

MINUTES OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR 2024 MEETING OF STATE COMMITTEE ON EXPORT PROMOTION (SCEP) HELD AT THE PERMANENT SECRETARY/ CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, BLOCK II CENTENARY CITY ABAKALIKI ON 11th OCTOBER, 2023.

ATTENDANCE: A total number of 15 persons were present in the meeting (see the attached attendance list)

OPENING PRAYER: The meeting started with an opening prayer said by HOD Admin. Ministry of Commerce and Industry Mrs. Okike Cecilia at about 10.45am.

OPENING REMARK BY THE GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE CHIEF FIDELIS NWIFURU: The Governor's Representative was unavoidably absent from the meeting because of other official engagements.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY/ CHAIRMAN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MRS. MOJIBADE EKUMA: She welcomed everybody present in the meeting and apologized for being late to the meeting as a result of other official engagement. She thanked God for bringing all of us into the year of 2024 and first quarter of the SCEP meeting happily saying that the committee members are going to be busy this year not to keep up appearances. She further stress on the last youth workshop of the NEPC that the committee attended saying that majority of the participants were adult and that the NEPC are getting it all wrong because their aim for the workshop was not to educate the youth for export but for them to finish their budget for the year. She asked the NEPC officer to tell the members if there are anything that the committee should do to help them get the youths for training next time, saying that she will not like it to continue that way next time.

SENSITIZATION VISIT TO SOLID MINERALS IN THE 13 LGAS:

The assignment given to the HOD solid minerals Mr. Emeokoro Chukwuma on writing the proposal for the sensitization visit to the 13 LGAs was read to the hearing of the committee members. The chairman said that the purpose of the committee visit are:

- To make Ebonyi State solid minerals exportable as solid mineral is the state alternate product for one state one product (OSOP).
- To have record of the quantity of solid minerals that is going out of the state and their destinations.

- To differentiate the exportable minerals because many export minerals are under one umbrella.

She further said that the committee needs back up from the Governor's Representative not just as committee but for the policy purposes.

RESPONSE FROM THE NEPC OFFICER MRS. ONWE AMANDA: She said that she communicated the relevant ministries for the youth's workshop like Ministry of Youth and sports, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ebonyi State Export Club etc. for them to mobilize their members for the workshop but only Ministry of Commerce and Industry mobilized their committee members. She later informed the committee that the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) advisor has been posted to them. The committee agreed to pay him courtesy visit when he assumes duty.

The representative of Ebonyi State Chamber of Commerce, Industry Mines and Agriculture (EBCCIMA) Barr. Hyacinth Uguru informed the NEPC officer that they have youths under them promising that next time he will inform them to come for the youths workshop.

The representative of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Ebonyi Chapter, Mr. Nwankwo Alphonsus stress on the need to go back to our priority product instead of solid mineral sensitization visit. According to him the committee had advertised for the off-takers of the product(cassava) and some of the Local Government Areas that the committee visited during sensitization are asking for the follow-up like establishing a buying centers in each of the LGAs and choosing the prime anchor with the help of CBN. The members agreed to finish everything on sensitization first as earlier proposed before going back to the follow-up of the OSOP product (cassava). Also to pay a familiarization visit to CBN Branch controller Abakaliki.

REPORT OF THE FAMILIARIZATION VISIT TO THE GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE BY THE CHAIRMAN SCEP.

The committee chairman reported the familiarization visit to the Governor's representative to the committee as good one saying that the Governor's representative promised to give the committee all the necessary support and to give members 2023 Christmas gift through his office.

The secretary informed the committee members that she will use the attendance list for that day's meeting together with that of next meeting to give members transport fares.

ADJOURNMENT: The representative of RMRDC Mr. Udu C. Eze moved motion for adjournment and was seconded by the representative of Ministry of Women Affairs Mrs. Cecilia Elom.

CLOSING: The meeting ended with a closing prayer said by the representative of Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Epeke Calistus at about 12.10pm.

SIGNED BY:

Ekuma Mojibade

Chairman, SCEP

Chima Mary Onele

Secretary, SCEP