

BIS 1.0

PUBLIC - PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS POLICY
Benue Investment & Property Company Limited
December 2023

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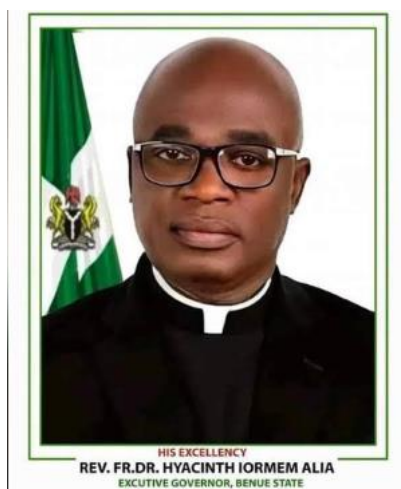
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Acronyms and Glossary of Terms

BOO	Build, Own and Operate
BOT	Build, Operate and Transfer
EoDB	Ease of Doing Business
EOI	Expression of Interest
ExCo	Executive Council
FBC	Full Business Case
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
BIPC	Benue Investment & Property Company Limited
BNSG	Benue State Government
MDA	Ministry, Department and Agencies
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
OBC	Outline Business Case
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RFP	Request for Proposal
SDP	State Development Plan
SIP	Sector Implementation Plan
SPV	Special Vehicle Funding
VFM	Value for Money
VGf	Viability Gap Funding

Message from the Governor



Benue State is set in pursuing a twin track of strengthening capacity in its public sector and promoting its credentials as the top destination for private sector investment in Nigeria. The private sector has the most capacity for creating job opportunities, driving innovation and improving competitiveness. An efficient public sector is required to support this by creating an enabling environment, implementing sound policy, providing required infrastructure and developing human capital.

The state has to undertake comprehensive action to attract investments. This has to include the establishment of new policies and Reforms and the enactment of legislation to promote investments, modernize taxation, and reform the public service. These investment efforts will attract both domestic and foreign investments worth about \$500m with further investment announcements of about \$1bn. The sustained commitment to implementing the Ease of Doing Business Charter will earn our state, the top-ranking place for doing business.

We intend to retain our competitive edge. This requires actions to reduce infrastructure deficits and accelerate infrastructure development to meet the needs of our citizens. To ensure sustainable development, Benue State has opportunities to absorb N2 trillion (USD 2.6 Billion) new investment in infrastructure needs from 2024-2050.

The level of investment the state requires for infrastructure presents an opportunity for public-private partnerships (PPP) in developing and delivering sound projects. Through PPP, the private sector can support various aspects of the state's public works programme, including the rehabilitation and expansion of roads, expanding access to electricity in major farming and mining centres through rural electrification, and accelerated connection to the national grid and easing urban & rural transportation.

As the agency responsible for promoting investments, Benue Investment & Property Company (BIPC) limited has developed an investment regulatory framework to drive PPP and facilitate the required investments. This PPP Policy and Manual reflects the credible legal framework that Benue State Government has created to harmonise public and private sector interests for

the mutual benefit of the investing partners. We look forward to working with our private sector partners to deliver numerous viable projects.

Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia, PhD

Governor, Benue State.

Foreword

By the State Development Plan which outlines the programmes and projects to be implemented for the coherent development of the State, we have embarked on pursuing policies and actions that will actualize these goals.

The State Government understands how important Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are in meeting infrastructural and basic service needs while contributing to a reduction in poverty. PPPs not only offer the possibility of improved accountability and greater innovation but also support long-term efficiency. However, to get the hoped-for benefits of PPPs, public sector officials and managers need to develop and maintain skills and capacities to assess, identify and procure PPPs - and, once the project is up and running, to manage the contract and regulatory requirements.

This Policy has been prepared to guide the State in the promotion and deployment of investments with the use of private financing through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) schemes.

One of our goals has been realized in this certified Public-Private Partnership Policy which provides the foundation for the progress we seek in PPPs. We are working hard to ensure that the private sector continues to play significant roles in the provision of infrastructure and social services in the State.

