

LAGOS STATE EXPORT PROMOTION COMMITTEE COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING

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MINUTES OF THE RE-INAUGURAL MEETING OF EXPORT PROMOTION COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2009 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, SECRETARIAT, ALAUSA, IKEJA

PRESENT

1. Prince A. Oyemade	Hon. Comm, for Com. & Ind				
2. Mrs. S. Oworu	Special Adviser on Com, & Ind				
3. Mr. Wale Raji	P. S, Min. of Com. & Ind				
4. Mr. L.O.Kaka	Director (Commerce)				
5. Mrs. O. R. Bashirudeen	Chief Trade Officer				
6. Mr. Awosanya	Asst. Chief Industrial Officer				
7. Fidelis Aliu	Manufacturers' Ass. of Nigeria				
8. Ukonu, O. U	Nigerian Custom Service				
9. Duro Kuteyi	NASSI, Lagos State Chapter				
10. Nosa Ebueli					
11. Mr. J. Sule	S.O.N				
12. Mrs. O.I Okunola	S.O.N				
13. I.G Salawu	C.I.B.N				
14. M. O Adegoke					
15. Adio E. A.	N.E.P.C				
16. M. Saidu	N.E.P.C				
17. E. Obidike	N.E.P.C				
18. M. Yussuf	L.C.C.I				
19. Isyola Consider assistant	N.A.F.D.A.C				

IN ATTENDANCE

20. Miss O. O. Obadina	Con	mercial	Office	rIdes	Salt in Editor
21. Mrs. A. T. Sobowale	Sen	ior Trac	le Offi	cer	STATE OF STA
22. Miss M. A Sobayo		66	66 2		
23. Miss U.V Ofe	ar him	uge Mira	10 ff 1 Sh	S PARTY	种的社主部

1.0 OPENING

1.1 The re-inaugural ceremony, which was presided over by the Honourable Commissioner, Prince Adeniyi Oyemade, commenced at 11.20a.m with an opening prayer said by Mr. John Sulle, Deputy Director, Standard Organisation of Nigeria (S.O.N). In his opening remark, the Honourable

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Commissioner welcomed members and expressed great delight at the august gathering. He regretted the halt in the operations of the previous Committee owing to logistic problem. He was gladdened by the timely decision to reinaugurate the Committee, especially at this period of global economic recession, when leaning towards export would be a viable way out for sustaining our declining economy. He hoped that the new Committee to be re-inaugurated, especially with its seasoned calibre of membership would live up to expectations and explore avenues of cooperation between the State Government and the Nigerian Export Promotion Council.

- 1.2 Thereafter, the Honourable Commissioner formally re—inaugurated the Committee and read the terms of reference as follows:
- 1. Assisting in promoting the development of export-oriented Industries;
- 2. Coordinating and promoting export activities in the State;
- 3. Assisting Industries in the State to pursue and obtain necessary export incentives;
- 4. Collecting and disseminating information on products available for Export;
- 5. Planning and organizing exportation of agricultural produce;
- 6. To constitute a forum for the promotion of exportation of the principal exportable products of State;
- 7. To carry out such other functions as the Council (N.E.P.C) may from time to time direct;
- 8. To advise the Council on the method of achieving objectives of the Export Promotion Council Decree in the State;
- 9. Cooperate with other Institutions on matters relating to export financing, export incentives and specialized services to exporters;
- 10. To collect and disseminate information on foreign markets to local manufacturers and exporters.
- 1.3 In her own address, the Special Adviser on Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Sola Oworu, challenged the Committee to re-focus on non-oil exports and requested the members to avail themselves of the opportunities provided by the Lekki Free Trade Zone in the course of their assignments.
- 1.4 In a presentation by the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, Mrs. Obidike Evelyn, Principal Manager, NEPC, who represented the Acting Executive Director, Mr. M. O. Lawal, stated that Lagos State Export

Promotion Committee would be a platform for proffering solutions on problems militating against export development in the State, recognizing that the Committee comprising the State Government, the State N.E.P.C office and the Organized Private Sector (O.P.S) would be an instrument for propelling non-oil exports.

- 1.5 Furthermore, Mrs. Obidike identified the problems confronting export development as lack of funding by the State Government, lack of awareness, instability of Committee members and also gave the following suggestions as strategies for overcoming these shortcomings: inclusion of Export Promotion Committee requirements as a component of the State Budget; capacity building; synergy between the State Export Promotion Committee and NEPC offices; formulation of objectives; and reinstatement of quarterly (or periodic) committee meetings.
- 1.6 Mr. L. O. Kaka, Director (Commerce), gave the vote of thanks. Thereafter, the Honourable Commissioner and the Special Adviser departed the venue, and the Committee went ahead to hold its first meeting.

2.0 THE POST RE-INAUGURAL COMMITTEE MEETING

- 2.1 The Committee Chairman, Mr. Wale Raji, thanked the members for accepting the call to serve. He bemoaned the collapse of the previous Committee, but was optimistic that the re-inaugurated Committee would live up to its billing. He noted that the national economy was battered by unnecessary imports but hoped the Committee would look into import substitution in addition to export development, since both would enhance the State Government's revenue generation drive.
- 2.2 Furthermore, the Chairman reinstated that an Action Plan must be drawn to guide the Committee in carrying out its activities for the year. Therefore, he called for suggestions from members.
- 2.3 In her contribution, Mrs. Obidike advised the Committee to develop a broadened scope of activities, apportion timelines and form sub-committees for executing these activities. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should fashion out periodic activities to be adopted for the Committee's actions. Additionally, various suggestions were made for effective functioning of the Committee.

- 2.4 In his contribution on Export Business Development, Mr. Kuteyi, Chairman N.A.S.S.I, Lagos State Chapter, suggested that criteria for exportation such as Packaging, Product Information, Exportation, Quality Incentives should be considered. Also, he recommended that the State Government should provide Cluster Parks, where specific exportable products can be developed and processed with acceptable quality standards. He also advised that the Government should assist in provision of soft loans, Equipment, and business development services to aid companies / enterprises in the cluster in production of goods with maximum quality.
- 2.5 Similarly, Mr. Ukonu, Representative of Nigeria Customs reiterated the importance of information as an effective tool for export promotion. He advised that pamphlets on the ABC of Exportation should be printed and distributed to exporters, and interested stakeholders. Also, he recommended the establishment of a one stop-shop at the Airport where information on exportable goods can be obtained.

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3.0 CLOSING

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- 3.1 In his closing remarks, the Chairman re-emphasized that the Committee would focus on organizing seminars, making publications on Exportation, designing a dedicated export website, creating an Export Desk (where people can access information on exportation of products) within the Ministry, and identifying exportable products for termly promotion, etc. Finally, the Committee Chairman added that the Council (NEPC) would need to advise the Committee on exportable products that should be focused on from time to time.
- 3.2 In the absence of any other deliberations the meeting adjoined till 30th April, 2009 the motion for adjournment was moved by Mrs. Okanola seconded by Mr. Adio E. O, the meeting ended at 1:15pm with a closing prayer said by Mr. Salawu.

LAGOS STATE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
THE SECRETARIAT, ALAUSA, IKEJA
LAGOS

17th APRIL 2009