The Nigerian  
**Observer**

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## NEWS

# Dangote, Mikano, Rain Oil, 104 others benefit from FG's tax exemption – NIPC

EDWARD OSEGHE

## ● invest ₦2.5trn in 2023

The fourth quarter (Q4) 2023 report on pioneer status incentive application published by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) has revealed that about 107 companies currently benefit from the federal government's tax exemption.

The pioneer status incentive (PSI) is a tax holiday that grants qualifying industries and products relief from payment of corporate income tax for an initial period of three years, extendable for one or two additional years.

The incentive, which is provided with three years of tax relief under the Industrial Development Income Tax Act, is widely recognised as an industrial measure meant to encourage economic investment.

According to the report, the number of beneficiaries enjoying pioneer status under the Industrial Development Income Tax Act increased from 83 in the first quarter (Q1) of 2023 to 107 firms by Q4 of 2023.

The 107 firms collectively invested over ₦2.49 trillion in 2023.

Amongst these firms that are beneficiaries of the PSI include manufacturing, solid material, pharmaceuticals, information and communication, trade, construction, waste management, electricity and gas supply, tourism, infrastructure, hotel development, agriculture, and others.

The report further revealed the requests of 79 firms were newly received, 211 firms were pending, and 56 companies had their applications approved in principle.

Also, 18 firms were granted incentive extensions, out of which, 13 have a three-year extension, while Honeywell Flour Mill and four others received two years extensions.

NIPC said: "Extension approvals are subject to the payment of application fees and only take effect after the payment of such fee.

"Approvals-in-principle are subject to the payment of appli-

cation fees and only take effect after the payment of such fees."

The companies that have benefitted include Dangote Fertilizers, Mikano International Limited, Sinotrucks West Africa Limited, West African Cubes Limited, Jigawa Rice Limited, JMG Nigeria Limited, Rain Oil Limited, Okpella Cement Plc, Greenville Liquefied Natural Gas Company Limited.

Also on the list are GZ Transport and Logistics Nigeria Limited, African Foundries Limited, Royal Pacific Group Limited, Kunoch Hotels Limited, Princess Medi Clinics Nigeria Limited, Medlog Logistics Limited, and Masters Liquefied Gas Company Limited.

Others are Aarti Rolling Mills Limited, Von Automobile Nigeria Limited, Ikorodu Steel Mills Limited, Confluence Metals Fabrication Company Limited, Cor-mart Nigeria Limited, Tiamin Rice Limited, Outsource Global Technologies Limited, Crown

Flour Mills Limited, Elvis Hotels Nigeria Limited, Olam Hatcher-ies Limited, among others

Meanwhile, on December 14, 2022, the federal government said it was working on phasing out the "antiquated" pioneer status incentive and other tax exemptions for mature industries with the 2022 finance bill.

Also, Taiwo Oyedele, chairman of the presidential tax reform committee, on September 23, 2023, said the federal government would review tax waivers given to companies operating in Nigeria.

According to Oyedele, the incentives gulp ₦6 trillion every year.

He also said Nigeria has not been very "prudent and transparent" in granting tax waivers, adding that the tax reform committee is looking into the situation and will ensure tax collection is fair.

Also, on February 20, the Senate Committee on Finance frowned on the ₦17 trillion loss incurred by the country on tax waivers within the last five years.

The committee also told the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to suspend the tax waivers.

## Paris 2024 Qualifier: Plumptre ruled out of Super Falcons vs Banyana Banyana Friday clash

EDWARD OSEGHE

Nigeria's Super Falcons centre-back Ashleigh Plumptre has been ruled out of Nigeria's 2024 Olympic Games qualifier against South Africa.

Plumptre pulled out of the two-legged contest due to injury. Jumoke Alani has been called up as a replacement for the Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia player.

Head Coach, Randy Waldrum will have to reshuffle his defence with the duo of Oluwatoshin Demehin and Rofiat Imuran already ruled out of the game with injury.

Plumptre's absence leaves Osinachi Ohale as the only experienced centre-back in the team.

The Super Falcons open camp for the two-legged contest on Sunday.

Bay FC forward, Assist Oshoala will be the last player to arrive at Super Falcons camp ahead of Friday's 2024 Olympic Games qualifier against the Banyana Banyana of South Africa.

Oshoala will arrive at camp on Thursday, a day before the first leg.

Head coach Randy Waldrum is already in camp alongside the quartet of Rasheedat Ajibade, Ashleigh Plumptre, Linda Jiwa-ku and Jumoke Alani.

The Super Falcons will welcome Banyana Banyana to the Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja on Friday before both teams clash again in Pretoria five days later.

The winner will join Brazil, Japan and Spain in Group C at the Olympic Games in Paris in July and August.

Meanwhile, reigning African champions, Banyana Banyana, have arrived Nigeria ahead of

their Olympic qualifying match against the Super Falcons.

The South African team, led by Coach Desiree Ellis, landed in Abuja a day earlier than planned, showing their keen readiness for the challenge.

Interestingly, Banyana Banyana of South Africa head coach, Desiree Ellis is delighted to have experienced trio, Bambanani Mbane, Refiloe Jane and Sibulele Holweni back in the squad for the crunch 2024 Olympic Games qualifier against the Super Falcons of Nigeria.

