



NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT

Mandatory Advanced Communication Strategy for Business Enabling Services

NAME OF AGENCY:
NIGER STATE COMMODITY AND EXPORT PROMOTION AGENCY

ADDRESS OF AGENCY
Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe Road, Western Bypass, Minna, Niger State. PMB: 70

**In Line with the Executive Order on the Promotion of Transparency
and Efficiency in the Business Environment**

December 2023

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I. Legal Reference

The Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency, adheres to the Executive Order, State Action for Business Enabling Reform Order 1. This legal foundation ensures that all actions and reforms carried out by the BES are lawful and aligned with national policies, providing a clear mandate for enhancing the business climate within the state.

II. Vision

To transform Niger State into a premier destination for business by establishing a transparent, efficient, and supportive environment that fosters economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development.

III. Mission and Mandate

Mandate:

The Board has a mandate to initiate, prepare, and implement a structured and transparent registration process for businesses, investors, and the general public in Niger State.

Mission:

To deliver exceptional business-enabling services that streamline processes, reduce administrative burdens, and promote sustainable economic development in Niger State.

Mandate

- **Initiate, Formulate, and Evaluate Policies for Export Promotion:** The Niger State Export and Commodity Agency is responsible for creating and assessing policies aimed at promoting exports. This involves analyzing market trends and identifying opportunities to enhance the state's export capacity
- **Promotion and Development of Small-Scale Exporters:** The agency focuses on supporting and developing small-scale exporters within the state. By providing resources, training, and market access, it aims to empower these businesses to thrive in the export market.
- **Development of Commodities (Quality and Standards) for Export:** Ensuring the quality and standards of commodities for export is a key priority for the agency. This includes implementing quality control measures and setting standards that align with international trade requirements to enhance the marketability of NigerState products.

IV. Communication Strategy for Internal and External Public with Timelines and Milestones

A. Current Situation/Background

The Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency responsible for initiating, preparing, and implementing Nigerstate commodity and export policies recognises the critical role of communication in:

- **Achieving Organizational Objectives:** Clear communication is essential for aligning the activities of various departments and stakeholders with the state's economic goals.

- **Engaging Stakeholders:** Effective communication fosters trust and cooperation between the government and business community, leading to more informed decision-making and policy support.
- **Demonstrating Success:** Regular updates on reforms and initiatives help maintain public confidence and support for government actions.
- **Educating the Public:** Providing accurate information about business services and regulations ensures that businesses and citizens understand their rights and responsibilities.
- **Influencing Behavior and Perceptions:** By promoting the benefits of the business reforms, the state can encourage more businesses to formalize their operations and take advantage of government services.

B. Objectives of the Communication Strategy

1. **Increase Awareness:** Elevate awareness of the business-enabling services and reforms among business operators, investors, and the general public.
2. **Enhance Message Consistency:** Ensure that all communications from the MDAs are consistent and clear and reinforce the state's commitment to improving the business environment.
3. **Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships:** Build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, including business leaders, financial institutions, and media organizations.
4. **Build Positive Reputation:** Position Niger State as a business-friendly environment that is open, transparent, and supportive of economic development.
5. **Drive Participation:** Encourage greater involvement from the business community in policy development and feedback processes, ensuring that reforms meet businesses' needs.

C. Goals

1. Reputation Management Goals:

- **Improve Perception:** Aim to increase the positive perceptions of Niger State's business environment among local and international stakeholders by an annual rate.
- **Promote Transparency:** Continuously highlight the state's efforts to promote transparency in business operations, leading to higher levels of trust.
- **Showcase Success Stories:** Regularly share success stories of businesses thriving in Niger State to build confidence among potential investors.
- **Highlight Reforms:** Actively communicate the positive impacts of business reforms to reinforce the state's commitment to creating a supportive business climate.
- **Build Brand Identity:** Develop and maintain a strong brand identity for Niger State as a hub for business and innovation.

2. Relationship Management Goals:

- **Enhance Communication Channels:** Strengthen existing communication channels and establish new ones to ensure continuous stakeholder engagement.
- **Increase Collaboration:** Foster government and business community collaboration through joint initiatives, forums, and public-private partnerships.