We remain resolute in our determination to promote private investments in return for economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction including improving access to social services for everyone. The quest of the Government for better infrastructure, services and greater access to finance cannot be overemphasized.

It is expected that in no distant time, the gains from our insistent efforts in promoting private investments and significant contributions to tax revenues will be visible to all.

Hon. Sam Ode PhD

Deputy Governor Benue State.

Acknowledgement

The Benue State PPP Policy is a guide for the State to further promote the deployment of investments with the use of private financing through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) practices. It aims to help potential PPP stakeholders optimally prepare for and successfully implement the projects within the PPP scheme.

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge my boss, His Excellency Rev Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Alia, without whom this document would not have been achieved and whose drive to provide an enabling Business Environment for the State is unequalled.

I acknowledge the support of the International Development Partners specifically those already discussing with BIPC.

I thank the World Bank for the holistic diagnosis of our PPP Legal and Institutional Framework that disclosed the gap covered by this document, and the DFID-sponsored Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) programme, which through its appointed consultant reviewed the Manual and developed a Proposed PPP Policy for Benue State in line with International Best Practices.

I also acknowledge all the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the Private Sector represented here who would be going through this document and the Benue Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture in the State for their contribution to the development of this important document.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the BIPC Management Team for their unwavering support, coordination, and in-depth engagements with stakeholders throughout the development of this Policy and the State Executive Council for its assistance in expediting the approval of this all-important document.

Finally, I totally appreciate His Excellency the Executive Governor of Benue State for a given opportunity to contribute my policy formation ideas to his government.

Dr. Raymond Asemakaha, CFA

Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer

Benue Investment and Property Management Company

Introduction

The Need for Private Sector Investment

The backbone for the economic and social development of any State is its physical infrastructure. Infrastructure projects are highly capital-intensive and exert a strain on public finances; States in Nigeria have limited resources at their disposal to finance infrastructure. As a result, public sector authorities are constantly on the lookout for alternative sources of funds, and one such source is investment by the private sector through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). The Benue State Government (BNSG) intends to adopt a policy that embraces the delivery of infrastructure projects and services in the public sector through PPPs. This Policy Statement sets out the framework for using PPPs in Benue State. The sectors where PPP will be applied in the State as they relate to the Benue State Development Plan (2023 – 2027) and relevant Sector Implementation Plans (SIPs) include transportation, power, water, environment, health, education, agriculture, housing and tourism.

BNSG is aware that there is strong and healthy competition for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) across the country and there is a need for Benue State to maintain its proactive approach to winning investors for its large-scale infrastructure projects, as well as investors for other sectors of its economy. In its overall plan to engage the private sector to develop infrastructure through PPPs, the Government is seeking to create an enabling environment that will make Benue an attractive place for investors. BNSG is also aware that securing inward investments is only the first step, and it needs to ensure sustainability by making the public sector more responsive and efficient in meeting the opportunity. Therefore, creating an enabling environment, ensuring an appropriate legal and regulatory framework is one of the main thrusts of this policy.

Reasons for using Public - Private Partnerships

BNSG acknowledges that the use of PPP fosters economic growth by developing new commercial opportunities and increasing competition in the provision of public services, thereby encouraging private investment. It also results in the development of the local financial equity and debt markets. At the same time, it allows the Government to set policy and strategy, and where appropriate, to regulate economic activities, while leaving service delivery to the private sector. PPPs can help create a more competitive and diverse supplier market, can help to improve the efficiency of public services and can thereby reduce costs in public service delivery. It will harness the resources of both the public and private sectors to secure the best outcomes and better value for money. Operationally, PPP provides opportunities for efficiency gains, better asset utilisation and quality, clearer customer focus and accelerated delivery of projects. BNSG intends to focus on its core public service role and give the private sector a greater operational role.

PPPs can draw upon the best available skills, knowledge and resources, whether they are in the public or private sector. PPPs will allow Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to focus their efforts on the delivery of core services, and use the savings generated to improve or expand other services. PPPs also have the potential to bring forward infrastructure expenditure, instead of phasing capital development over several years because of budgetary constraints.