The trio are making a return to the squad since the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Mbane, Jane and Holweni are part of the 24-player squad that will face the Super Falcons in the two-legged contest.

Ellis claimed their return is a timely boost for her team's desire to qualify for the Paris 2024.

"There is one thing that you can never buy and that is experience," he said, adding that the team also has a few talented young players," Ellis said after naming her squad.

"Experience helps a lot when it adds value to the team. They have been there in tough situations and when things were not okay where they stood up to be counted. We also have the enthusiasm of the youth and we needed to get that mix right.

"We have young players like Karabo Dhlamini, Nthabiseng Majiya, Fikile Magama, Sinxolo and Noxolo Cesane, those players are coming through and for us, it is important to get that mix of youth and experience right.



COURTESY VISIT:

Managing Director/CEO, Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (DESOPADEC), Chief Festus Ochonogor (left), receiving a picture frame from the MD of Waffi TV, Alex Akemotubo, during a visit by the management and crew of Waffi TV, Warri, at the Commission's head office in Effurun, Delta State.

## NACCIMA to meet OPS, other stakeholders over bank recapitalisation

CHIDERA DUMBIRI

The Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), has said it will engage with relevant stakeholders over the new guidelines by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on its recapitalisation policy for banks in the country.

In a statement on NACCIMA's stance on the recent CBN policy directive to raise Tier 1 and 2 Banks' capital base to ₦500 and ₦200 billion respectively, the National President of NACCIMA, Dele Kelvin Oye, said the association is approaching the matter with caution, prudence, and a thorough analysis.

Noting the significance of the policy shift within the banking sector and its potential implications on the broader macroeconomic landscape, Oye said

NACCIMA will also await the release of the complete policy framework by the CBN and the government.

The statement reads: "It is imperative to highlight NACCIMA's approach to this matter as one of caution, prudence and thorough analysis.

"As such, we intend to engage in consultations with our stakeholders and await the disclosure of the complete policy framework from the CBN and the government.

"This approach is essential to ensure a well-informed response that considers the intended macroeconomic objectives that the capitalization increase seeks to address."

According to him, "NACCIMA acknowledges the significance of this policy shift within the banking sector and its potential implications on the broader macroeconomic landscape.

"While recognizing the importance of maintaining a robust banking system, we are currently unable to provide a comprehensive commentary on the policy without access to the full details and context surrounding the CBN's decision.

"NACCIMA's dedication to safeguarding the interests of private citizens and promoting the public good remains unwavering."

Oye added, "NACCIMA refrains from offering a definitive opinion on the policy at this moment until a thorough understanding of the objectives and implications are outlined by the regulatory authorities.

"Our organization stands ready to engage constructively with all relevant parties to facilitate a nuanced and informed discourse on this critical issue."

## Air Peace pushes expansion drive despite internal...

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Who designated us, the Federal Ministry of Aviation, whose duty it was and still is to do that. We said okay, we're ready. They refused, they said until they allow us to apply. So, we got designation from the Federal government, and the NCAA, under the same Federal Government, was

telling us that we should not make any application towards going into the UK."

Onyema then said that Nigerian airlines need all the support they could get from the Federal Government.

"In our own country, what we are pleading? – I like when you said support – the ease of doing business, let them even do that for

the indigenous airlines and see us blossom, instead of badmouthing these airlines that pass through all manner of problems," he said.

Nigeria has a booming aviation market. The total number of international passengers who passed through Nigerian airports in year 2021 were 2,219,146 as against 1,408,026 passengers in 2020. This represents 57.61

per cent growth rate. The number of arrivals in 2021 stood at 1,109,621, which was higher compared to 690,765 in 2020.

The air transport industry, including airlines and the supply chain, is estimated to support \$600 million of GDP in Nigeria. Spending by foreign tourists supports a further \$1.1 billion of the country's GDP, totalling to \$1.7 billion.

## Edo facilitating business ease...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

said since the beginning of the new technology that Governor Obaseki has brought, many things have changed.

"Land grabbing has reduced drastically; no more loss of investment or capital. Before now some people would just go and buy land without conducting a search and when they come to EdoGIS, they see that the property is either mortgaged or does not belong to the person who sold it to them. There is a loss of investment there," Aihie said.

"But what I keep saying is that you should conduct a search. If you are going to buy land for ₦100 million, you just need ₦25,000 to find out if that land is free from all encumbrances. If you do that, and we tell you, 'Yes, it is John that owns the land, then you are good to go. Then, if there is already a C-of-O and you come for the same land, there is an overlap and we cannot continue. We stop there and call those involved, communities even come.

"Sometimes they agree that they even gave the same land to two people, then we say no, you have to relocate one person to another land. For those we cannot solve their problem, we refer them to the court and the law court decides who the owner is. When they send in the judgement, we accept and implement it. Because of all this, the issue of double-dealing has been drastically reduced," she said.

Aihie said the agency also visits communities to sensitize them on the need to register their layout.

"If they do that too, there will be no double-dealing, there will be no land grabbing, no strife. They have been able to key in because they see it is good for them. If you have a community where they don't fight, where they don't double deal, many people will like to come there and the value of your land will increase. When investors come and you accept them in a community, they are happy. That is what we are talking about, ease of doing business, and it is helping us," she said.