



IMO ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2025: **INVESTMENT HANDBOOK**

Unlocking Imo's Economic Potential:
A Guide to Partnership, Investment, and Innovation in the Heartland of the East.





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By:
H.E. Senator Hope Uzodimma,
Executive Governor of Imo State

"Distinguished Guests, Captains of Industry, and Esteemed Investors from across the globe,

Imo State, the undisputed '**Heartland of the Eastern Region**,' is proud to present this Investment Handbook—your strategic roadmap to prosperity in West Africa's vibrant commercial heart.

Our case for investment is built on a simple, irrefutable truth: **Imo State is a unique confluence of untapped assets and a stable government committed to maximizing their value.**

Our Enduring Economic Advantage

We are strategically positioned as a **Regional Trade & Logistics Hub**, connecting the Eastern Nigerian market (valued at over \$50 billion) through the **Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport (SMICA)** and excellent road networks linking to Port Harcourt and Calabar seaports. Furthermore, we are rich in **natural wealth**, boasting over **163 oil wells and vast gas reserves**—the foundational raw materials for industrialization.

The Three Pillars of Tangible Prosperity

Our administration has moved beyond promise by focusing capital and policy on three key areas, transforming potential into **tangible, shovel-ready opportunities**:

1. **Energy & Industrialization:** The development of the **Orashi Special Energy Free Trade Zone (OSEFTZ)** is utilizing our gas assets to anchor a new era of petrochemical and heavy manufacturing, setting a new standard for African industrialization.
2. **Digital Transformation:** Through the **Imo Digital City** and the acclaimed '**SkillUpImo**' program, we are cultivating Africa's largest public digital talent pipeline, ensuring our highly educated youth form the human capital backbone of the future global economy.
3. **Critical Infrastructure & Social Welfare:**
 - **Urban Renewal:** The **Heartland River Park Estate**, a 157-hectare mixed-use project, is not just a development; it is the **redefinition of the South East's urban landscape**, creating commercial, residential, and hospitality hubs of international standards.
 - **Health is Wealth:** Our ambitious **Heartland Hospital PPP** aims to deliver world-class tertiary care. We have already shown our commitment by making Imo the **highest-paying state for health workers in Nigeria**, ensuring that social infrastructure is of the highest quality for both our citizens and your employees.

We have strategically streamlined the **Ease of Doing Business** through the **Imo State Investment Promotion Agency (ISIPA)**, our dedicated 'one-stop center' for your investment journey.

We invite you to join us, not merely to participate in our growth, but to **define new markets** and secure a first-mover advantage. Invest in Imo. Invest in the future.

Thank you, and we look forward to partnering with you."

Introduction & The Vision





THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: IMO VISION 2030 & KEY THEMES

STRATEGIC THEME (INVESTMENT PILLAR)	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (INVESTOR VALUE PROPOSITION)	ANCHOR PROJECTS / FOUNDATIONAL ENABLERS	INVESTMENT SECTOR FOCUS
Positioning Imo State as a Regional Trade & Logistics Hub	Leverage the state's geographic centrality, the Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport (SMICA) , and connectivity to Port Harcourt and Calabar seaports to dominate Eastern Nigerian commerce.	Orashi Special Energy Free Trade Zone (OSEFTZ) , Airport Expansion & Logistics Parks, Major Road Networks.	Logistics, Transport, Ease of Doing Business.
Building a Globally Competitive Imo State Economy	Foster innovation, cultivate a world-class workforce, and ensure policy stability to attract and retain large-scale domestic and foreign capital.	ISIPA (One-Stop Center), "SkillUpImo" Digital Talent Program.	Human Capital, Regulatory Reform.
Financing Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth	Accelerate development through bankable Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in core infrastructure and real estate.	Heartland River Park Estate (157 Hectares), Urban Renewal, Mass Transit Systems.	Real Estate, Construction, PPP.
Powering Growth: Energy Access & Gas-to-Industry	Utilize our 163+ oil wells and vast gas reserves to achieve energy independence and power industrial zones.	Orashi Special Energy Free Trade Zone (OSEFTZ) (Gas-led Industrialization), Independent Power Projects (IPP).	Power, Oil & Gas.