- **Improve Responsiveness:** Ensure timely responses to stakeholder inquiries and feedback, demonstrating the state's commitment to addressing business concerns.
- **Strengthen Media Relations:** Maintain regular interactions with the media to ensure accurate and favourable coverage of business activities and reforms.
- **Encourage Feedback:** Actively seek feedback from stakeholders to improve communication efforts and business services continuously.

3. Task Management Goals:

- **Increase Staff Participation:** Boost the involvement of Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency staff in communication initiatives and policy development processes to enhance service delivery.
- **Improve Internal Coordination:** Enhance internal communication and coordination among MDAs to ensure consistent messaging and efficient service delivery.
- **Build Capacity:** Provide training and development opportunities for staff to improve their communication skills and understanding of business processes.
- **Set Clear Milestones:** Establish clear milestones and deadlines for communication activities to ensure timely implementation of the strategy.
- **Monitor Progress:** Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of communication efforts to identify areas for improvement and celebrate successes.

D. Target Audience and Key Messages

1. External Target Audience:

a. Business Owners and Operators (SMEs and Large Enterprises):

1. Niger State is committed to simplifying business processes and making starting and growing your business easier.
2. Business services are designed to help business owners operate efficiently and maximize their potential in the local and international markets.
3. Support business journeys with services tailored to meet their needs.
4. Building a thriving business community in Niger State, prioritizing your business success.
5. Stay informed about the latest reforms and opportunities to help your business succeed in Niger State.

b. Potential Investors (Local and International):

1. Niger State offers a stable and supportive environment for investment, with policies designed to protect and grow your assets.
2. Niger State provides unique opportunities for businesses in key sectors.
3. The Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency is committed to transparency and efficiency, ensuring secure all processes and procedures.
4. The state has untapped potential for new and existing businesses to explore

c. Financial Institutions and Trade Associations:

1. Partner with Niger State to drive economic growth through strategic commodity and export services.
2. Partner with the state government to create a more robust, resilient economy by supporting businesses.
3. Business policies are designed to facilitate access to finance and reduce barriers to business growth.
4. Partner with the state to promote financial inclusion and support for SMEs across Niger State.
5. Collaborate with us to provide innovative financial solutions that meet the needs of our diverse business community.

d. General Public (via Media Channels):

1. Niger State is dedicated to creating jobs and opportunities through a vibrant business environment.
2. Stay informed about the latest developments in the business sector and how they impact local communities.
3. Explore how we are making businesses thrive in Niger State more easily.
4. Citizens' support is crucial in building a solid business community.
5. Niger State can become a leading destination for business and innovations through strategic partnerships and collaboration with the public.

2. Internal Target Audience:

a. Niger State MDAs Staff Involved in Business Services:

1. Staff plays a vital role in delivering efficient and effective business services.
2. Staff have a responsibility to stay updated on policies and procedures to provide the best service to our business community.
3. Employees' efforts are vital to making Niger State a business-friendly environment.
4. Employees are regularly involved in training and development programs to enhance their skills.
5. By providing targeted services, employees contribute to improving the lives of businesses and citizens who interact with them.

b. Policymakers and Government Officials:

1. Leadership is critical in shaping a business-friendly environment that drives economic growth.
2. The MDAs collaborate with the state leaders to implement policies that support businesses and create jobs for our citizens.
3. MDAs provide updates on the business community's needs to ensure that policies are responsive and effective.
4. Leadership decisions directly impact the state's economic future; hence, the MDAs work closely with them to create positive outcomes for the businesses we serve.

5. We continuously build trust with stakeholders by staying committed to transparency and accountability.

c. Local Government Authorities:

1. The LGA plays an essential role in implementing business-friendly policies at the grassroots level.”
2. Continuous partnership with LGAs ensures businesses in their jurisdiction can access the services and support they need.
3. LGAs are responsible for participatory policy-making and state-wide reforms and initiatives that can benefit their communities.
4. Collaboration is critical to creating a consistent and supportive business environment across Niger State.
5. Provide feedback that informs the decisions to address unique challenges facing businesses in local communities.