Innovation in PPP projects will be encouraged, it is also equally important that the processes for delivering a PPP project evolve to reflect experience and the changing environment within which infrastructure is constructed and financed, and ultimately in which services are delivered. The government will therefore monitor, review and from time to time refine its PPP Policy to achieve wider policy objectives.

Definition of Public-Private Partnerships

A PPP is a contractual agreement between a public entity and a private entity, whereby, the private entity performs part of a government organisation's service delivery functions and assumes the associated risks for a significant period. The role of the Government is to plan and structure the PPP projects and in return, the private sector will be responsible for implementing the projects and receiving financial remuneration according to predefined performance criteria, which may be derived from:

- Service tariffs or user charges.
- Government budgets, via availability charges or service charges; and
- A combination of the above.

The Government acknowledges that a wide spectrum of PPP arrangements exist that differ in purpose, service scope, legal structure and risk sharing. The two main types of PPP schemes are:

- **Output and Performance-Based Contracts:** The public sector retains a significant role in the partnership project, either as the main purchaser of the services provided or as the main enabler of the project. It purchases services and specifies the service outputs/outcomes required as well as the performance criteria for payments, with performance below these standards leading to deductions from service charges payable by the public sector to the private provider. The private party commonly provides the design, construction, operation maintenance and financing for the partnership project, and is paid according to performance. Risks are identified, priced and placed with the party best able to bear and manage them at the lowest cost.
- **Concessions:** These are the most common in developing countries; here the private sector is responsible for designing, building, operating, maintaining and financing the project, thereby taking a considerable proportion of risk.

The choice of the PPP arrangement for a project will depend on the Government's policy in the related sector and on the potential value for money to be generated under such an arrangement.

Characteristics of Public-Private Partnerships

The Government recognises and intends to put in place certain key pre-conditions which need to be present in the policy framework for PPP, as they are critical in delivering successful outcomes. These have been identified as:

Institutional Arrangements

The government will establish unambiguous institutional functions to assist in the successful implementation of PPPs in the State. At the same time, there will be a degree of institutional flexibility to encourage experimentation and innovation, but most importantly, to ensure that public bodies that have capacity are not delayed while institutional capacity elsewhere is being developed. The Government will create an institutional framework that will provide better coordination and planning of infrastructure, greater accountability for public investment and delivery of public services, and more transparency in regulation and procurement. While institutional roles and responsibilities may change over time as the Government's experience with PPP grows, this recognises that certain public institutions will play important roles in the programme.

The Legislative Environment

Political and regulatory risks are potential barriers to effective PPP implementation. Hence, it is intended by the Government that the regulation and legislation will be reviewed and possibly amended to reflect emerging trends in the evolution of the PPP structure within the state. This will create opportunities to establish a set of legal instruments, general principles and rules for PPP procurement that all MDAs will be expected to comply with, thereby ensuring some degree of consistency in the approach across sectors.

Affordability

PPP options must be affordable both to the Government and the public, given other priorities and commitments. The rationale for PPP is improved management of scarce resources, better risk allocation and more efficient and cost-effective delivery of services. The government is aware that while the private sector may be willing to finance and deliver infrastructure and services through PPP, only users or taxpayers can pay for them. Affordability thus acts as a real constraint, and the Government will give serious consideration to the selection of potential PPP projects, ensuring always that their choices are in line with Government's policy priorities and objectives. PPP provides new forms of procurement, financing and operation in ways that are likely to result in improved management of scarce resources.

Value for Money

For the Government's PPP infrastructure programme to be successful, the PPP projects involved in all sectors must be seen to be "value for money". This means that the public infrastructure services provided by the private sector are provided at a lower cost to the taxpayer than equivalent services provided by the public sector, after considering the value of project risks passed from the public sector to the private sector. In adopting this policy, the Government is making no presumption about the relative efficiency or effectiveness of the public and private sectors in the delivery of projects and services. Rather, it will use PPP where this is likely to result in better value and more affordable services. All procurement decisions will be made on merit and all proposals subjected to thorough economic and financial cost-benefit analysis. Value for money is a combination of the service outcome to be delivered by the private sector, together with the value of risks transferred to the private contractor and direct costs to the government and users. Where value-for-money drivers exist, PPPs can

potentially deliver significant benefits in the design, the quality of services and the overall cost of infrastructure.

