

**BUSINESS OWNERS' PERCEPTION OF EXTENT OF GOVERNMENTS
APPLICATION OF SELECTED WORLD BANK EASE OF DOING BUSINESS
INDICATORS IN EBONYI STATE**

OGBAGA FRIDAY
Department of Business Education,
Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki – Nigeria
E-mail: fridayogbagat@gmail.com.

&

IKE BERNARD OKORIE
Department of Business Education,
Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki – Nigeria

&

EDET EYO
Department of Vocational Technology,
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) Bauchi, Nigeria

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to ascertain business owners' perception of the extent of government's implementation of selected World Bank Doing Business Indicators in Ebonyi State. The descriptive survey approach was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised 211 firms registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission and Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Ebonyi State. There was no population sample as the entire Population was used in the study. The instrument used for the study was a questionnaire structured with a 4 point scale. The instrument was validated and tested using the Cronbach Alpha co-efficient which yielded an index of 0.83. Data collected was analysed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research question while t-test was used to answer the hypotheses. The findings showed that, in the perception of business owners, Ebonyi State government's implementation of doing business policy reforms on registration of business, access to credit, payment of taxes and protection of minority investors were to a Low Extent (LE). Also there is no significant difference in the mean response of male and females on the issue of access to credit but they were significant differences in male and female responses on the issues of business start ups, payment of taxes and protection of minority investors. It was concluded that government of Ebonyi State had implemented doing business reform policies in the areas indicated, however, to a Low Extent (LE). It was recommended that government. should invigorate reforms to reduce cost of business registration, increase access to credit, reduce and prevent multiple taxation and provide adequate protection for minority investors in the state in order to improve Ease of Doing Business in the area.

keywords: Business owners, Perception, Government and World Bank

Introduction

The success or failure of any business venture is determined to a large extent by its operating environment. According to Topper (2020), business environment is influenced by both internal and external factors like management, suppliers, consumers, employees and government. Government influences business environment through its business regulatory policies concerning conditions, procedures and processes for business start-ups. access to and cost of credit, payment of taxes, property registration, construction, permits, electricity connection, protection for minority investors, import and export procedures and settlement of insolvency matters. Government regulations on these matters often pose challenges to businesses especially if policy directions in these areas create unfriendly operating environment for businesses. Hostile business environment leads to business failures and discourages new local and external investment. The need to encourage nations develops better and suitable policies for businesses to thrive brought about the World Bank Doing Business initiative. Doing business is an economic initiative of the world Bank targeted at motivating nations to develop and nurture attractive government policies suitable to foreign investors and for domestic business operators, Oduma (2018). The doing business initiative of the World Bank goes with doing business indicators and checklist developed by the World Bank against which member nations are ranked to determine the attractiveness of government policies in doing business among the 190 participating nations or annual basis. The indicators and checklist used as instrument for the ranking is derived from the key elements within the regulatory environment. Nigeria as a participating nation in the World Bank Doing Business initiative (DBI), has since 2016 carried out reforms on doing business through the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC); and this has been supported by the South East Doing Business Summit for South Eastern states of Nigeria of which Ebonyi State is one. The result of this effort is that Nigeria has, according to Aisha (2020), improved her ranking from 146th position in 2019 to 131st position in 2020.

The question however remains to what extent has Ebonyi State government implemented reforms to improve business environment in line with the Word Bank Doing Business Initiative (DBI) and the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council Reforms: in Nigeria. This paper intends to ascertain the perception of business owners on the extent to which Ebonyi State government has implemented reforms in Ease of Doing Business (EODB) using some World Bank Doing Business indicators.

Why People Go Into Business

It has been said that people are motivated to go into business for so many reasons. A thousand and one reasons have been given by different people on why people go into business. For example, Jayson (2015), provided 50 reasons to start your own business. Chief among them are the need for flexibility, need to create something from

scratch, need for independence, need to pursue ones passion. Also Ginger Dean (2016), identified 10 reasons for going into business as follows:

- (1) To increase their income
- (2) To have additional job
- (3) To be self boss
- (4) To gain economic freedom
- (5) To gain job security
- (6) To enjoy life by doing what one loves
- (7) To satisfy human needs
- (8) To develop self creative skill
- (9) To gain influence through wealth creation
- (10) To enjoy recognition

From the reasons given above, it can be observed that research findings show that profit making is not the only motivation for getting into business. Many people go into business in order to create something for society while others' may do so in order to pursue something that they have passion with. Whatever reason one has for going into business not withstanding, one thing that is very central to any business is the desire to succeed. Successful business does not happen over night. So often we only see the finished product or hear the story of a successful business (entrepreneur) but we do not hear about the blood, sweat and tears it took to get them where they are today. It takes a lot of planning to get an idea off the ground and actually turn it into a profitable business. (Ginger Dean, 2016). Therefore success or failure of any business is very much dependent on so many environmental factors.

Business Environment

According to Oduma (2012), “business environment refers to a set of laws, and regulations as well as the opportunities and incentives available to entrepreneurs that inform the decision that the private sector makes on daily basis. He identified access to capital, high interest rate and_ difficulties in registering business as factors affecting business environment. Business environment according to Topper, is the sum or collection of all internal and external factors such as employees, customers, suppliers, owners, activities by government, technology, social, trends, market trends, economic changes, etc. These factors affect the function of the company and how the company works directly or indirectly. The sum of these factors thus influences the company's situation. Therefore, business environment is essential for identifying business opportunities, tapping resources, planning, improving^ overall performance, growth and profitability of business (https://www.toppr.com/guiden/busin'ess_environment) retrieved on 14th Feb. 2020

Features of Business Environment

Since the success or failure of any business depends on its environment, it is important that the .entrepreneur understands the characteristics of Business Environment. According to Business Jargons (2020), business environment has the following features:

- (1) **It is dynamic:** Business environment is not static. Changes occur within the environment continuously due to operating factors.

