EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Managing projects requires accuracy, in-depth knowledge, and leadership. It is important to pay attention to project concepts, available resources, deadlines, budget and people management, communication among stakeholders, and to predict potential risks that might hamper its success.

This proposal is for the establishment of a new office to serve as the Special Adviser to the Executive Governor of Lagos State on Special Projects for Efficiency, Durability, and Sustainability.

This proposal introduces the ideas for project identification, monitoring and evaluation, problems that hamper successful project processes, carefully curated solutions, including objectives and benefits. It further introduces how the proposed office directly relates to the success of Mr. Governor’s current administration T.H.E.M.E.S template – (Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Entertainment and Tourism, Security and Governance) and the 17 United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposed office will identify special projects and carry out feasibility studies to determine if the project is essential and beneficial to the state and provide comprehensive advice to Mr. Governor on the selection of projects that will improve the quality of citizen’s life and enhance economic growth in the state.

The proposed office will design a comprehensive application to mitigate the problems that impede successful projects and ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of projects.

INTRODUCTION

Projects are the basic building blocks of development and are generally conducted to meet specific needs and objectives. In the case of Lagos State Government projects, the objectives are pertinent to meet social needs, infrastructural development and ensure economic growth with key focus on the six strategic development goals, T.H.E.M.E.S.

Project identification, monitoring, and evaluation phases are at the core of a project life cycle. Is that the reason why the idea was developed?

Identification requires strategic selection of projects that improves the quality of residents’ lives and promotes the socio-economic development of the country.

Monitoring and Evaluation of projects requires routine, systematic process to collect and analyze information from ongoing projects, and comprehensively assess information collected to ensure processes are followed, information is correctly shared, performance is improved, limited resources are efficiently utilized, accountability is optimally attained, deadlines are met, and deliverables are efficiently managed.

As observed more specifically, some key identified issues are the rate at which most contractors awarded the drainage cleaning and desilting projects fail to dispose waste cleared from the drainage system, hereby defaming the environment, and endangering the health of Lagosians; and the inadequate flood management system which has affected thousands of people, causing considerable economic damage.

It is important to note that, if minimal attention is paid to the monitoring and evaluation processes of projects, there are probabilities of poor performance, poor-quality execution, poor collaboration and communication among team members, miscalculation of delivery time and deadlines, demotivation and difficulties of labor management, and poor control of project budgets which will affect efficient, durable, and sustainable deliveries.

Conclusion…..

PROBLEMS

Problems that hamper the success of efficient, durable, and sustainable projects are:

* Stage management.
* Total negligence and improper communication
* Lack of collaboration
* Lack of clear goals and success criteria
* Inadequate risk management
* Lack of accountability
* Sustainability risk of the project in the long term
* Active participation in dialogues and agreements leading to destructive relationships between parties.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The proposed office will primarily focus on identifying, monitoring, evaluating, and providing direct feedback to Mr. Governor on his special projects. The proposed office will not only provide confidential, comprehensive, accurate information on projects but also act as a watchdog for efficiency, speed up processes by bridging bureaucracies within the ministries, help track and deliver projects to the exact standards specified in the project plan and bill of quantity.

A comprehensive Project Life Cycle application will be created to monitor projects and communicate feedback from Mr. Governor to the Special Adviser’s Office. This application will be designed to mitigate the problems that hamper successful projects and to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of special projects.

The strategies of the proposed office will cut across to enhance a sense of belonging to projects within the grassroot level, design risk mitigation techniques, and ensure adherence to a realistic workflow per project.

PROCESS FOR PROPOSED OFFICE

**- Before Project - During Project**

OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPOSED OFFICE

Identification

The proposed office will be charged with the responsibility of identifying projects that are essential and beneficial to the state within all LGA’s and LCDA’s.

* Develop feasibility studies, objectives, and deliverables of the identified projects.
* Provide regular and up-to-date feedback to Mr. Governor from selection to completion of special projects.
* In conjunction with other agencies of government, initiate, identify, and promote new projects and programs in line with the Lagos State THEMES Agenda.
* Set SMART and CLEAR set of effective goals right from the start of a project.
* Identify the needs of the project and resources required to complete it effectively and efficiently.
* Ensure timely and transparent methods of communication to guarantee that all stakeholders are involved in the project process.
* Identify and build networks with diverse service providers in public and private sectors, civil society, and the grassroots levels.
* Any other duty as may be assigned by Mr. Governor

Monitoring and Evaluation

The proposed office of the Special Adviser to Mr. Governor will be fully committed to monitoring and evaluating special projects to exact standards specified in project plan.

* Conducting thorough and consistent follow up with contractors, project managers, and supervisors on projects prioritized by Mr. Governor.
* Formulate systems and processes that effectively streamline important information sharing between senior managers and the office of Mr. Governor.
* Design a comprehensive Project Life Cycle application to monitor projects and communicate feedback from Mr. Governor to the Special Adviser’s Office.
* Ensure delivery and execution of projects in premium standards and strict adherence to project specifications.
* Monitor and evaluate projects by setting up projects milestones and quality test based on Key Performance Indicators to ensure set goals are achieved.
* Ensure that all special projects are delivered to established deadlines and requirements.
* Provide confidential, comprehensive, and accurate information on projects to reduce the stress on Mr. Governor.
* Act as a watchdog for project efficiency and speed up processes by bridging bureaucracies within the ministries.
* Identify project risks and design mitigatory measures to ensure maximum benefit to all stakeholders is achieved.
* Any other duty as may be assigned by Mr. Governor.