INITIAL PROJECT MAPPING:

Accomplishments Into Opportunities

STATE PROJECT / INITIATIVE (ACCOMPLISHMENT)	INVESTMENT SECTOR PORTFOLIO	INVESTMENT VALUE PROPOSITION
Orashi Free Trade Zone (OSEFTZ)	Power, Oil & Gas, Security	Gas-to-Industry, Petrochemicals, Export-Driven Manufacturing.
Imo Digital City & "SkillUpImo"	Digital Transformation & Innovation	Positioning Imo as a Startup & Tech Hub, Digital Infrastructure.
Heartland Hospital PPP	Health	World-Class Tertiary Healthcare, Medical Tourism, Health Insurance.
Adapalm Plantations (Revitalization)	Agro-Industrialization	Moving from Farm to Market to Global Export, Commercial Agriculture.
Heartland River Park Estate	Real Estate, Tourism	Mixed-Use Development, Hospitality & Recreation Hubs.
Concord Hotel (Hilton Partnership)	Tourism as an Economic Catalyst	International-grade Hospitality, Destination Investments.
Imo Health Insurance Programs	Health	Growing Resilient Subnational Economies (Social Investment).

Detailed Sectoral Portfolios of Investment





a.

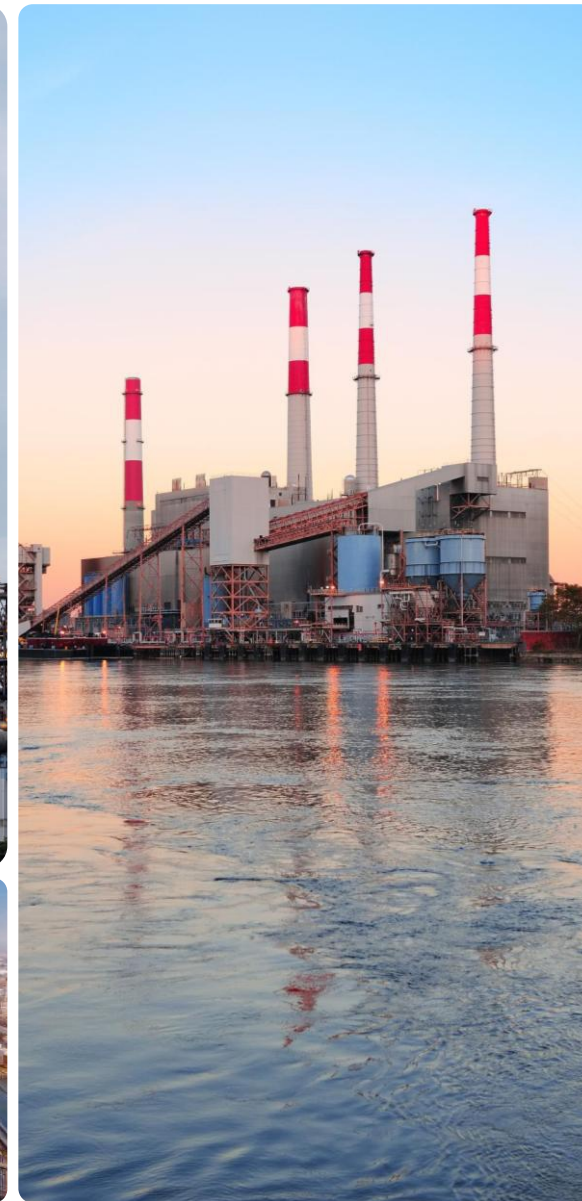
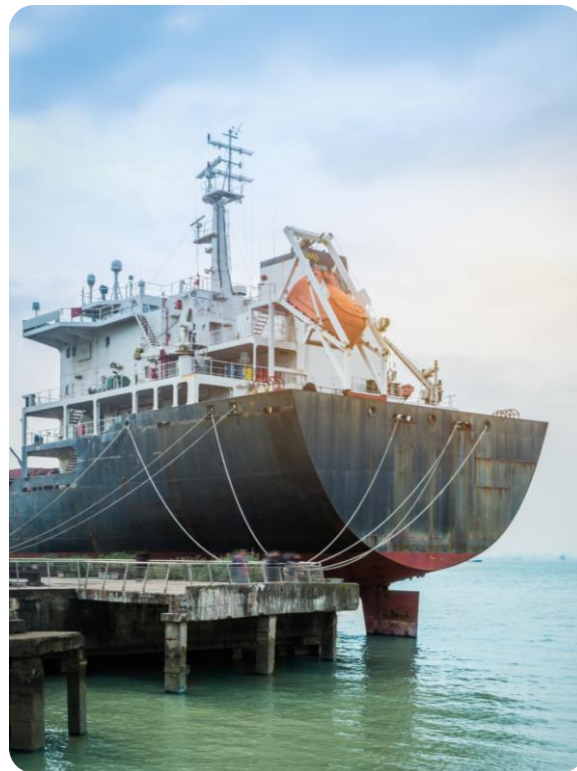
POWER
& ENERGY
(Gas-to-Industry)