- (2) **Complex:** There are many forces working simultaneously and all of which affect business environment. These many forces arise from various sources so difficult to understand the relative influence of a particular factor or force on the business.
- (3) **Uncertainty:** Forces within the business environment are quite unpredictable. This implies that no one can predict with every amount of certainty what is going to happen in the future.
- (4) **Multifaceted:** This feature creates a situation whereby a single change in business environment can be viewed differently by different observers because their perceptions vary.
- (5) **Far-reaching impact:** Business environment has far- reaching impact on the state of the Business. The survival, growth and profitability of the business depends largely on the environment in which it exists.
- (6) **Relativity:** The notion of business environment is relative because it varies from one location to another.

Business environment therefore creates a number of dynamics and complex problems which the entrepreneurs must contend with, in order to keep the business afloat within the environment in which the business operates.

Impact of Government policies on Business

Government formulates many regulations and polices that direct business operations. Some rules are mandatory and others, one way on the other, influence the business indirectly. Williams and Seidel (2019) and Oduma (2018) identified six areas Government Policy affects business environment. According to them the areas where government policies affect business are:

- (1) **Effect on Business Start-Ups:** Starting up a business enterprise involves a number of processes that are mostly defined by government regulatory policies. For example, regulation on registration of business determines the time-taken to have, a business registered, cost of registration and minimum paid in capital requirement for start-ups especially; limited liability company. Stringent, cumbersome, costly and time consuming registration process adversely affects and discourages business start-ups, whereas simple, straightforward, timely and cost effective process creates friendly business environment that attracts business startups.
- (2) **Policy as a Market Catalyst:** They contended that government can implement a policy that changes social behavior in the business environment. Government may, for instance, impose higher taxes on certain products in order to discourage consumption while relaxing taxes on others to encourage consumption. They concluded that imposing on a particular sector more taxes or duties than are necessary will discourage investment in that sector, on the other hand taxes and duties exemption on a particular sector triggers investment in it and generates growth.
- (3) **Political stability and Political Culture:** The researchers believed that a stable political system can make business friendly decisions that encourage local business and attract foreign investors. Conversely, unstable systems present

unfavorable business environment because maintenance of law and order becomes a big challenge to government.

- (4) **Government Taxation and Spending:** They also observed that Government's increase in spending requires increase in taxes or borrowing, Any tax increase will discourage investment, especially among entrepreneurs who take risks of starting and managing business.
- (5) **Setting Interest Rates:** Increase in interest rate, according to Williams seidel, raises cost of borrowing in the business community, whereas a lower interest rate attracts investment as more capital is made available for businesses to increase production.
- (6) **Regulation and Permits:** According to the authors, trade regulations, minimum wage policy, and requirement for permits or licenses also have effects on business. Stringent regulations jeopardize business while fair regulations promote business growth.

Drawing from the foregoing analysis, it can therefore be concluded that political situation and government polices have significant impact on business environment. Political instability and stringent government polices create hostile business environment whereas political stability and fair government polices and regulations creates friendly environment for business to thrive. It thus follows that for governments to promote investments and growth of business, its polices should be geared towards making it easy for investors to invest their resources in the economy with the assurance of the safety of their investments and favourable return on investment. The need for government to encourage local business and promote foreign investments by creating friendly and conducive environment for investors brought about the concept of Ease of Doing Business (EODB).

World Bank Ease of Doing Business Agenda

Ease of Doing Business (EODB) according to Oduma (2018) is a World Bank economic initiative that is targeted at boosting the economies of the world. Explaining further, Oduma revealed that the initiative started in the year 2003. Quoting the World Bank (2014 and 2017) Oduma (2018) further stated that doing business is a world Bank economic initiative with indictors and checklist used to assess the suitability of various economic policies-of participating nations in attracting the establishment and expansion of both foreign investment and local small scale business activities. It is the World Bank economic instrument used to measure and to ascertain the suitability of government policies on general business environment of member nations in attracting investment as well as improving small and medium scale business. The major agenda of the World Bank Doing Business indicators or checklist is to encourage governments of member nations to make their economic Environment more suitable, more attractive, easier and less tedious in establishing and nurturing small and medium scale businesses. Furthermore, the Desire Online Publishers in October 2019 revealed that the Doing Business index was created by Economist Simon Djankou for the World Bank Doing Business Report. Quoting the Economic Times, the online publishers defined the doing business index as an aggregate figure that indicates parameters which define the ease of doing business in the country". The ease of doing business index is used by the World

Bank to rank 190 countries in the world and the report published in the World Bank Groups Annual Doing Business Report.

Describing how economics are ranked the Desire Online Publishers further explained that the Ease of Doing Business ranks economics from 1 to 190. They further explained that a country with a high rank, which is one with a low numerical rank, has a regulatory environment that is conducive to business operation. Conversely, they explained further that a country with a low rank, one with high numerical rank is home to the least friendly regulatory environment. Example a country with a numerical score of 15 may be rank 120th out of 190 while the one with a numerical score of 20 is ranked 160th out of 190 economies being ranked. (www.delegaldesire.com, October, 2019.)