Capacity Building

As PPP represents a substantially new paradigm for Government, capacity building will be necessary for all stakeholders in the PPP process. The general level of awareness and understanding of PPP will be improved amongst all stakeholders to facilitate sound policy development and constructive discussion and debate. There is a need to ensure a sufficient level of resources at all MDAs to deliver good PPP projects. The success of the PPP programme will depend on the development and retention of appropriate skills and expertise within the public sector. Ultimately, the Government will focus on transforming Benue Investment and Property Company Limited (BIPC) into a PPP centre of excellence through a rigorous training regime with external support, improving its ability to drive the program with support from relevant MDAs. The Government will improve BIPC's capacity to properly manage the procurement process, make necessary approvals and regulations, and in some cases modify the PPP once its operational.

Scope of the Policy

This policy will apply to all projects for the provision of infrastructure and services by the State or Local Governments which would work directly or indirectly to deliver the broad policy objectives enshrined in the State Development Plan (SDP). The Sector Implementation plans will include those projects or programs that are deemed suitable for PPP within each MDA's Medium and Long-Term Action Plans for infrastructure development.

The Goals and Objectives of the Policy

The goals and objectives of the policy are to increase the availability of efficient infrastructural services which can be achieved using the traditional public sector procurement approach. In attaining this goal, the Government seeks to adopt the following objectives:

Economic

- To ensure that infrastructure projects are planned, prioritised, and managed to maximise economic returns and are delivered in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner.
- To use PPP as a catalyst for the implementation of the SDP and any subsequent development plans, considering the state's urban and local development plans.
- To accelerate investment in new infrastructure and ensure that the existing infrastructure is upgraded to a satisfactory standard that meets the needs and aspirations of the public.
- To ensure that all investment projects provide value for money and are cost-efficient to the government.
- To develop more reliable public services by deploying private sector skills in project financing, risk management, project planning and the use of new technologies and innovation thereby ensuring value for money in the provision of public infrastructure.

- To improve the availability, quality, and efficiency of power, water, transport and other public infrastructure to increase economic growth, productivity, competitiveness, and access to markets.
- To increase the capacity and diversity of the private sector by providing opportunities for local as well as international investors and contractors in the provision of public infrastructure that encourages efficiency, innovation, and flexibility.
- To manage the fiscal risks created under PPP contracts within the Government's overall financial and budgetary framework.
- To utilise state assets efficiently for the benefit of all users of public services.

Social

- To release finance for investment in necessary social services.
- To increase access to quality public services for all members of society.
- To enhance the employment generation potential and diversity of the state economy.
- To ensure that the user charges for new or improved public services are affordable and provide value.
- To respect the employment rights and opportunities of existing employees and to ensure that any redundancy or other social safety net issues are resolved before the final project approval.
- To enhance the health, safety, and well-being of the public.
- To cater for vulnerable groups and promote gender equality.
- To encourage the direct or indirect participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in PPP projects.
- To enhance social integration and inclusive growth.
- To address the needs of vulnerable groups as well as gender-related issues.

Environmental

- To protect and enhance the natural environment.
- To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.
- To enhance opportunities for clean and resilient growth.

The Implementing Principles

The Government shall promote and maintain the following principles when implementing PPP projects in the state:

Competition

The PPP procurement process shall be conducted via a competitive bidding process to ensure transparency in the process and to provide a mechanism for the selection of the best-value proposal. This will ensure compliance with global best practices to secure support from local and international lending institutions and grant funding organisations. The maximum benefits of competition will be realised if there is sufficient interest to generate multiple bidders, which normally arises with a public and transparent two-stage procurement process. The first stage;

The Prequalification process is to select bidders that are best qualified to submit fully priced bids. A shortlist of bidders will then be selected based on a consistent selection criterion to exclude bidders. The second and final stage progressively reduces the number of bidders based on the evaluation of technical and financial bids until the Preferred Bidder is identified.