Investment Theme: Powering Growth: Energy Access, Renewable Solutions & Gas-to-Industry Opportunities.

Strategic Objective: Utilize Imo's vast 163+ oil wells and gas reserves to achieve energy self-sufficiency and become the epicentre of gas-led manufacturing in Nigeria.

CATEGORY	INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY /PROJECT	VALUE PROPOSITION FOR INVESTOR
Flagship Project	The Orashi Special Energy Free Trade Zone (OSEFTZ)	Tax and Regulatory Incentives: Zero corporate tax, duty-free imports, 100% foreign ownership, and streamlined export/import clearance in 48 hours. The State provides the land and initial infrastructure.
Core Opportunities	Gas-to-Industry (Petrochemicals)	Investment in downstream projects (e.g., fertilizer, methanol, and polymer plants) located within the OSEFTZ, leveraging guaranteed feedstock supply.
Power Generation	Establishment of Independent Power Projects (IPP) and Captive Power Plants to service industrial clusters and the State grid, ensuring guaranteed demand.	
Oil & Gas Value Chains	Downstream, Petrochemicals & Local Content Opportunities. Investment in modular refineries, storage, and distribution logistics.	

THE ORASHI SPECIAL ENERGY FREE TRADE ZONE (OSEFTZ)





b.

DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION
& INNOVATION

Investment Theme: Digital Transformation & Innovation: Positioning Imo as a Startup and Tech Hub.

Strategic Objective: Leverage Imo's youthful, educated population and high concentration of tertiary institutions to build the Silicon Valley of the Southeast.

CATEGORY	INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY /PROJECT	VALUE PROPOSITION FOR INVESTOR
Flagship Project	Imo Digital City	Development of a mixed-use tech park, providing smart infrastructure and reliable power/internet to host data centers, FinTechs, and BPOs.
Core Opportunities	Human Capital Development	Partnership in the 'SkillUpImo' program, targeting the training of 500,000 digital talents for global placement. Investment in training academies and tech incubation centers.
Digital Infrastructure	Digital infrastructure & Intelligence: Positioning Imo as a Data Backbone in Africa. Investment in metro fiber optics, 5G deployment, and state-wide data centers (Colocation Facilities).	
Venture Capital	Funding the Future: Connecting SMEs with Capital, Investors & DFIs. Investment in seed-stage and growth-stage Imo-based tech startups.	

IMO DIGITAL CITY





C.

HEALTH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE (PPP)

Investment Theme: Funding the Future: Health, Inclusive & Prosperous Future

Strategic Objective: Utilize PPP models to establish Imo as the regional center for medical tourism and deliver world-class social services.

CATEGORY	INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY /PROJECT	VALUE PROPOSITION FOR INVESTOR
Flagship Project	Heartland Hospital (PPP Model)	Investment in a greenfield or brownfield tertiary healthcare facility (hospital, specialist clinics, diagnostic center) under a long- term PPP agreement. The State offers the land, regulatory support, and guaranteed patient flow through its Imo Health Insurance Programs .
Core Opportunities	Pharmaceutical/MedTech	Establishment of pharmaceutical manufacturing and medical device assembly plants to supply the regional market, leveraging the State's favorable regulatory environment.
Health Insurance	Investment or technical partnership in scaling up the Imo Health Insurance Programs to ensure wider coverage and stable funding for health facilities.	
Specialized Care	Development of specialized centers (e.g., Oncology, Cardiology, Orthopedics) to reduce the high cost of medical travel abroad.	

