

# News

## Edo taking concrete steps to create more attractive, supportive environment for businesses - ESIPO MD

IDRIS MOMOH, Benin

The Edo State Government has said that it was taking concrete steps to creating more attractive and supportive environment for businesses to thrive in the state.

Kevin Uwaibi, managing director, Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO)-Ease of Doing Business Secretariat stated this at the second quarter of 2024 Ease of doing business council strategy review meeting in Benin.

Uwaibi, who is also the secretary of the Edo State EoDB Council, said the meeting was attended by representatives from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) as well as GIZ SEDIN, a development partner. He noted that series of reforms aimed at boosting the business climate and attracting investments were outlined at the event.

He opined that the reforms



Participants at the second quarter of 2024, Ease of Doing Business Council Strategy Review meeting in Benin City

are expected to stimulate economic growth and attract investment to Edo State.

The meeting chaired by Adaze Aguele-Kalu, commissioner for Finance, who is also the EoDB council chairman, reviewed the existing policies and achievements as well as unveiled new pro-business re-

forms for 2024.

Uwaibi said, as part of efforts in building a stronger business ecosystem, the EoDB Council outlined series of resolutions to further enhance the business environment.

He listed the reforms to include evaluating business challenges facing the MDAs in

order to improve service delivery and streamline processes, expediting the passage of business-friendly bills and policies, enhancing information sharing and communication through the EoDB platform.

The Managing Director, ESIPO, also listed organising stakeholder roundtables and

information sessions to improve communication with businesses. Others are providing access to electricity for MSMEs, revising tax harmonisation policies, encouraging collaboration between MDAs, local government areas, and other stakeholders; and strengthening internal and

inter-ministerial collaboration.

He explained that commissioners of ministries, and Heads of Departments and Agencies that attended the strategy meeting gave various presentations on plans to creating more attractive and supportive environment for businesses to thrive in the state.

## Welbeck Electricity tackles power supply gap in Lagos Schools, donates solar inverter

BRIGHT IMOHO

Welbeck Electricity Distribution Limited, an independent power producer, has said that it planned to bridge the power supply gap in public schools in Lagos with the installation of 3.6KVA solar inverter and panel in, at least, six Lagos schools, annually.

The company said that the commissioning of the project marked phase one of the 'Light up Lagos School' project, paving the way for the eradication of information technology setbacks in students as future leaders, demonstrating the

company's commitment to encouraging and enhancing a conducive learning environment for computer literacy across Lagos State secondary school.

Afolabi Aiyela, managing director of Welbeck Electricity Distribution Limited, while speaking at the commissioning of the project in Ojota Senior Secondary School, Lagos said that providing access to steady electricity in Lagos Schools was the barest corporate social responsibility contribution the company can make, adding that the company is committed to ensuring that the intervention extend to other schools in Lagos.

"This is a continuous project on a phase-by-phase basis and we are hopeful that within 5 years all the public schools in all the local government areas in Lagos State would be covered," he said.

Aiyela further said that the 3.6KVA solar inverter and panel was a vital initiative aimed at delivering steady electricity and illumination in the school, in line with Welbeck Electricity's unwavering dedication to environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

He further said that by harnessing solar energy, the project, not only ensures access to an uninterrupted power sup-

ply, but also plays a crucial role in ensuring that students and teachers learn in a conducive environment thereby fostering better learning outcomes.

He called on other independent power producers and Discos to join the initiative, adding that if this is done, within five years, all public schools in Lagos would have light.

Saad Lukman Olumoh, chairman House Committee on Appropriation in the Lagos State House of Assembly, lauded the company for its commitment to promoting education and productivity. Olumoh said that the provision of Solar inverters and panels is pivotal to enhancing learning for the students and the school community, adding that the project will aid access to steady electricity, promote healthier learning lifestyles and nurture globally competitive students.

He further said that the public-private partnership between the Lagos State Government and Welbeck Electricity is not only commendable but added that projects like this by the private sector will enhance and stimulate economic development. Anike Adekanye, tutor general and permanent secretary of education district two, said that the continuous investment by the private sector in educational infrastructure represents the needed resolve to ensure the development of skilled manpower in the state and Nigeria.

## Kwara Governor makes minor cabinet reshuffle

SIKIRAT SHEHU, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq on Friday effected a minor cabinet reshuffle involving four commissioners.

Those affected are Afolashade Justina, commissioner for Social Development who moves to Women Affairs; and Bosede Olaitan Buraimoh, commissioner for

Women Affairs switches to Social Development.

While Nafisat Buge, commissioner for Youth Development moved to the Ministry of Environment; Shehu Ndanusa Usman moved to the Ministry of Youth Development.

A statement by Rafiu Ajakaye,

Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, said the cabinet reshuffle takes immediate effect.

## Insecurity: Kogi Assembly approves recruitment of 1,050 hunters

VICTORIA NNAKAIKE

Following Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's promise to make security lives and property top priority of his administration, the Kogi State House of Assembly has approved the recruitment of 1050 hunters to strengthen the security architecture of the state.

The Assembly gave the approval during the house plenary on Wednesday in Lokoja, the state capital. A letter was said to have been forwarded to the House of Assembly requesting approval for the recruitment of 50 hunters each for the 21 Local Government Areas of the state.

The letter was sent to the House of Assembly by Salami Deedat, Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Kogi State.

After reading the letter at the hallow chamber, Aliyu Umar Yusuf, speaker of the House of Assembly, noted that it was previously resolved by the lawmakers that given the security challenges in the state, and the shortage of manpower, there was a need for the recruitment.

In a voice vote, the legislators approved the recruitment of 1,050 hunters, adding that the payment of their salaries would be shouldered by the caretaker chairmen of the Local Government Areas.



L-R: Afolabi Aiyela, managing director of Welbeck Electricity Distribution Limited; Anike Adekanye, general and permanent secretary of education district two; Samuel Adeniran, and Saad Lukman Olumoh, chairman House Committee on Appropriation in the Lagos State House of Assembly; Rafiu Ajakaye, Chief Press Secretary to the Governor; and Bosede Olaitan Buraimoh, commissioner for Women Affairs, at the official commissioning of the 3.6KVA solar inverter and panel donated to Ojota Senior Secondary School by Welbeck Electricity Distribution Limited in Lagos.