Scope of World Bank Doing Business Index

The Ease of Doing Business Indicators Refer to the parameters used to calculate the Ease of Doing Business Rank. They are the factors that determine the relative ease with which business is started and operated in a country giving the best regulatory practices. According to a report contained in the "Current Affairs Note/Economies Notes", published online, in 2019, (the World Bank calculates the Ease of Doing Business Rank using 10 parameters relating to starting and doing business in a country. These indicators include the following;

- (1) Ease of starting a business
- (2) Dealing with construction permits
- (3) Getting electricity
- (4) Registering your property
- (5) Getting credit for your business
- (6) Protecting minority investors
- (7) Paying taxes
- (8) Trading across borders
- (9) Enforcing contract
- (10) Insolvency

Relevance of Ease of Doing Business to Member Nations

An opinion published online by an unidentified author from south East Asia as reported on 17th January 2017, outlined the relevance of Doing Business Index in the country. According to the author, Ease of Doing Business can benefit business and local citizens in the following ways;

- (1) **Access to Business opportunity:** Ease of doing business helps the small scale companies and start ups with limited resources to set up business with minimum, and easy to access systems that deal with issues like construction permits, registering property, getting credit, paying taxes, protecting minorities among others. It has been shown that bureaucratic red tapism place obstacle which only big firms with means can surmount while small and medium scale business and start ups are prevented from going ahead with their businesses or individuals discouraged from pursuing businesses in their local economies.
- (2) **Lower Transaction Cost:** Lower transaction costs are a major part of setting up shop for small and medium scale enterprises. Having, fewer steps in the

process of setting up a business along with less bureaucratic procedures will result in lower set up costs. Under these situations small and medium sized businesses who may have less resources of their own, or lack adequate access to capital can easily set up business, and better manage their finances.

- (3) **Less Corruption:** Ease of doing business can help in reducing corruption in the system. It has been argued that countries with more stringent regulatory environment for setting up business and entrepreneurship often experience greater forms of corruption. Therefore simplifying the set up process for small and medium business can greatly benefit both government as well as the economic environment.

In conclusion, it was recommended that local governments in South East Asia should consider their economic environments alongside the processes and regulations set up for business and create flexible and open economic environment for their citizens and outside parties interested in investing in the economies. Also according to Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia, Ease of Doing Business Index is relevant because country and businesses benefit in the following ways.

- (1) It is used to generate research on optimal level of business regulations. For instance, duration of court processes the degree of social protection.
- (2) Easy of doing business index also provides comparability across economies about business environment using certain regulatory indicators over time.
- (3) Shows the "distance" of each economy to the frontier (Distance frontier, DTF Index) which represents the higher performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies included in the ranking.
- (4) It measures the level of entrepreneurial activity in each of the participating economies.
- (5) Provides insights into how governments have improved the regulatory environment in the past in the area measured by Doing Business.
- (6) Provides insight on level of transparency in business regulation like measuring how easy it is to access fee schedules' for a number of regulatory processes in the largest city of an economy. ([https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ease.of.doingbusiness.index.](https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ease.of.doingbusiness.index)) 13th June 2020.

Ease of doing business in Nigeria

The president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari, in 2016, set up the Presidential Enabling Business Environment council (PEBC), which according to Obayomi (2019) was led by the Vice President of Nigeria. According to Aisha (2019), the aim of the body is to minimize the constraints that face the running of businesses in the country. The organization came up with reforms that are directed toward making it more convenient for business owners to thrive. Some of the reforms include cutting down the time grid connections for electricity and many other indices used by the World Bank easy of doing business. Aisha (2020), reporting for CNN on World Bank ease of doing business declared that Nigeria has improved its ranking by 15 places from 146th

position in 2019 up to 131st position out of 190 countries in 2020 ranking.

Also corroborating this report, Obayomi (2019), analysing the world bank doing business report for 2020, indicated that Nigeria's rise up to 131st position was the result of Nigeria's improvement in the world bank doing business indicators which are starting business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, trading across borders and enforcing contracts. The analysts believed that the improvements in ranking of Nigeria was the outcome of the efforts of the Presidential Enabling Business Environments Council (PEBEC) established in 2016 in line with the Federal Government's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP 2017- 2020), Which targeted Nigeria's rank among the top 70 in the world bank doing business index by the year 2023.

Ease of doing Business in South East Nigeria

Following the example of the Federal Government of Nigeria's move to improve the ease of doing business in the country in general, the various states of the country have also being making efforts to provide business friendly environment for businesses to thrive in their respective states. Economic submits have been held for the 5 South Eastern States of Nigeria comprising Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States. Economic submits have been organized to analyse the issues of the World Bank Ease of Doing Business (EQDB) in South Eastern States of Nigeria since 2016. In a report, titled "Ease of doing business in the South East, the Journey So Far", by Dr. Mark Abani, at the South East Economic Submit (SEES) held between 11-13 December, 2018, a number of constraints to doing business in South East Nigeria were identified, improvement noted and areas that needed improvements-spotted. According to the report the following were known to be constraints, though not in equal measures, to ease of doing business among the 5 eastern states of Nigeria. They are among others:

- Poor state of roads
- Inadequate power supply
- Limit access to credit
- High cost of credit
- Limited access to land
- High cost of land acquisition
- Difficulty in obtaining land title
- Sanctify of agreement/enforceability of contracts
- Low level of automation of business processes within the civil service
- Lack of investment protection laws
- Lack of PPP policy
- Corruption
- Multiple taxation/levies from Govt. Agencies
- Inconsistent Govt. policies/practices
- Lack of business inventions
- Lack of capacity building :
- I Lack of constant consultation with MSME
- Non commitment to OGP (open Government partnership)