Transparency

The government acknowledges that bidding for PPP contracts through the two-stage bidding process can be expensive and that companies will only be prepared to participate in the process if they have confidence in its transparency. To gain this confidence, the Government will disclose to the public the selection criteria in which the successful bidder will be selected when advertising the range of works or services that they will require. Potential bidders can then make an informed decision on whether to participate in the competition and, if they do, maximize their chances of submitting a successful bid.

Fairness

The same factors that drive the need for transparency will also apply to fairness. Bidders, or potential bidders, will have access to the same level of information on the requirements of the PPP project and about the procurement process itself. The criteria used to select the shortlist of bidders or to evaluate bids will be used to create a level playing field to attain the optimal outcome and not favour one bidder or group of bidders over others.

The Government wishes to encourage international investors to invest in PPP and will therefore allow bids to be widely advertised and open to international as well as Nigerian companies. Project information will be accessible to international audiences as well as Nigerian companies and domestic preference clauses will not apply to PPP projects.

Institutional Framework for Public-Private Partnerships

Government agencies have roles and responsibilities to ensure that PPPs can be implemented successfully with the acceptance of all stakeholders and to the satisfaction of all beneficiaries. First and foremost, the Government is responsible for establishing a sound enabling environment for PPPs, meaning that transparent and effective PPP legislative and institutional frameworks are in place. The Government is also responsible for the necessary planning to determine whether the PPP model is most appropriate. The legislative framework governing PPPs in Benue State allocates specific roles and responsibilities to various entities. To make sure that there are checks and balances in the system, as well as oversight of the decision-making process, many of the Government entities are involved in the PPP process from inception to completion. These entities are:

Benue State Executive Council

The State Executive Council is the competent approving authority for decisions relating to the development and final approval of the PPP Projects Pipeline.

The Benue Investment & Property Company Limited

The BIPC was incorporated as a Limited Liability Company on 18th October 1979 and commenced operations in March 1980. The company is wholly owned by Benue State Government. While the Benue Investment and Property Company Limited (BIPC) currently exists, it lacks a dedicated legal framework governing its operations and PPP project procurement within the state. To address this, the state government will collaborate with the Benue State Assembly to enact appropriate legislation, empowering BIPC to:

- Be responsible for the development of its PPP policy and refinement over time.
- Be the key driver and promoter of PPP projects and manage the PPP project lifecycle, not as the contracting entity, but as the Government advisory and coordinating body for the implementation of PPPs.
- Co-ordinate with the Ministry responsible for Budget and Planning and relevant MDAs to conduct the economic appraisal, planning, and prioritisation of infrastructure projects and investment to create a pipeline of PPP projects.
- With the support from the MDAs, ensure that PPP projects are carefully appraised, scoped and planned before initiating a procurement process.
- Appoint Transaction Advisors to support the MDAs in the procurement process.
- Develop guidelines to assist MDAs in the roll-out of their PPP projects; these will be codified in a body of regulations and model contracts supported by a PPP Manual and an online toolkit, to demonstrate and assist MDAs in carrying out best practices.
- To ensure effective stakeholder engagement allowing for public consultation on user charges and assessing market interest.
- To be the centre of excellence for PPP by building capacity for PPPs and promoting good practice and knowledge sharing with MDAs and the private sector, and serve as a “PPP Knowledge Centre” by maintaining a central repository of all documentation and records, including agreements, policies and regulations on PPPs.

Ministries, Departments and Agencies

The MDAs are responsible for managing public infrastructure and services and for the management of their resources. The MDAs are to prepare long-term plans for infrastructure investment and maintenance, then incorporate them into a Strategic Framework. The MDAs and other public bodies will support BIPC in the identification of a pipeline of PPP projects to be included in the Sector Implementation Plans (SIPs) of relevant sectors and for the selection of investors. The MDAs will:

- Support BIPC throughout the PPP procurement process.
- Be the contracting authority for PPPs.
- Supervise and monitor the delivery of PPP projects in their sectors.