E. Communications Mix

1. External Communications:

a. Press:

- Issue regular press releases to announce new business services, policy updates, and success stories.
- Publish opinion editorials from key government officials highlighting the benefits of the state’s business reforms.
- Arrange interviews and features with business leaders who have benefited from the state’s services.
- Develop a media kit with key information and statistics about the business environment in Niger State.
- Collaborate with business journals and magazines to feature Niger State as a prime business destination.

b. Online:

- Maintain an updated official website with detailed information about business services, registration processes, and investment opportunities.
- Launch social media campaigns to engage with the business community and share updates on reforms and initiatives.
- Use targeted email newsletters to inform business owners and investors about new developments and opportunities.
- Create informative blogs and articles that provide insights into doing business in Niger State.
- Utilize online forums and discussion platforms to address common questions and concerns from the business community.

c. Public Relations:

- Organize stakeholder forums and business workshops to discuss ongoing reforms and gather feedback from the business community.
- Host media briefings and press conferences to announce major initiatives and policy changes.
- Engage with local and national business associations to promote collaboration and information sharing.
- Develop partnerships with trade and investment organizations to showcase Niger State's business opportunities.
- Participate in regional and international business expos and trade fairs to attract investment and promote the state's business environment.

d. Advertising:

- Launch print, radio, and television campaigns highlighting the benefits of doing business in Niger State.
- Develop promotional materials, such as brochures and flyers, to distribute at business events and expos.
- Use billboards and outdoor advertising to promote key business services and reforms.
- Invest in digital advertising, including targeted ads on social media and business websites, to reach a broader audience.
- Sponsor business-related events and conferences to increase visibility and promote the state's business-friendly policies.

2. Internal Communications:

a. Workshops/Seminars:

- Conduct regular training sessions on business processes, customer service, and communication strategies for Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency staff.
- Organize workshops to discuss policy changes and their implications for business services.
- Invite external experts to share best practices in business facilitation and public service delivery.
- Provide opportunities for staff to participate in industry conferences and training programs.
- Host seminars on leadership, ethics, and transparency to reinforce the state's commitment to good governance.

b. Face-to-Face Meetings:

- Hold regular meetings between the Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency leadership and staff to discuss progress on business reforms and address any challenges.
- Schedule one-on-one meetings with key staff members to provide personalized feedback and support.
- Encourage open communication and idea-sharing among staff to foster a collaborative work environment.
- Conduct town hall meetings with staff to discuss significant initiatives and gather input on improving service delivery.

- Organize cross-departmental meetings to ensure alignment and coordination in implementing business services.

c. Internal Memos:

- Send regular internal memos to update staff on policy changes, new initiatives, and upcoming events.
- Use memos to recognise staff achievements and contributions to the state's business reforms.
- Provide clear instructions and guidelines for implementing new business services and processes.
- Share success stories and best practices from other regions to inspire and motivate staff.
- Ensure that all memos are accessible and easily understood, using clear language and visual aids where appropriate.

F. Promotion

1. External:

- **Town Hall Meetings:**
 - Organize town hall meetings across the state to engage with the local business community, discuss ongoing reforms, and gather feedback on how to improve services.
 - Use these meetings as a platform to educate business owners about available services and how they can benefit from them.
 - Invite media coverage of these events to reach a wider audience and promote transparency in the government's actions.
- **Media Campaigns:**
 - Launch a series of media campaigns highlighting the success stories of businesses that have benefited from the ministry's services.
 - Use radio and television slots to explain the benefits of the reforms and encourage more businesses to formalize their operations.
 - Develop engaging social media content, including infographics, videos, and testimonials, to spread awareness about Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency business-friendly policies.
- **Trade Associations Engagement:**
 - Partner with local and national trade associations to co-host events and workshops that promote the state's business services.
 - Provide regular updates to these associations on policy changes and new initiatives, ensuring they are well-informed and can relay information to their members.
 - Collaborate on joint publications, newsletters, and reports to showcase the state's progress in creating a supportive business environment.

2. Internal:

- **Internal Notices and Updates:**
 - Distribute regular updates through internal communication channels, such as emails, newsletters, and notice boards, to keep staff informed about progress on business reforms and new initiatives.
 - Use these updates to share key milestones, celebrate achievements, and highlight areas where staff contributions have made a significant impact.
- **Staff Achievements Recognition:**
 - Recognize and celebrate the achievements of staff members who have played a key role in implementing business-friendly policies.
 - Organize award ceremonies or recognition events to motivate staff and reinforce the importance of their work.
 - Share these success stories internally to inspire other staff members and promote a culture of excellence.