The report further indicated that each of the 5 South Eastern States of Nigeria

has between 2014 and 2018, carried out some reforms aimed at bringing about the Ease of Doing Business (EDB) in their respective states. For instance between 2010-2014, and 2014-2018, the 5 South East States have implemented reforms in 4 regulatory areas such as starting a business, Registration of property, dealing with construction permits and enforcing contracts. The report concluded that reforms so far implemented in SES were not yet far reaching enough to remove some of the identified constraint to EODP as to create a business friendly environment for doing business following the World Bank's EODB indices. It is to be noted that this report is also true of Ebonyi State, being part of the South Eastern States of Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The success or failure of any business depends to a large extent on its operating environment, Government regulations and policies constitute a major element of the business environment in Ebonyi State, as in other places, business owners appear to be confronted with some government policies that challenge them in the operation of their business. Stringent procedures and lost of business registration often pose difficulties for business start-ups. Imposition of high and multiple taxes, the use of task forces and revenue contractors: to enforce collection of government revenues from business owners, also create unfavourable business environment. Access to credit is another issue of concern for business operators in the State. This because lending houses demand collaterals from business owners as a precondition for granting them loans which are usually given at exorbitant interest rates. Many start ups usually finds it difficult to present any acceptable collateral demanded by banks Loan facilities attracted by government are often politicized thereby making access out of the reach of the ordinary business owner. The other issue that very much affects business operations is lack of adequate protection for minority investors. In recent years, the government of Ebonyi State has repeated claimed to have continued to implement policy reforms aimed at creating a more conducive environment for business in line with the World Bank Doing Business Initiative (DBI) through the Ministry of Business Development, which according to the Honourable Commissioner for Business Development was established on 26th December, 2019 and began operation on 7th January, 2020. (Business Seminar, 31st January 2020). In a recent radio programme, the Honourable Commissioner for Business Development claimed that Ebonyi State government has attracted huge sums of money through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and the Bank of Industry (BOI) to be distributed to interested SME operators at low interest rates. Laudable as these policies might seem to be, the extent to which the government doing business reform policies have impacted on business owners in the State still remains quite unclear. The problem of this paper therefore is to clarify this by attempting to ascertain the perception of business owners in the state on the extent to which the government of Ebonyi State has implemented reforms on Ease of doing business (EODB) using the following indicators: procedures for registration of business, access to credit payment of taxes, and protection for minority investors.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study is to ascertain the perception of business operators of extent of application of World Bank indices on Ease of Doing Business in Ebonyi State. Specifically, the purpose of the study is to:

1. Ascertain business owners' perception of the extent to which Ebonyi State government has implemented policies in line with World Bank Doing Business initiative on Business start-ups.
2. Ascertain business owners' perception of the extent to which Ebonyi State government has implemented policies in line with World Bank Doing Business initiative on access to credit.
3. Ascertain business owners' perception of the extent to which Ebonyi State government has implemented policies in -line with World Bank Doing Business initiative on paying taxes.
4. Ascertain business owners' perception of the extent to which Ebonyi State government has implemented policies in line with World Bank Doing Business initiative on protecting Minority investors.

Significance of the Study

The findings of this study will be beneficial to many. First and foremost, it will benefit policy makers in government because the findings will expose how business operators perceive some government policies on Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in Ebonyi State. This knowledge will help policy makers redirect policies and regulations in order to create a more conducive environment for doing business in the State. Secondly existing business operators will use this medium to express their support for or opposing views on government policy direction on ease of doing business thereby helping to influence favourable business regulations in the State. Finally, intending business operators will find the results of this study very useful in that they will enable them understand present business environment in the State with regard to government policies and thereby be able to gauge business prospects by applying the SWOT Analysis.

Scope of the Study

The study focused on the extent to which Ebonyi State Government has implemented Ease of Doing Business policies based on some World Bank Doing Business. Content covers: Government Policy to ease business start up, Government Policy to ease access to credit for business operators, Government Policy to ease paying taxes and Government Policy to protect minority investors. The study was delimited to registered business operators in Ebonyi State.

Research Question

This Study was guided by the following Research Questions:

1. To what extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to ease business start up in the State?
2. To What extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to ease access to credit for business operators in the State?
3. To what extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to ease

- paying
taxes by business operators in the State?
4. To what extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to protect minority investors in the State?

Hypotheses

The following hypothesis were tested at 0.05 level of significance

1. There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female business operators on extent of Government policy -implementation to ease business start-up' in Ebonyi State.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female business operators on extent of Government policy implementation to ease access to credit in Ebonyi State.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female business operators perception on extent of Government policy implementation to ease paying taxes in Ebonyi State.
4. There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female business operators perception on extent of government policy implementation to protect minority investors in Ebonyi State.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study was carried out in Ebonyi State. The population of the study comprised 183 businesses registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in Ebonyi State and 28 Quarry companies registered under the department of industry in Ebonyi State Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Business Development. No population sample was determined as the entire population of 211 firms was used. A questionnaire structured with a 4 point scale was used to collect data from the respondents. The response categories in the questionnaire are Very High Extent (VHE), High Extent (HE), Low Extent (LE) and Very Low Extent (VLE) respectively. The instrument was validated and tested using the Cronbach Alpha coefficient which yielded an index of 0.83. The data collected from the respondents was analyzed using mean, standard deviation and t-test. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions while the t-test was used in testing the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. To answer any of the questions, the grand mean must be greater than the midpoint of 2.50.

RESULTS

The results of this study are presented according to the research questions and hypotheses that were formulated for the study in the tables as follows.

Research Question 1

To what extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to ease business startup in the State? Data collected from items 1-7 in section B of the research instrument were used to answer this research question one. Summary of result of data

analysis are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Respondents on the Extent Ebonyi State Government Implemented Policies to Ease Business Startup in the State

S/N	Item statement	N	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
1.	Reduced the volume of documentation requirement	211	1.82	0.60	LE
2.	Made business registration to take less time	211	1.97	0.56	LE
3.	Now reduced the cost of registration	211	1.96	0.68	LE
4.	Now reduced minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies	211	1.78	0.60	LE
5.	Influenced the corporate affairs commission to be more active now than before	211	1.82	0.75	LL
6.	Made prospective small scale business are now treated with much ease	211	1.01	0.65	LE
7.	Made all documentations to be e-based	211	1.81	0.70	LE
Grand Mean			1.73	0.64	LE

Table 1 shows Mean and Standard deviation of the responses on the extent Ebonyi State Government has implemented policies to ease doing business for startups in the State. The analysis revealed that all the 7 items in cluster A, have mean scores ranging between 1.01 and 1.97, and Standard deviation ranging between 0.56 and 0.75. The mean of means value is 1.73 and this falls between 1.50 and 2.49, indicating that police implementation on items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 was to Low extent (LE).

