**OPENING SPEECH BY HON PAUL NMAH, CHAIRMAN DELTA STATE INVESTMENTS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DIDA) AT** **A** **ONE DAY ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS WITH THE ORGANISED PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AT THE UNITY HALL, OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE, ASABA ON 17TH FEBRUARY, 2023**

Protocol

I am delighted to have captains of industry and stakeholders that shape the economy of our dear state all gathered in one spot to rub minds on how we can achieve the Ease of Doing Business Reforms. I appreciate you all for honouring our invitation.

We have gathered today to critically evaluate the investment climate of our dear state and look at possible ways in which the organized private sector can key into the various investment opportunities that are available in Delta State.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to acquaint you with the fact that the Delta State Investments Development Agency (DIDA) as an investment facilitation Agency has been at the forefront of driving the investment thrust of the State from over reliance on Oil and Gas to other sectors like agriculture, solid minerals, aquaculture, tourism and housing in order to diversify the economy of the State.

As the Chairman of DIDA, I have made it a priority to always interface with the organized private sector towards ensuring that Delta State remains the preferred investors’ haven.

It is also worthy of note that DIDA, being the Investment Promotion Agency of the State, is directly under the office of His Excellency, the Governor and so its activities are devoid of Government Bureaucracy.

I must at this juncture commend His Excellency, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, CON, for providing the conducive environment for our Agency to operate.

His Excellency, the Governor, in line with his “finishing strong mantra” has ensured that the investment environment in Delta State is conducive for both local and foreign investors to thrive.

Ladies and gentle, it is worthy of mention that the activities of DIDA since inception have positively impacted on the economic growth of the State.

Under the administration of His Excellency, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, DIDA has been able to attract numerous investments into the State. Some of them have been completed and thriving well, while others are nearing completion or undergoing the process of implementation.

Some of these investments facilitated by DIDA under a PPP arrangement include;

* Delfrasco Ltd, Tower Manufacturing & Testing Industrial Fabrication Hot Dip Galvanizing Facility at Issele-Uku
* Akewa Colmar Terminal Limited, Development of the Burutu Port at Burutu
* Re-homes limited, Asaba Ultra-Modern Mechanic Village and Auto Parts, Asaba
* Power Gas, Virtual gas producing Plant at Ebedei, near Umutu.
* James Law Limited, Development of the Phase 2 Ogbeogonogo Modern Market at Asaba
* Adventium Global Inc, Development of the Delta Songhai at Amukpe
* UTM Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) Project with Headquarters Building at Warri
* Stallion Auto Keke Limited, Tricycle Assembly Plant near Asaba in Delta State
* Delking Multiple Concepts Ltd, Trailer Park at Ekpan

Among others.

I wish to use this medium to encourage and invite both local and foreign investors to avail themselves of the conducive business environment we have created for them to invest in the State.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is now my honour and privilege to declare this One Day Ease of Doing Business Stakeholders’ Engagement meeting open.

Thank you all and God bless.