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED OFFICE

Identification

* Proper and effective utilization of scare resources, reducing the rate of abandoned projects that litter communities.
* Promotes socio-economic development and achieve the highest level of human development.
* Efforts will easily translate to good governance and improved confidence in projects.
* Enhance a sense of belonging to projects within the grassroots levels.
* Embed sustainability dimensions including social and gender inclusion, environmental, social, and economic aspects into project life cycle.
* Reformulation of objectives, policies, and strategies in the State government's projects.
* Improved sustainability and sustainable impacts in the economy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

* Direct feedback to the Executive Governor, throughout the process of execution to closure.
* Improve accountability and transparency of special projects to the Executive Governor.
* Ensure efficient management and use of time resources.
* Improve communication and shared responsibility among stakeholders of the project.
* Improve standard of project deliveries.
* Build the capacity of national and local government officials by involving them in the project design, planning and implementation, and monitoring activities of the project.
* Ensure that the project(s) produces the required objectives within the specified tolerance of time, cost, quality, scope, risk, and benefits.
* Generates data that allows for cumulative learning which, in turn, contributes to better identified and designed projects, improved management and a better assessment of their impact.

CONFORMING WITH THE AGENDA

The proposed office will support the Executive Governor and his current administration in the achievement of its’ six strategic development agenda, T.H.E.M.E.S with the grand focus on attaining the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda, a driving force of Developmental Activities in Lagos State is an acronym for Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Entertainment and Tourism as well as Security and Governance.

The office will work in line with the administration’s THEMES strategies during selection and identification of projects to achieve its goals and objectives.

Traffic Management and Transport.

The state government has availed itself of the three modes of transportation - roads, rail, and waterways. With the help of the proposed office, there will be strategic identification, monitoring and evaluation of projects that will complement the current administration's effort to improve the transport and traffic management system in Lagos State.

Furthermore, these projects will make commuting stress-free, life more meaningful for the people and ensure connectivity within the various communities in the state.

Health and Environment

The proposed office will identify projects related to improving the health services and environment. These projects will also ensure that our healthcare plan will be anchored on a comprehensive health insurance scheme for Lagosians to improve access and affordability.

Education and Technology

The proposed office will be committed to identifying and monitoring projects that will be designed to reposition public education in the State and improve methods of teaching to meet demands of the 21st century.

Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy

~~A 21st Century Economy is one with increased flow of goods, ideas, finance, and people - via globalization and urbanization~~. The proposed office will identify, monitor, and evaluate projects that will ensure the development of Lagos as the biggest technology hub for startups and its ecosystem in Africa. The office will further identify and monitor special projects to ensure achievement of the Smart City initiative of Lagos State government to make connectivity very cheap and easy within the state.

Entertainment and Tourism

In-line with the inaugurated Committee on Film Production Empowerment at the State House to fund youth creativity and entertainment activities in the State, the proposed office will identify projects in line with the administration's objectives to include the collaboration with local and foreign experts and institutions to establish world class training institutions for all relevant skills and expertise required to improve the creative arts industry.

Security and Governance

True development can only be achieved in a stable, secured, and peaceful environment. An integral part of the THEMES agenda is upholding Law and Order to guarantee freedom, which is the hallmark of democracy. The proposed office will identify and monitor projects aimed at giving the people guaranteed freedom and greater access to justice through dynamic law reforms and adherence to the Rule of Law.

~~United Nations Sustainability Development Goal (UN SDG): The grand focus is the adoption of the 17 UN SDGs. The 2030 agenda was adopted in September 2015 by the General Assembly and promises a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for everyone~~.

The Special Adviser to Mr. Governor on Special Project will align with the government’s commitment and effort in achieving the T.H.E.M.E.S and 17 UN SDGs strategic development agenda to Fastrack growth and development across the State through infrastructural projects and strategic innovations.

The proposed office will focus on strategic methods to inculcate the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals into the agenda for Lagos State. This will further place Lagos in an International space, as a city that treats the UN SDGs as a priority and recognizes that ending poverty and hunger must go together with strategies that improve good health, clean water, and education, reduce inequality, and spur innovation, economic growth – all while tackling climate change, clean energy and working to preserve our environment.

CONCLUSION

The proposed office of the Special Adviser to Mr. Governor will be fully committed to identifying, monitoring, and executing special projects in line with the THEMES Agenda and UN SDGs for improved quality of life in the state and sustainable development in the economy.

Evidently, nothing foregrounds Mr. Governor's remarkable statecraft than the meticulous planning and delivery of high impact projects across the state from roads, to housing delivery, upgrading of schools, urban renewal, and rehabilitating healthcare facilities.

Through a combination of ingenious thinking and a passion to offer sustainable development at its best, this office will be a development vehicle in realizing Mr. Governor's led administrations' T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda and the greater Lagos vision of Africa’s model smart city.

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