Benue State Ministry of Finance (MoF)

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) will play an important role in public financial management of PPP projects, and in evaluating and managing fiscal risks that may result from PPP agreements. The MoF will ensure that the forecasted costs for the Government include subsidies that may be required to make a project viable and affordable over the full life of the contract. Together with BIPC and the relevant MDA, it will also review the value for money, costs and contingent liabilities as the project design and risk valuations are refined during the project preparation and procurement phases. The MoF will play a key role in assessing the budgetary implications of PPP projects. BIPC will work closely with the MoF in the assessment of PPP project affordability, value-for-money, feasibility and identification of any contingent liabilities associated with PPP projects.

Benue State Planning and Budget Commission

The Commission is the primary agency of government that facilitates efficient and effective mobilisation, planning, allocation and utilisation of resources for the socio-economic transformation of Benue State. The Commission will ensure that there is better coordination and planning of infrastructural investment and greater use of economic appraisal techniques to prioritise investment. The Commission will provide the tools and methodologies for the economic appraisal of investment projects to be funded by the budget and included in the various SIPs with the support of BIPC and the MDAs to prepare a prioritized pipeline of PPP Projects to be funded by the private sector.

Benue State Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the approval of all PPP contracts and shall perform this task as an integral member of the BIPC Board of Management and through the representatives of the Ministry who shall provide legal support to BIPC during the PPP procurement process.

The Legislative Framework for Benue State

The PPP procurement in Benue State will be governed by the following legislation:

- The Benue State Public Procurement Law 2024; and
- Regulations issued by the State Executive Council (Exco) governing the PPP process.

The Enabling Environment

The Government shall review these laws and regulations, then set out the requirements for competition and private sector participation in all public procurement and specify the necessary approvals required for PPP procurement. Through such legislation, the Government assures investors that all contracts completed in compliance with the laws are legal and enforceable and that investors would be able to recover their expected return subject to compliance with the terms of the PPP contract. To further safeguard a quick and efficient PPP procurement process, the Government intends to give Benue Investment & Property Company limited, with the support of the State Executive Council, full responsibility and control over the PPP

procurement process to avoid delays. BIPC will, from the onset, harmonise its procurement processes within the framework of the Benue Public Procurement Act and will thereafter manage the process using the procurement guidelines in the PPP Manual.

By creating an appropriate enabling environment for PPP and allowing a fair return to private investors for the project risks that they will take, the Government believes that it can harness PPP to supplement scarce public resources, although the Government will still provide the greater part of investment funding for infrastructure. The Government recognises that it will need to develop its policies and practices—and in some cases introduce or amend legislation—if it is to encourage greater private sector participation in delivering public services and attract private capital to fund the country's infrastructure and related services. The Government will:

- Provide a clear policy and regulatory framework for PPP and greater transparency and fairness in awarding contracts and resolving disputes;
- Work with international development institutions to reduce costs of finance;
- Ensure that its procurement processes are fair, transparent, well-managed, and compliant with all relevant legislation;
- Improve capacity and skills in the public sector to manage projects more efficiently;
- Communicate its plans and policies effectively to the public and investors, and work with the Federal Government to ensure that there is a clear, concise and consistent approach to PPP.

New Framework for Public-Private Partnerships

The Government will put in place legal, financial, and institutional frameworks that will promote and facilitate the implementation of privately financed infrastructure projects by enhancing transparency, fairness, and the long-term sustainability of projects. It will apply lessons learned in any further refinement of its policy and the associated legal, financial, and regulatory framework. It will disseminate this knowledge and experience throughout the public sector and continue to build capacity of MDAs in the planning, procurement, and management of PPP projects. It will ensure that its economic policies provide a stable and predictable environment for investors. Ultimately the new laws and regulations will create the following.

