



SOKOTO INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED

NO. 8 KANO ROAD, SOKOTO, SOKOTO STATE – NIGERIA
+2348036094478 www,sicl.sk.gov.ng/ admin@sicl.sk.gov.ng

INVESTMENT CLIMATE ISSUES & CONSTRAINTS REPORT

1. Introduction

SICL compiled this 2024 assessment based on recurring feedback from private sector engagements, consultations, and investment inquiries. The purpose is to identify systemic bottlenecks and provide a factual basis for policy and operational improvements.

2. Key Constraints Identified in 2024

a) Land Access and Allocation Processes

- Processing times inconsistent across LGAs
- Limited clarity on documentation requirements
- Need for faster verification of land titles for industrial investors

b) Utilities and Infrastructure

- Inadequate power supply especially in agro-processing clusters
- Water access challenges in certain industrial layouts
- Poor road access to farmgate production zones (e.g., Rabah, Wuruno axis)

c) Investor Information Gaps

- Lack of consolidated information on investment incentives
- Limited visibility of sector-specific guidelines for new entrants
- Need for updated investment portal links and investor contact points

d) Regulatory Coordination

- Duplication of requirements between MDAs
- Slow issuance of some permits, adding to investor timelines

e) value-Chain Bottlenecks

- Limited aggregation centres for tomatoes, onions, and sesame
- High logistics costs due to transport inefficiencies
- Weak linkages between producers and processors

3. Analysis of Impact on Investment Climate

- Higher transaction costs for new investors
- Slower decision-making for FDI and domestic investment
- Increased risk perception, especially for first-time investors
- Reduced competitiveness compared to neighbouring States

4. Summary of Strategic Areas for Improvement

- Streamline land allocation and title verification
- Enhance utilities in key industrial clusters
- Publish updated investor information and sector briefs
- Improve MDA coordination through a standardized support framework
- Prioritize rural access roads in production corridors

This report provides evidence of SICL's analysis of the investment ecosystem in 2024.

Signed:

**Murtala Bala Shehu
GM Finance**

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Contact Information

**For further inquiries or tailored investment guidance, investors
may contact:**

**Investor Services Desk, Sokoto Investment Company Limited
No. 8 Kano Road, Sokoto Email: admin@sicl.sk.gov.ng
Phone: +234 803 609 4478**