



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AKWA IBOM STATE**
WELLINGTON BASSEY WAY END
P.M.B. 1111, UYO, NIGERIA

AKSE ORDER NO:⁰⁰³....., 2023

EXECUTIVE ORDER:

**ESTABLISHMENT, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A FRAMEWORK FOR
RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN LAND-INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE (FRILIA)**

- WHEREAS,** Akwa Ibom State Government, in a bid to attract investment for its agribusiness value chain, the investment climate, and optimally harness the potential in its arable land mass, intends to develop a Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investment (FRILIA). The framework ensures that land acquisition and resettlement for large-scale agribusiness investment are undertaken in line with established international good practices and guarantee shared benefits between private investors and surrounding communities.
- WHEREAS,** Akwa Ibom State has enormous arable and fertile land with the potential to produce a wide range of crops, including rice, cassava, yam, oil palm, and a variety of fruits and vegetables, among others. A sizable portion of Akwa Ibom State Land is either communally or family-owned.
- WHEREAS,** The Akwa Ibom State Government is desirous of deepening its agribusiness reforms, including delivering a win-win approach to all the relevant stakeholders on agricultural land matters and investment opportunities. The State intends to achieve this through green economy initiatives, such as responsible investment in agriculture and food systems that guarantee food security.





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WHEREAS, To create a responsible and inclusive business environment for large-scale agribusiness investments in Akwa Ibom State, there is a need for:

ADOPTION OF FRILIA PRINCIPLES

1. Adherence to core principles that mainstream international best practices, such as those based on the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and related principles and guidance, into the development of agribusiness in the State for sustainable economic growth and development. These include, but are not limited to:

a. That overarching investment will be consistent with and contribute to the policy objective of the State.

b. The investment will be conducted transparently, avoid or minimize land acquisitions requiring voluntary or involuntary resettlement, minimize adverse effects from land acquisition, ensure a range of inclusive investment and production models are considered, subject the investment to consultation and participation with all potentially affected communities, ensure the affected communities have opportunity and responsibility to make informed decisions regarding land acquisition, foster gender equality and empowerment of women and youth and lastly, the investment will be monitored.

c. Recognize and protect land rights (including customary, informal and rights to common property resources) by safeguarding against dispossession of legitimate tenure rights holders or parts treatment through: prompt payment of adequate compensation" in cash, alternative land or other forms of compensation, including supplementation livelihood restoration; and a robust and effective grievance redress mechanism that provides accessible and affordable procedures for third-party settlement of dispute while considering the availability of judicial recourse, community, and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.



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d. Ensure environmental and social sustainability by observing safeguards against environmental damage. Prior to approval or any final decision to proceed, investments will be subjected to independent assessments of potential positive and negative impacts on tenure rights, food security, livelihood, environment, the rights and/or status of women and youth, and physical cultural property. Community, individual, and worker safety will be protected, as will their fair, non-discriminatory, and equal treatment.

ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FRILIA STEERING COMMITTEE

2. The constitution of a high-level Steering Committee is responsible for the overall coordination of the establishment, adoption, and implementation of the Akwa Ibom State Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investments (FRILIA). The Steering Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy Governor, while members will include:

Commissioner for Trade and Investment; Commissioner for Finance; Commissioner for Agriculture; Commissioner for Local Government Affairs; Attorney-General/ Commissioner for Justice; Commissioner for Lands and Town Planning; Commissioner for Women Affairs, State Surveyor-General/ Permanent Secretary; Senior Special Adviser on Land Matters; Chairman, Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Service; Managing Director/CEO, Akwa Ibom State Investment Corporation (AKICORP); State Accountant-General; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture as the secretary to the Steering Committee.

3. The function and powers of the Steering Committee shall be to:

- i. Ensure that agri-business investments in the State are consistent with the FRILIA principles and international best practices, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Promote transparency in agri-business investment in the State.



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- b. Promote the application of inclusive production models.
 - c. Promote safeguard measures against dispossession of tenure rights holders.
 - d. Monitor the impact of agri-business investment, including the application of compensation standards.
 - e. Promote environmental sustainability.
 - f. Promote gender equality and empowerment of women and youth.
 - g. Review land allocations made to investors on recommendations of the technical committee.
 - h. Approve for adoption a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and review GRM reports.
- ii. Approve for adoption and implementation a Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investments (FRILIA)
 - iii. Approve for adoption and dissemination toolkits/guidelines/policies or equivalent to guide investors throughout the development of land-intensive agricultural projects in Akwa Ibom State in a manner consistent with the FRILIA principles and international best practices.
 - iv. Co-opt such persons or create such number of committees on the recommendation of the Technical Committee as may be necessary to execute its functions.
 - v. Meet quarterly or as often as may be considered expedient for the effective discharge of its functions to review the progress of the projects and investments. and to consider any specific issue(s) that may be directed by the Governor.
 - vi. Do such other things considered necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions.



