

MINUTES OF INAUGURAL/JOINT MEETING OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE LAND INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE (FRILIA) STEERING, TECHNICAL AND GRIEVANCES REDRESS COMMITTEES HELD ON MONDAY, 30TH DECEMBER, 2024 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, DAMATURU.

ATTENDANCE

1) STEERING COMMITTEE

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| i. | His Excellency, Alhaji Idi Barde Gubana
Deputy Governor | - | Dep Chairman |
| ii. | Barr. Saleh Samanja,
Hon. Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice | - | " |
| iii. | Sidi Yakubu Karasuwa,
Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Environment | - | " |
| iv. | Mohammed Abatcha Geidam mni
Hon. Comm., Min. of Finance & Economic Dev., | - | " |
| v. | Hon. Yajalo Badama,
Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Women Affairs | - | " |
| vi. | Aliyu Isa Chikaji, Director General PPP | - | " |
| vii. | Dr. Abdullahi Hassan Gana, Director General YOGIS, | - | " |
| viii. | Auwalu Sani (Director, Political Affairs) | - | Secretary |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY:

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| i. | Secretary to the State Government | - | Member |
| ii. | Hon. Comm., Min. of Commerce and Industries, | - | " |
| iii. | Hon. Comm., Min. of Budget & Economic Planning, | - | " |
| iv. | Hon. Comm., Min. for Local Gov't & Chieftaincy Affairs, | - | " |
| v. | Managing Director Yobe Investment Company Ltd, | - | " |

2) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

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| i. | Aliyu Isa Chikaji,
Director General Public Private Partnership | - | Chairman |
| i. | Surv. Musa Lawan, Surveyor General | - | Member |
| ii. | TPL Mustapha M. Bukar, Director Town Planning | - | " |
| iii. | ESV. Abba I Geidam Director Land Administration, | - | " |
| iv. | TPL Adamu Umaru,
Director Development Control; Min. of Housing | - | " |
| v. | Muhammad Bashir Ibrahim,
Director, Planning, Min. of Budget & Planning | - | " |

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| vi. | Suleiman Sabo Suleiman,
Director from the Min. of Finance | - | " |
| vii. | Barr. Babayo N. Abdullahi,
Director Legal Drafting, Min. of Justice | - | " |
| viii. | Habu Yusuf Amshi,
Director Environment, Min. of Environment | - | " |
| ix. | Muhammad Buba Jajere
Director Chieftaincy Affairs, Min for Local Govt, | - | " |
| x. | Yusuf Ibrahim Muhammad,
Director Agric-Services, Min. of Agriculture | - | " |
| xi. | Mohammed Chana, Governor's Office | - | Secretary |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY:

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| i. | Director Investment Promotion (PPP) | - | " |
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3) GRIEVANCES REDRESS MECHANISM COMMITTEE:

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| i. | Barr. Danlami Habu,
Representative of the Honourable Attorney
General and Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Justice | - | Chairman |
| ii. | Haruna Muhammad Wakili,
Representative of YOGIS | - | Member |
| iii. | Barr. Abdullahi A. Nikau,
Representative of PPP | - | " |
| iv. | Fatima Dauda Fika,
Rep. Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning | - | " |
| v. | Mohammed Lamba,
Rep. Ministry for Local Government and
Chieftaincy Affairs | - | " |
| vi. | Hajara Suleiman
Rep. Ministry of Women Affairs | - | " |
| vii. | Alhaji Baba Shehu Representative CSOs | - | " |
| viii. | Kalli Abba Murfama,
Rep. of Community Leaders | - | " |
| ix. | Sheikh Hudu Muhammad Yusuf
Rep. of Religious Leaders | - | " |
| x. | Mai Sule Bakeri, Governor's Office | - | Secretary |

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY:

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| i. | Rep. of Community Organizations | - | " |
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ITEM		ACTION
A.	<p><u>OPENING</u></p> <p>After introductory remarks by Hussaini Kagarama, the Press Secretary to His Excellency, the Deputy Governor, the inauguration meeting of Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) three Committees started at 2:03 pm with an opening prayer led by Ustaz Hudu Muhammad Yusuf, the Chief Imam of Yobe Mosque and Islamic Center, Damaturu.</p>	
B.	<p><u>MAIN BUSINESS OF THE DAY: INAUGURATION OF THE THREE FRILIA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>In his speech for the inauguration of Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Grievances Redress Committee, His Excellency, Hon. Mai Mala Buni CON, the Executive Governor of Yobe State and the Chairman, Steering Committee on FRILIA ably represented by his Deputy Hon. Idi Barde Gubana who was also the Vice Chairman of the Committee vividly explained the meaning of FRILIA to all members of the three implementing Committees. He stated that, "the Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land Intensive Agriculture (FRILIA) is a programme that aims to guide land administration in a manner that would maximize the role of land in development while effectively mitigating the risks of land-based investments. It entails land reforms that will facilitate agricultural business investments in the State." He added that the goals of the Programme were in tandem with the various steps being taken by the present administration under his leadership to rejuvenate agriculture that had been the mainstay of the State economy.</p> <p>All Membership of the three Committees and their Terms of References were clearly spelt out by him. He solicited for the cooperation of Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) Secretariat and the World Bank to give all the necessary support to Yobe State to ensure the actualization of the FRILIA programme. He also enjoined all members of the three Committees to work diligently to ensure success of the programme for the State socio-economic development. Thereafter, he asked members of</p>	

the Committees to contribute to the joint meeting.