Research Question 2

To what extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to ease access to credit for business operators in the State? Data collected from items 8-13 in section B of the research instrument were used to answer this research question. Summary of result of data analysis are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Response to Policies to Ease Access to Credit for Business Operators in the State

S/N	Item Statement	N	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
8.	Reduce time to complete bank loan process	211	2.00	0.65	LE
9.	Provided loan facilities without collateral	211	1.89	0.62	LE
10.	Attracted loan facilities at reduced interest rate	211	2.03	0.56	LE
11.	Encouraged lending houses to pay priority attention to small scale businesses	211	1.90	0.62	LE
12.	Encouraged banks to ensure constant availability of network in their banking transactions	211	2.00	0.60	LE
13.	Made business men and women to be now satisfied with bank service	211	2.00	0.71	LE
Grand Mean			1.97	0.62	LE

Table 2 revealed that items 18-13 which are on: reduce time to complete bank loan process, provided loan facilities without collateral, attracted loan facilities at reduced interest rate, encouraged lending houses to pay priority attention to small scale businesses, encouraged banks, to ensure constant availability of network in their banking transactions and made business men and women to be now satisfied with bank service, had mean scores of 2.00, 1.89, 2.03, 1.90, 2.00 and 2.00 with standard deviation of 0.65, 0.62, 0.56, 0.62, 0.60 and 0.71 respectively. This showed that the means value for the cluster is 1.97; which is between 1.50 and 2.49 and corresponds to Low Extent (LE).

Research Question 3

To what extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to ease paying taxes by business operators in the State? Data collected from items 14-20 in section B of the research instrument were used to answer this research question. Summary of result of data analysis are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Responses on Policies to Ease Paying Taxes by Business Operators in the State

S/N	Item Statement	N	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
14.	Reduced taxes Tor small businesses	211	2.03	0.68	LE
15.	Made tax payments easier through e-payment	211	1.92	0.71	LE
16.	Made business rents now lower than before	211	1.85	0.63	LE
17.	Abolish business security tax for small scale business in the state	211	1.74	0.74	LE
18.	Reduced income tax payable by business operators	211	1.87	0.63	LE
19.	Made its tax policy generally more favourable for business in the state	211	1.75	0.83	LE
20.	Now protects business against multiple taxation	211	1.86	0.69	LE
Grand Mean			1.86	0.71	LE

The result on the table 3 revealed that the respondents to low extent accepted that government reduced taxes for small businesses, made tax payments easier through e-payment, made business rents now lower than before, abolished business security tax for small scale business in the state, reduced income tax payable by business operators, Made its tax policy generally more favourable for business in the state and now protects business against multiple taxation with the mean scores of 2.03, 1.92, 1.85, 1.74, 1.87, 1.75 and 1.86 with standard deviation of 0.68, 0.71, 0.69, 0.74, 0.63, 0.83 and 0.69 respectively. This showed that the means value for the cluster is 1.86; which is between 1.50 and 2.49 and corresponds to Low Extent (LE).

Research Question 4

To what extent has Ebonyi State Government implemented policies to protect minority investors in the State?

Data collected from items 21-28 in section B of the research instrument were used to answer this research question. Summary of result of data analysis are presented in

Table 4.

Table 4: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Responses on Policies to Protect Minority Investors in the State.

S/N	Item Statement	N	\bar{x}	SD	Decision
21.	Government policies on investment now favours minority investors	211	2.08	0.70	LE
22.	Some taxes are now abolished to favour minority investors	211	2.03	0.63	LE
23.	Minority investors are now exempted from payment of some business rents	211	1.86	0.74	LE
24.	Government now favours investors through grants	211	1.89	0.61	LE
25.	Through the ministry of business development government now guarantee bank loan for minority investors	211	1.93	0.75	LE
26.	Business environment is now attractive	211	2.03	0.62	LE
27.	Investors investment are now secure through provision of adequate security.	211	1.88	0.78	LE
28.	Government has abolished unwarranted and indiscriminate sealing of business premises by government agents	211	1.94	0.58	LE
Grand Mean			1.82	0.71	LE

Table 4 revealed that items 21-28 which are on Government policies on investment now favours minority investors, some taxes are now abolished to favour minority investors, minority investors are now exempted from payment of some business rents. Government now favours investors through grants, through the ministry of business development government now guarantee bank loan for minority investors,. Business environment is now attractive, investors investment are now secure through provision of adequate security and Government has abolished unwarranted and indiscriminate sealing of business premises by government agents, had mean scores of 2.08, 2.03, 1.86, 1.89, 1.93, 2.03, 1.88 and 1.94 with a standard deviation of 0.70, 0.63, 0.74, 0.61, 0.75, 0.62, 0.78 and 0.58 respectively. This showed that the means value for the cluster is 1.82 which is between 1.50 and 2.49 and corresponds to Low Extent (LE).

Research Hypotheses

HO₁: There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female business operators on extent of Government implemented policies to ease business startup in Ebonyi State. Summary of results were shown on Table 5.