G. Timeline and Milestones

1. Stakeholder Engagements:

- **Q1:** Host the first quarterly meeting with business leaders and investors to discuss state policies and gather feedback on the effectiveness of current initiatives.
- **Q2:** Organize a roundtable discussion with financial institutions and trade associations to explore opportunities for collaboration and address challenges facing businesses.
- **Q3:** Launch a business forum targeting SMEs to introduce new services and reforms to help them grow and succeed.
- **Q4:** Hold a year-end town hall meeting to review the progress of business reforms, share success stories, and outline plans for the upcoming year.

2. Media Engagements:

- **Quarterly:** Ensure regular media appearances by key government officials on radio and TV to discuss ongoing business reforms, opportunities for businesses, and the state's vision for economic development.
- **Bi-annual:** Organize press briefings to update the media on the progress of business-enabling services and address any concerns or misconceptions.

3. Internal Capacity Building:

- **Monthly:** Conduct workshops and training sessions for staff to improve their understanding of business processes, customer service, and effective communication.
 - **Quarterly:** Hold internal meetings to review progress on communication goals, share best practices, and identify areas for improvement.
 - **Ongoing:** Provide continuous learning opportunities for staff through online courses, seminars, and industry events to enhance their skills and knowledge.
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H. Evaluating Success

- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Conduct surveys and gather feedback from business owners, investors, and financial institutions to assess their satisfaction with the services provided and their perception of the business environment, including the timeline for advance communication.
- **Media Coverage Analysis:** Monitor media coverage, including press articles, broadcasts, and social media mentions, to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of the state's messaging. Positive media sentiment, increased visibility and audience participation would be key indicators of success.
- **Event Participation:** Track attendance and engagement levels at town hall meetings, workshops, and business forums to determine the effectiveness of these events in reaching the target audience and encouraging active participation.
- **Investment Inflows:** Measure the increase in local and foreign direct investment (FDI) in Niger State due to the improved business environment and the effectiveness of the communication strategy.

2. Internal:

- **Staff Performance and Engagement:** Evaluate staff performance in delivering business services and their level of engagement with the communication strategy. High staff participation and positive feedback would indicate successful internal communication efforts.
- **Process Efficiency:** Assess the efficiency of business-related processes within MDAs, including the time taken to complete registrations, licenses, and other services. Improvements in these areas would reflect successful internal alignment and capacity building.
- **Internal Feedback:** Regularly gather feedback from staff through surveys and meetings to identify any challenges or areas for improvement in the communication strategy. This feedback will be crucial for the continuous refinement of the strategy.
- **Training Outcomes:** Measure the impact of training and development programs on staff knowledge and skills related to business services. Successful training should enhance service delivery and better communication with external stakeholders.
- **Milestone Achievement:** Monitor the progress of key milestones outlined in the communication strategy, ensuring that all timelines are met and objectives are achieved as planned.

V. Conclusion

The Mandatory Advanced Communication Strategy for Business Enabling Services by Niger State MDAs is designed to create a more transparent, efficient, supportive environment and advance communication of specific changes in business policies and reforms for businesses within the state.

The strategy focuses on clear messaging, consistent stakeholder engagement, and continuous internal capacity building, aiming to position Niger State as a leading destination for business and investment in Northern Nigeria.

This strategy will help drive advance communication, economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development in the region through a collaborative effort between government officials, employees, the business community, and the general public. Regular evaluation and feedback mechanisms will ensure that the strategy remains effective and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders, ultimately contributing to the long-term success of Niger State's business environment.

For further information, contact:
Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency
Block 5&6, David Umaru Estate, Piggery Road, Off Shiroro Road,
Minna, Niger State.
www.nscepanigerstate.gov.ng
+2348061676470, +2349131747139, +2349071064615

Signed:
Baba Etsuyankpa
Head, Niger State Commodity and Export Promotion Agency
11th November, 2023.

November 14, 2023
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