MINUTES OF THE INUAGURAL/LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR 2023 MEETING OF EBONYI STATE COMMITTEE ON EXPORT PROMOTION HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BLOCK II CENTENARY CITY ABAKALIKI ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023.

Attendance: A total of 16 people were present in the meeting (see the attached list).

Opening Prayer: The meeting started with an opening prayer said by the Representative of NEPC Mr. Emmanuel Unannam at about 10.15 am.

Opening Remarks: The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Commerce and Industry Mrs. Mojibade Ekuma introduced herself to the committee members as the new committee Chairman. She said that the essence of the meeting was to have a review of the activities of SCEP so far in the State. She, however, observed that some of the members are not new to her because she had met them before. She emphasized the need to keep to time because she is always conscious of the time frame.

Remark by the Governor's Representative Chief Fidelis Nwifuru: The Governor's Representative was unavoidably absent in the meeting because of other official engagement.

Reading of the previous minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting was read and after no further correction the representative of Solid Mineral Mr. Ozoemena Njoku moved a motion for its adoption and was seconded by HOD Co-operative Ministry of Commerce and Industry Mrs. Ezeoha Immaculata.

## Matters Arising from the minutes:

- 1. The Committee members agreed to reschedule the visit to CBN Branch Controller that was earlier scheduled but was cancelled because of changes that affected some of the members of the Committee.
- 2.Reading of the summary report on the sensitization visit to cassava farmers in the 13 LGAs: The summary report was read to the Committee Members and the Rep from RMRDC Mr. Udu Eze emphasized on the essence of sending the report to the Committee platform for it to be uniform. After no further correction it was adopted by the Rep of AFAN Mr. Nwankwo Alphonsus and seconded by the Rep of solid mineral Mr. Ozoemena Njoku.

The NEPC State advisor Mr. Emmanuel Unannam said that it is necessary that the committee should schedule meetings every quarter of the year. He said that the

sensitization visits to the 13 LGAs were additional functions of the committee. According to him the committee has a lot to do to make sure that the promises made to people during the sensitization visit to Cassava farmers were redeemed. He announces to the committee that Mrs. Nonye Alienu is now the new director for the NEPC in Abuja. He further told the committee that he is retiring from service the next day and thanked all the SCEP members for their work and co-operation which made Ebonyi to be on the led in the area of Export promotion and wished them well. He advised them to continue to move EBSCEP forward. The Rep of solid mineral Mr. Ozoemena Njoku advised him to continue to guide the committee on how to get funds from NEPC even if he is not there.

He informed the committee that farm gate is now an exporter from Ebonyi state.

2. The sensitization visit on solid mineral – The committee members agreed that the sensitization visit on solid mineral will commerce on the first quarter of the year 2024 and that the HOD of solid mineral should liaise with Ozoemena Njoku to prepare everything that is needed in that sensitization visit for the committee.

The Rep of ministry of culture Dec. Ugo Paul commended the new chairman for being proactive and advised that the Governor's Rep should be the prime anchor since he is a member of the committee.

The Rep of NASSI Dr. Oluchi Ibiam thanked God for bringing active permanent secretary that is working to achieve success. According to her, the SCEP result is on the way saying that if NEPC is serious the committee will be serious as well.

CONCLUSION: The permanent secretary/chairman of the committee Mrs. Mojibade Ekuma suggested that the committee should pay formalization visit to our new Governor's Representative Chief Fedelis Nwifuru and for the NEPC state advisor Mr. Emmanuel Unannam that was retaining it is good that the committee should give him a token gift. She advised SCEP to register as a group through cooperative to become exporters.

CLOSSING PRAYER: After discussing exhaustively, the meeting came to an end with a closing prayer said by Rep of NASSI Dr. Mrs. Oluchi Ibiam at about 11: 35am.

Ekuma Mojibade

Chairman SCEP

Chima Mary

Secretary SCEP

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