Table 5: t-test of difference in the mean responses on extent of Government implemented policies to ease business startup in Ebonyi State

Items	Category of Respondents	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	Alpha	t-cr	Decision																																																																																		
1.	Male	113	1.87	0.50	1.33	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.76	0.70					2.	Male	113	1.86	0.61	2.91	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	2.09	0.47	3.	Male	113	2.13	0.50	3.89	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.77	0.80	4.	Male	113	1.91	.067	3.39	0.05	196	Significant	Female	98	1.63	0.48	5.	Male	113	1.92	0.76	2.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.70	0.72	6.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	2.89	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.87	0.66	7.	Male	113	1.80	0.75	0.21	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.82	0.65				
2.	Male	113	1.86	0.61	2.91	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	2.09	0.47					3.	Male	113	2.13	0.50	3.89	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.77	0.80	4.	Male	113	1.91	.067	3.39	0.05	196	Significant	Female	98	1.63	0.48	5.	Male	113	1.92	0.76	2.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.70	0.72	6.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	2.89	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.87	0.66	7.	Male	113	1.80	0.75	0.21	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.82	0.65						2.40			Significant								
3.	Male	113	2.13	0.50	3.89	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.77	0.80					4.	Male	113	1.91	.067	3.39	0.05	196	Significant	Female	98	1.63	0.48	5.	Male	113	1.92	0.76	2.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.70	0.72	6.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	2.89	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.87	0.66	7.	Male	113	1.80	0.75	0.21	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.82	0.65						2.40			Significant																					
4.	Male	113	1.91	.067	3.39	0.05	196	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.63	0.48					5.	Male	113	1.92	0.76	2.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.70	0.72	6.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	2.89	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.87	0.66	7.	Male	113	1.80	0.75	0.21	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.82	0.65						2.40			Significant																																		
5.	Male	113	1.92	0.76	2.19	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.70	0.72					6.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	2.89	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.87	0.66	7.	Male	113	1.80	0.75	0.21	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.82	0.65						2.40			Significant																																															
6.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	2.89	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.87	0.66					7.	Male	113	1.80	0.75	0.21	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.82	0.65						2.40			Significant																																																												
7.	Male	113	1.80	0.75	0.21	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.82	0.65																																																																																						
					2.40			Significant																																																																																		

Summary of result presented in Table 5 indicates that there is significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female business operators on extent of Government implemented policies to ease business startup in Ebonyi State. This is because the t-calculated value is greater than the t-critical value, that is 2.40 as against 1.96. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis of significant difference should be upheld.

H0₂: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female business operators on extent Government implemented policies to ease access to credit for business operators in Ebonyi State. Summary of results were shown in Table 6.

Table 6: t-test of Difference in the Mean Responses of Male and Female Business Operators on Extent Government Implemented Policies to Ease Access to Credit for Business Operators in Ebonyi State.

Items	Category of Respondents	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	Alpha	t-cr	Decision																																																																					
8.	Male	113	2.07	0.67	1.80	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																					
	Female	98	1.91	0.62					9.	Male	113	1.79	0.55	2.37	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	2.00	0.68	10.	Male	113	2.06	0.57	0.65	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	2.01	0.56	11.	Male	113	1.94	0.69	1.16	0.05	196	Not Sign	Female	98	1.84	0.52	12.	Male	113	2.08	0.68	2.06	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.91	0.46	13.	Male	113	2.07	0.77	1.56	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.91	0.62	Average			
9.	Male	113	1.79	0.55	2.37	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																					
	Female	98	2.00	0.68					10.	Male	113	2.06	0.57	0.65	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	2.01	0.56	11.	Male	113	1.94	0.69	1.16	0.05	196	Not Sign	Female	98	1.84	0.52	12.	Male	113	2.08	0.68	2.06	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.91	0.46	13.	Male	113	2.07	0.77	1.56	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.91	0.62	Average					1.77		1.96	Not Sign.								
10.	Male	113	2.06	0.57	0.65	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																					
	Female	98	2.01	0.56					11.	Male	113	1.94	0.69	1.16	0.05	196	Not Sign	Female	98	1.84	0.52	12.	Male	113	2.08	0.68	2.06	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.91	0.46	13.	Male	113	2.07	0.77	1.56	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.91	0.62	Average					1.77		1.96	Not Sign.																					
11.	Male	113	1.94	0.69	1.16	0.05	196	Not Sign																																																																					
	Female	98	1.84	0.52					12.	Male	113	2.08	0.68	2.06	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.91	0.46	13.	Male	113	2.07	0.77	1.56	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.91	0.62	Average					1.77		1.96	Not Sign.																																		
12.	Male	113	2.08	0.68	2.06	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																					
	Female	98	1.91	0.46					13.	Male	113	2.07	0.77	1.56	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.91	0.62	Average					1.77		1.96	Not Sign.																																															
13.	Male	113	2.07	0.77	1.56	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																					
	Female	98	1.91	0.62					Average					1.77		1.96	Not Sign.																																																												
Average					1.77		1.96	Not Sign.																																																																					

Summary of result presented in Table 6 indicates that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female business operators on extent Government implemented policies to ease access to credit for business operators in Ebonyi State. This is because the t-calculated vine is less than the t-critical value, that is 1.77 as against 1.96. Therefore, the pull hypothesis of not significant difference should be upheld.

HO₃: There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female business operators on the extent Government implemented policies to ease paying taxes by business operators in Ebonyi State. Summary of results were shown in Table 7.

Table 7:t-test of difference in the mean responses of male and female business operators on the extent Government implemented policies to ease paying taxes by business operators in Ebonyi State.

Items	Category of Respondents	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	Alpha	t-cr	Decision																																																																																		
14.	Male	113	2.20	0.74	3.91	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.84	0.54					15.	Male	113	2.07	0.69	3.18	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.76	0.70	16.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	6.90	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.53	0.64	17.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	2.71	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.60	0.74	18.	Male	113	2.00	0.64	3.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.72	0.60	19.	Male	113	1.74	0.69	0.27	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.77	0.97	20.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	0.19	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.85	0.65	Average			
15.	Male	113	2.07	0.69	3.18	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.76	0.70					16.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	6.90	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.53	0.64	17.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	2.71	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.60	0.74	18.	Male	113	2.00	0.64	3.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.72	0.60	19.	Male	113	1.74	0.69	0.27	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.77	0.97	20.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	0.19	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.85	0.65	Average					2.90		1.96	Significant								
16.	Male	113	2.13	0.61	6.90	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.53	0.64					17.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	2.71	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.60	0.74	18.	Male	113	2.00	0.64	3.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.72	0.60	19.	Male	113	1.74	0.69	0.27	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.77	0.97	20.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	0.19	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.85	0.65	Average					2.90		1.96	Significant																					
17.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	2.71	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.60	0.74					18.	Male	113	2.00	0.64	3.19	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.72	0.60	19.	Male	113	1.74	0.69	0.27	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.77	0.97	20.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	0.19	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.85	0.65	Average					2.90		1.96	Significant																																		
18.	Male	113	2.00	0.64	3.19	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.72	0.60					19.	Male	113	1.74	0.69	0.27	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.77	0.97	20.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	0.19	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.85	0.65	Average					2.90		1.96	Significant																																															
19.	Male	113	1.74	0.69	0.27	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.77	0.97					20.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	0.19	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.85	0.65	Average					2.90		1.96	Significant																																																												
20.	Male	113	1.87	0.72	0.19	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																																		
	Female	98	1.85	0.65					Average					2.90		1.96	Significant																																																																									
Average					2.90		1.96	Significant																																																																																		