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ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FRILIA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

4. The constitution of a Technical Committee to support the Steering Committee in performing its function and meeting the objective of this Order. The Committee shall include the Commissioner for Agriculture as chairman and two representatives (one not below the rank of a director) and one principal officer of the following Ministries, Departments and Agencies: Ministry of Lands and Town Planning; Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation (AKICORP); Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Trade and Investment; Office of Surveyor General; Office of the Accountant-General; FADAMA; Akwa Ibom Bureau of Public Procurement (AK-BPP); Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Service (AKIRS); Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture (Secretary) and Director-General, Akwa Ibom State Fiscal Responsibility Board (AK-FRB).
5. The function and powers of the Technical Committee shall be to:
 - i. Develop a Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investments (FRILIA). Prepare an implementation plan for FRILIA.
 - ii. Develop a toolkit/guidelines/policy or equivalent to guide investors throughout the development of land-intensive agricultural projects in Akwa Ibom State, consistent with the FRILIA principles and international best practices.
 - iii. Conduct risk or benefit assessments to assist the government in implementing agribusiness projects, mainly land-based investment.
 - iv. Advise and assist the government in creating sustainable land use and agribusiness policies.
 - v. Monitor all land-based investment in the State and their compliance with FRILIA.



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- vi. Assist the development of a land bank for agri-business investment in the State, in particular ensuring that land acquisition for the land bank is consistent with the FRILIA principles and international best practices.
- vii. Publish periodically information on agri-business investments.
- viii. Establish a framework for community and stakeholder consultations and engagement.
- ix. Provide a monthly report to the Steering Committee
- x. Meet at least every month to consider reports from stakeholders, assigned tasks, and any special issue(s) as may be directed by the Steering Committee.
- xi. Perform such other function as the Steering Committee may occasionally deem necessary to achieve its function.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

6. The Technical Committee shall develop effective grievance and dispute resolution processes with appropriate appeal mechanisms for claimants, landowners, host communities, and investors. The mechanisms shall be consistent with the FRILIA principles and international best practices. The Secretary of the Technical Committee shall also function as the desk officer for the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) on FRILIA in Akwa Ibom State. The GRM will be such that it consults and makes inquiries within the areas of grievance, deliberates on complaints)/appeal(s), appraises the complaints)/appeal(s) against relevant guidelines and procedures, and resolves all complaints)/appeal(s) within fourteen days of receipt with the responsible authority within the concerned Ministry, Department or Agency. The Technical Committee, as part of its monthly report to the Steering Committee, will include a briefing on issues/complaint(s)/appeals) resolved and those pending.



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DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF FRILIA TOOLKITS/GUIDELINES/POLICIES OR EQUIVALENT

7. The Technical Committee, as part of its responsibility, shall develop toolkit, guidelines, policies, or equivalents for approval by the Steering Committee. These will guide investors throughout the development of land-intensive agricultural projects in Akwa Ibom State, ensuring investors and the responsible MDAs are provided with adequate information to comply with FRILIA principles and international best practices. This shall include, but not be limited to, enabling investors and responsible MDAs to effectively engage in consultations with communities, including local land rights holders. Among other things, the toolkit, guidelines, policies, or equivalents will cover stakeholder engagement; environmental and social impact assessment and risk management; land access, easement, and involuntary resettlement management; gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth; valuation and compensation; Global Memorandum of Understanding, community needs assessment and development; out-growers and food security.

I, **PASTOR UMO BASSEY ENO**, GOVERNOR OF AKWA IBOM STATE OF NIGERIA IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED ON ME BY SECTION 5 (2) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA (AS AMENDED; SECTIONS 2 AND 5 OF THE LAND USE ACT, CAP. L5 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2010; AND ALL OTHER POWERS ENABLING ME IN THAT BEHALF, **DO HEREBY** MAKE THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. The adoption and Implementation of the Framework for Responsible Investment in Land Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) in Akwa Ibom State is established as an Agricultural Principle.
2. The FRILIA Principles are intended to improve the attractiveness of Akwa Ibom State globally for land-based investments and facilitate investments that ensure food security and commercial yield for investors.



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3. Akwa Ibom State Government will establish a FRILIA Working Group to oversee the implementation of FRILIA Principles in the State. The Group will comprise FRILIA Champions from relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in the State.
4. The Akwa Ibom State Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, will recruit FRILIA specialists to support its implementation in the State.
5. The Akwa Ibom State FRILIA principles, as articulated above, shall serve as a guide for investments that require large parcels of land. Where absolutely necessary, the principles shall also cover small to medium parcels of land connected to substantial investment.
6. The Government of Akwa Ibom State shall take further necessary steps to institutionalize the implementation of FRILIA principles in the State, including actions to promote –
 - (a) the recognition and protection of land rights;
 - (b) best practices in state land acquisition and resettlement;
 - (c) best practices in environmental social sustainability;
 - (d) best practices in the recognition and protection of land rights;
and
 - (e) transparent investments that ensure shared benefits for investors and host communities, and particularly contribute to poverty reduction, food security, job creation and gender equity.



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7. This Order may be cited as the Framework for Responsible Investment in Land Intensive Agriculture (Adoption) Order, 2023, and shall come into effect on the 21st day of December, 2023.

Made under my hand at Uyo this ^{21st}..... day of ^{DECEMBER}....., 2023

PASTOR UMO BASSEYENO
Governor