

## **Bauchi Most Business Friendly State in Nigeria – World Bank**

Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja and Bauchi state have the best investment climates in Nigeria, the World Bank has announced.

This was contained in an executive summary of the Nigerian Investment climate assessment presented by the World Bank Tuesday.

The assessment was the outcome of the DFID and World Bank's joint country partnership strategy to support state level reforms in Nigeria towards improving investment climate.

Launching the State level Investment Climate Programme (ICP) for Nigeria Tuesday in Abuja, the bank also ranked Kano, Anambra, Enugu and Kaduna state a second best in business environment.

ICP is a programme that aimed to support the lowering of the costs of doing business across Nigeria by streamlining administrative process to reduce barriers and various forms of constraints that discourages investment in states.

The bank said: "Our combined index shows Bauchi with the best investment climate and Sokoto with the worst. Ogun, Lagos and Abia show a lower quality of investment climate. And finally the worst investment climate is found in Cross River and Sokoto.

Forty four indicators were used to construct a composite index to compare the eleven states in terms of their business environment in the country, the World Bank said.

"Abia, Bauchi, Enugu, Lagos and Ogun should implement reforms on access to land while Abuja should address issues of corruption and improve access to water. Ogun State should improve vertical integration across firms and Anambra improve tax administration", the bank said.

In his keynote address during the launching, the Finance Minister, Dr. Shamsudeen Usman said lack of appropriate investment environment

has a negative impact on revenue generation by the ties of government, "which constraints the government's ability to improve necessary amenities for the citizenry".

He called on states to assist the federal government in achieving federal reforms as, "these cannot produce the full, desired benefits unless they are accompanied by state level reforms".

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