Summary of result presented in Table 7 indicates that there is significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female business operators on the extent Government implemented policies to ease paying taxes by business operators in Ebonyi State. This is because the t-calculated value is greater than the t-critical value, that is 2.90 as against 1.96. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis of significant difference should be upheld.

H04: There is no significant difference in the mean response of male and female business operators on extent the Government implemented policies to protect minority investors in Ebonyi State Summary of results were shown in Table 8.

Items	Category of Respondents	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	Alpha	t-cr	Decision																																																																																															
21.	Male	113	1.94	0.77	3.02	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																															
	Female	98	2.23	0.57					22.	Male	113	2.14	0.71	2.59	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.91	0.49	23.	Male	113	1.73	0.68	2.82	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	2.02	0.78	24.	Male	113	2.00	0.73	2.79	0.05	196	Significant	Female	98	1.76	0.42	25.	Male	113	2.00	0.62	1.28	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.86	0.86	26.	Male	113	2.19	0.53	4.22	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.84	0.66	27.	Male	113	1.79	0.65	1.69	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.97	0.90	28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.78	0.41	Average			
22.	Male	113	2.14	0.71	2.59	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																															
	Female	98	1.91	0.49					23.	Male	113	1.73	0.68	2.82	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	2.02	0.78	24.	Male	113	2.00	0.73	2.79	0.05	196	Significant	Female	98	1.76	0.42	25.	Male	113	2.00	0.62	1.28	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.86	0.86	26.	Male	113	2.19	0.53	4.22	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.84	0.66	27.	Male	113	1.79	0.65	1.69	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.97	0.90	28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.78	0.41	Average					2.62		1.96	Significant								
23.	Male	113	1.73	0.68	2.82	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																															
	Female	98	2.02	0.78					24.	Male	113	2.00	0.73	2.79	0.05	196	Significant	Female	98	1.76	0.42	25.	Male	113	2.00	0.62	1.28	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.86	0.86	26.	Male	113	2.19	0.53	4.22	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.84	0.66	27.	Male	113	1.79	0.65	1.69	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.97	0.90	28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.78	0.41	Average					2.62		1.96	Significant																					
24.	Male	113	2.00	0.73	2.79	0.05	196	Significant																																																																																															
	Female	98	1.76	0.42					25.	Male	113	2.00	0.62	1.28	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.86	0.86	26.	Male	113	2.19	0.53	4.22	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.84	0.66	27.	Male	113	1.79	0.65	1.69	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.97	0.90	28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.78	0.41	Average					2.62		1.96	Significant																																		
25.	Male	113	2.00	0.62	1.28	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																																															
	Female	98	1.86	0.86					26.	Male	113	2.19	0.53	4.22	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.84	0.66	27.	Male	113	1.79	0.65	1.69	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.97	0.90	28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.78	0.41	Average					2.62		1.96	Significant																																															
26.	Male	113	2.19	0.53	4.22	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																															
	Female	98	1.84	0.66					27.	Male	113	1.79	0.65	1.69	0.05	1.96	Not Sign	Female	98	1.97	0.90	28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.78	0.41	Average					2.62		1.96	Significant																																																												
27.	Male	113	1.79	0.65	1.69	0.05	1.96	Not Sign																																																																																															
	Female	98	1.97	0.90					28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant	Female	98	1.78	0.41	Average					2.62		1.96	Significant																																																																									
28.	Male	113	2.08	0.67	3.85	0.05	1.96	Significant																																																																																															
	Female	98	1.78	0.41					Average					2.62		1.96	Significant																																																																																						
Average					2.62		1.96	Significant																																																																																															

Summary of result presented in Table 8 indicates that there is significant difference in the mean responses of male and female business operators on extent the Government implemented policies to protect minority investors in Ebonyi State. This is because the t-calculated value is greater than the t-critical value, that is 2.62 as against 1.96. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis of significant difference should be upheld.

Discussion if Findings

Research question one sort to determine the perception of business owners in Ebonyi State of the extent to which Ebonyi State Government has implemented policies to ease business startups in the area. The policy direction tested related to the extent to which government policy has reduced volume of documentation requirement, reduced time taken to register a new business, reduced the cost of registration, reduced minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies, influenced the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to be more active than before, made prospective small skill business to be treated with much ease and made all documentation E-based. The findings showed that although, in the perception of business owners Ebonyi State Government has made policy reforms in this direction but its implementation is to a Low Extent (LE). The findings were in agreement with Klainoma and Arua (2012), who said that government internal policies guide and spell out how business activities are run, in regard to business startups. They revealed that business policies are set by the owners and management of the business which define their scope of operations but in most time government policy framework affect business startups. These business polices are dependent and often influenced by the overall government policies within the economy in which businesses operate.