Legal Framework

- Ensure that public authorities are empowered to enter into agreements for the implementation of privately financed infrastructure projects and delegating their statutory functions to private companies.
- Ensure that the regulation and licensing of public service operators and operations are transparent, timely, and effective.
- Provide appropriate remedies for protecting the safety and integrity of public infrastructure from vandalism and other criminal activities.
- Ensure that there are no distortions created by existing taxation, banking, company, or related laws that would bias the investment decisions of public authorities for or against

PPP as a procurement option, or would distort the commercial decisions of PPP investors, contractors, or its operators.

- Provide transparent, efficient, and competitive procurement procedures for PPP-type contracts that encourage innovation from bidders and allow dialogue to optimise the allocation of risks between the contracting parties.
- Ensure that there is an effective dispute resolution process which can operate independently and promptly to provide alternative procedures such as arbitration and expert determination.
- Ensure that the proposed institutional and financial framework for PPP and the issuance of guarantees, partial risk insurance or other financial instruments by, or through, the Federal Government is consistent with the Federal Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 and the Benue State Fiscal Responsibility Law 2020.

Financial Framework

The Government will strengthen its Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the Sector Implementation Plans (SIPs) of its Ministries, Departments and Agencies to:

- Guide MDAs on the renewal of the State Development Plan that will provide a planning tool for the prioritisation of infrastructure financed from public funds that will also include a 5-year PPP Projects Pipeline to be financed through PPP contracts;
- Issue guidance to all public authorities, provide support and advisory on discount rates, indexation and inflation, techniques for measuring costs and benefits, and the valuation of risks;
- Allocate responsibility for monitoring any contingent liabilities and risks that arise from PPP contracts and any sub-sovereign or other guarantees, partial risk insurance, subsidies, or exchange rate volatility;
- Ensure that its policies on user charges and tariff subsidies are sustainable and meet the needs of both investors and users.

Public-Private Partnerships and Planning

Benue Investment & Property Company Limited will identify, in consultation with the Planning and Budget Commission, a list of potential PPP projects, and with support from the Commission develop the criteria for preparation and screening of projects for a prioritisation of a 5-year PPP Project Pipeline. These assessments will determine whether a project would make a suitable candidate for further preparation and implementation through a PPP arrangement. The assessments provide recommended actions for undertaking the next steps for the detailed analysis, risk structuring, review, and possible tendering of each PPP project candidate. In setting out these priorities, Benue Investment & Property Company Limited and the Commission will take into consideration:

- The State's investment priorities and its short-term to long-term goals for the development of infrastructure in a sustainable manner;
- Where PPPs are likely to offer better value-for-money over other forms of public procurement;

- The current resources, project management capacity and efficiency of the private sector.

The PPP Projects Pipeline Plan will be updated from time to time by Benue Investment & Property Company Limited by the criteria agreed with the Planning and Budget Commission and shall be included in relevant SIPs. Unsolicited proposals by the private sector will be subject to the same project review process described in the criteria and will be procured by this Policy once they are incorporated into the PPP Projects Pipeline.

Public-Private Partnerships and Regulation

The Government does not have the intention to establish independent regulatory bodies to regulate pricing and competition issues. An economic regulatory regime via the PPP contracts will be developed with the use of arbitration and tribunals to settle disputes. Post-contract monitoring of safety and environmental regulation will be the responsibility of the responsible Benue State Environmental Sanitation Authority (BNESA).

Benue Investment & Property Company Limited will continue to consult with the private sector and interest groups on the options for reforms to remove barriers and make PPP arrangements more efficient.

Working with the Federal Government

The government acknowledges that the Federal Government is responsible for the delivery of Federal Infrastructure such as Power, Rail, Sea Ports, Airports, and Interstate Roads. The Government will continue to work with the relevant Federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to ensure that investment is directed to developing and improving those Federal infrastructure assets located within the State. In undertaking its own PPP transactions, the Government will ensure that there is a consistency of approach between Federal Government and Benue State PPP policies as they evolve. The Government will also invest directly alongside other private investors, where appropriate and by agreement with the Federal Government, in support of projects to improve the availability of infrastructure when this is in the long-term interest of Benue State.