In his contribution, a member suggested that in line with the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee and based on the strong linkage of FRILIA to the Ease of Doing Business Council, Amina Galadima, the Secretary to the State Action-plan on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER) be co-opted as a member of the Steering Committee. He stressed that her inclusion into the Committee would provide a synergy for the two programmes in the State. Similarly, another member suggested the co-option of Dr. Alhaji Ahmed Ibrahim of the Yobe State University as Assistant Secretary to the Steering Committee due to the enormous responsibilities of the Committee. The meeting unanimously agreed with the two suggestions.

Steering
Committee
Secretariat

In addition, a member urged the joint meeting of the Committees to consider the inclusion of the Representatives of Ministry of Youth, Sports and Social Development in both the Technical Committee and the Grievances Redress Committee as members. The meeting agreed with this suggestion too.

Technical
Committee
Secretariat

A member requested for further explanation on FRILIA from a member of the Steering Committee. In his response, the member disclosed that FRILIA's main focus was promoting transparency in land acquisition processes that would be laid down by the Technical Committee. There were a lot of gains derivable including revenue and engagement of local people affected by it in the production process. Land acquisition would be with transparency and consent of the affected communities. Investment should align with the existing Government policies. He emphasized that publicity on the whole process was needed for members of the public to understand the programme.

Shedding more light, a member stated that the programme was coined to promote large scale private investment. It was pleasant that Yobe was among the few States that had signed the Executive Order on FRILIA. With regards to land acquisition, the Steering Committee was to receive applications and then forward the same to the Technical Committee for analysis and based on merit of the application recommend for its approval to the Steering Committee. Stressing further, he disclosed that toolkits

assigned responsibilities to the Committees and all members would comprehend the programme and their respective responsibilities in subsequent meetings and other activities of the FRILIA. The meeting therefore, agreed that enlightenment and sensitization through various avenues on the activities of FRILIA and its objectives was needed to pave way for its success in the State.

A member observed that most farmers did not have valid documents on their land (formal, traditional or inheritance). The people in the rural areas needed to be well informed on their land 'ownership'. There should be an acceptable document to back land 'ownership' and win the confidence of investors before negotiations with the land 'owners' could take place especially in the rural areas. Would-be investors that were conversant with best international practices might not be convinced with some types of land 'ownership' in the State. This could be an obstacle if not properly addressed.

Another member stated that the programme addressed land acquisition processes and modernization of agriculture. A lot had to be put in place to make the programme a success. 'Ownership' of land begins with Local Government Area certificate before conversion of documents at the State level. In particular, YOGIS concentrated on urban areas land matters.

A member observed that a larger portion of arable land was not being put to use for both rain-fed agriculture and irrigation activities. The concern of FRILIA was how to bring investors for the utilization of large percentage of arable land that remained grossly underutilized for employment and income generation and poverty reduction. Legal documents needed to be standardized in line with international best practices. One-stop shop was also needed to be evolved to ease inflow of investments.

A member observed that land acquired for rice production in Gashua area had not attracted the required investments, yet. He urged the Committee to focus on building on the achievements of that project. In response, another member stressed the need for capturing investors' interest especially on production of a particular crop or commodity. Another member added that different

proposals might be received on business. The State had its own goals and vision. The project in Gashua might be considered in coming up with a package for investors by the Committees.

The Chairman of the meeting drew the attention of all members to the urgent need for the State to qualify for FRILIA. It was therefore, the responsibility of all the three Committees to identify potential areas including irrigation sites for the FRILIA in the 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs).

A member added that a legal framework needed to be developed to take care of the interests of the parties involved in its actualization. Supporting the advice, a member stated that a work plan for FRILIA should be developed for all the affected Ministry, Department and Agencies (MDAs). Production of export commodities should be given priority in the programme.

C. **DELIBERATIONS ON AND APPROVAL OF TOOLKITS**

Due to the need for proper understanding of the programme by members, the meeting agreed with the suggestion of a member that enough literature on FRILIA should be circulated and let there be segregated workshops for the three Committees. In this regard, a member disclosed that a lot had been done on toolkits sent by the NGF Secretariat and PEBEC by some members of the Committees with the support of the Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee before the inauguration. The State is expected to approve the toolkits in line with World Bank requirements for participation in the programme. The meeting therefore, after thorough deliberations, approved the toolkits as presented.

D. **CLOSING PRAYER/ADJOURNMENT**

In the absence of any matter for further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 after a closing prayer by Ustaz Hudu Muhammad Yusuf.

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Hon. Idi Barde Gubana
The Dep. Governor/ Vice Chairman
FRILIA Steering Committee

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Auwalu Sani
Secretary (FRILIA Steering C'ttee)