In research question two, the perception of business owners on government policy on easy access to credit was sort. This was based on the following policy indicators: that Government policies in this direction has; reduced time taken to complete bank loan process, provided loan facilities without collateral, attracted loan facilities at reduced interest rate, encouraged lending houses to priority attention to small skill business, encouraged banks to ensure constant availability of network in their banking transactions and made business men and women to be now satisfied with bank services. Based on the aggregate mean, finding of the study clearly revealed that in the perception of business owners, government implementation of policies to ease access to credit for business operators in Ebonyi State has been to a Low Extent (LE). Hypothesis- also asserted that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female business operators on extent Government has implemented policies to ease access to credit for business operators in Ebonyi State.

The findings of this study is in agreement with that of Mainoma and Arua (2012) who found out that the success of any business depend on ease access to credit facilities, that provision of loan without collateral encourages new beginners.

The results on research question three revealed that the respondents to low extent accepted that government reduced taxes for small businesses, made tax payments easier through e-payment, made business rents now lower than before, abolished business security tax for small scale business in the state, reduced income tax payable by business operators, made its tax policy generally more favourable for business in the state and Now protects business against multiple taxation. Based on the aggregate, it was revealed that to a low extent, Ebonyi State Government has implemented policies to ease paying taxes by business operators in the State while the hypothesis indicates that there is significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female business operators on the extent Government implemented policies to ease paying taxes by business operators in Ebonyi State. The finding of this study is in consonance with what Mando and Akaan

(2013) observed that cost of tax in growing business in an underdeveloped countries impeded investors toward investing in their business ideas.

The finding in research question four revealed that Ebonyi State Government's implementation of policies to protect minority investors in the State are to a low extent. The respondents accepted that, Government policies on investment now favours minority investors, some taxes are now abolished to favour minority investors, minority investors are now exempted from payment of some business rents, Minority investors are now exempted from payment of some business rents, Government now favours investors through grants channeled through the Ministry of Business Development Government now guarantees bank loans for minority investors, Business environment is now attractive, investors investment are now secure through provision of adequate security and Government has abolished unwarranted and indiscriminate sealing of business premises by government agents Based on the average mean, however, the study revealed that Ebonyi State Government's implementation of policies to protect minority investors in the State is to a low extent while .hypothesis indicates that there is significant difference in the mean responses of male and female business operators on extent the Government implemented policies to protect minority investors in Ebonyi State.

The finding of this study is in agreement with Aina (2007), who observed that the Government policies have no positive effect on the minority investors and asserted that the effort of government in most cases favour large investors.

Conclusion

Ebonyi State Government, in the perception of business owners in the state, has been implementing the reforms to improve ease of doing business in terms of reduced registration processes for business startups, access to credit, and reduced cost of registration, reduced tax payment and protection of minority investors. However, implementations of policies in these I directions are to a Low Extent (LE).

Recommendations

1. Ebonyi State Government in the implementation of policies to ease business startup in the State should vehemently reduce the cost of registration and utilized e-base documentation for easy access
2. The Government should adopt policies or measures that guarantee greater access to loan facilities without collateral within a given duration for small and medium skill industries in the state.
3. Government should, as a Matter of deliberate policy, further reduce taxes payable, especially by small skill businesses in the state and protect firms against multiply taxation.
4. Protection of minority investors should be given greater attention by government. This can be done by granting minority investors waivers from certain forms of taxes and guarantee loans from the Bank of Industry (BOI).

References

- Aibarti, M. (2018). *Ease of doing business in the south east, the journey so far: A presentation at the South East Economic Summit, 11-13th December.*
- Aina, O. I. (2007). *Alternative modes of financing higher education in Nigeria and implications for university governance.* In J. B. Babalola, & B.O. Emunemu (eds.) *issues in higher education: Research evidence from Sub-Sahara Africa.* Lagos: Bolabay Publications.
- Aisha Salaudeen (2019): *Nigeria improves in world bank ease of doing business ranking, but is it easier to do business there?* CNN: 0237HKT
- Business Jargons. (2020). Salient features of business environment. <https://www.businessjargons.com> (retrieved 14/3/2021).
- Desire (2019). *Ease of Doing Business Index: Meaning, Concepts of Ranking and Latest Rankings,* <https://www.legaldesires.com>. (Retrieved 13th June 2020).
- Ginger Dean (2016). *7 Reasons to go into Business for yourself.* Forbes:<https://www.forbes.com/sites/Retrieved> 14/2/2020.
- Jayson, D. (2015). *50 Reasons to start your own business.* Entrepreneur: <https://www.intrepreneur.com/article/24345> (Retrieved 14/2/2020).
- Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. (2018). Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, (6th Ed). London: University Press.
- Mainoma, M. A. & Arua, S.A.S. (2012). *Entrepreneurship: Concepts, processes and development.* Kaduna: Felicity Publishing.
- Mando, P.N. & Akaan, R. (2013). *The development of functional skills through vocational training for national development in .Nigeria. Paper presented at the 15th Annual National Conference of National Association for the Advancement of Knowledge (NAFAK), Cross River University of Technology, Calabar.*
- Obayomi, M. (2019). *Entrepreneurship and business management.* Lagos: Greenland press.
- Oduma C. A. (2012). *Fundamental of entrepreneurial education.* Abakaliki: Citizens Advocate Publishers.
- Oduma, C.A (2018). *Ease of doing Business in Nigeria: Multidimensional perspectives.* (A Key Note Address Delivered on the 4th International Conference of school of Business Management, Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic Unwana, Afikpo. From 24th to 26th October, 2018.
- Topper, C. (2020) Learning App. For class 5-12. https://www.topper.com/guides/business_environment Williams F. & Seidel M. (2019). *The Effects of Government Policies on Business.* Chron: <https://www.googleweblight.com/7u> (Retrieved on 14/2/2020).
- Wole Obayomi (2019). *Nigeria Ranks 131 in World Bank 2020 Doing Business Report.* Shared on 24/10/2019 and retrieved on 13th June, 2020.