The Government further acknowledges that some State projects may require Federal Government guarantees to attract international finance. These projects will have to also comply with the process for Federal projects as they will require the approval of the Federal Executive Council.

Stakeholder Consultation and Participation

The Government shall take into consideration the concerns of potential private sponsors, users and other key stakeholders over the lack of bankability of PPP projects by consulting with such key stakeholders as early as possible, to solicit their guidance on what is and is not a sustainable, commercially viable project, before final decisions are taken regarding project structure and design. This will assist the Government in finding a solution to the problem of poorly structured, unsustainable PPP projects.

The Project Cycle

The standard PPP process to be adopted by the Government shall take the following steps:

Project Conception

- Identification of the need for the projects and then ranking them in the PPP Pipeline according to priority.
- Budget allocation in the MTEF and SDP.

Pre-Feasibility Study

- Systematic appraisal of technical solutions to the identified need;
- Preparation of economic, social and environmental cost-benefit analysis, and an Environmental Impact Assessment, if required;
- Value for money (VFM) and affordability testing of different procurement options
- Preparation of financial analysis;
- Approval of Outline Business Case (OBC) by the BIPC Managing Director before the commencement of procurement.

Procurement

- Creation of management structure by BIPC and project teams consisting of relevant MDA staff;
- Appointment of Transaction Advisers through a competitive and transparent procurement process, with a clear audit trail for the selection of bidders and the evaluation of bids;
- Preparation of an Information Memorandum and bid documentation;
- Market consultation, if appropriate;
- Selection of investors through a competitive and transparent procurement process, with a clear audit trail for the selection of bidders and the evaluation of bids;
- Approval of Full Business Case (FBC) by the BIPC Managing Director before the decision to award a contract.

Implementation

- Monitoring of design and construction, and subsequently operation and maintenance to ensure compliance with the required service standards;
- Contract service supervision and management, performance monitoring and change management;
- Monitoring of payments against services delivered and any contingent liabilities.

Maturity

- Inspection and preparation for the handover of any public assets by the specified requirements, if appropriate;
- Analysis of future service delivery options and further procurement, if appropriate;

- Contract close and documentation of lessons learned.

The Government will provide further guidance through the PPP Manual on the effective management of each phase of a PPP project.

Unsolicited Proposals

The Government intends to encourage innovation in as many areas as possible. Thus, BNSG acknowledges that private companies are often well positioned to recognise potential demand for infrastructure facilities and to devise innovative ideas to develop and operate such infrastructure facilities. A key objective of this policy is to encourage greater innovation in the delivery of its infrastructure and public services sectors. This can be achieved by encouraging unsolicited proposals for PPPs to be submitted by private-sector developers. Where an unsolicited proposal is received, the MDA will forward such proposal to Benue Investment & Property Company limited for a holistic review and submit it to the Planning and Budget Commission for inclusion in the PPP Pipeline and relevant SIPs. Unsolicited PPP proposals will have to go through sufficient transparency and competition, but the Government will allow for inbuilt procurement advantages to benefit the Private proponents. The Government will seek to get the balance right between encouraging the private sector to submit project ideas, without losing the transparency and efficiency gains of a well-conceived competitive tender process. While all proposals will be treated on a case-by-case basis, consideration of unsolicited proposals will be the exception rather than the rule, and would be limited mainly to projects that demonstrate genuine innovation and /or use of proprietary technology.

Conclusion

This Policy Framework sets out the policies and processes that the Government should introduce to provide new investments in Benue's public infrastructure. By adopting this policy, the Benue State Government is expecting to leverage PPPs to rehabilitate and expand the State's infrastructure, thereby growing the economy, creating jobs in the state and achieving the state's economic development goals. The PPP policy will harness private sector support towards the State's public works programme, with the immediate focus on the rehabilitation and expansion of roads, expanding access to electricity to major farming and mining centres through rural electrification, and accelerated connection to the national grid and easing of urban and rural transportation. With this the Government would create an environment with a credible PPP legal framework that will harmonise both public and private sector interests that is mutually beneficial for both parties for the duration of the agreement.



BIS 1.0

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