HEARTLAND HOSPITAL (PPP MODEL)





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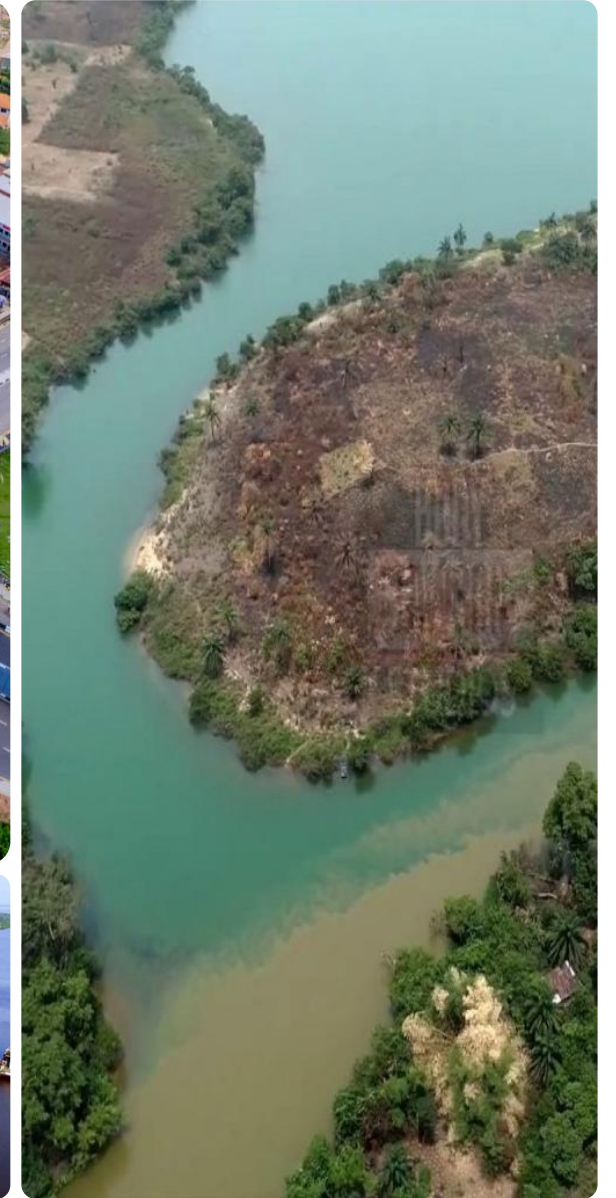
TOURISM,
REAL ESTATE &
HOSPITALITY

Investment Theme: Tourism as an Economic Catalyst: Culture, Heritage & Destination Investments

Strategic Objective: Transform key landmarks and cultural assets into international-grade tourist and lifestyle destinations.

CATEGORY	INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY /PROJECT	VALUE PROPOSITION FOR INVESTOR
Flagship Project	Heartland River Park Estate (Urban Renewal PPP)	Investment partnership for the development of the 157- hectare mixed-use project: canalization, commercial towers, high-end residential, and hospitality hubs. Offers premium first- mover advantage in the region's most ambitious real estate project.
Core Opportunities	Concord Hotel (Hilton Partnership). Investment in management, redevelopment, and expansion of hospitality assets. Hotel key density remains below 2 keys per 1,000 inhabitants, presenting unmatched headroom for development.	
Ecotourism/Leisure	Development of resorts, theme parks, and cultural centers leveraging the state's natural beauty (e.g., Oguta Lake Holiday Resort) and rich Igbo heritage.	
Residential/Commercial	Mass housing projects to serve the rapidly urbanizing workforce and the affluent diaspora, which remits ~USD 3 Billion annually , fueling high-end housing demand.	

HEARTLAND RIVER PARK ESTATE (URBAN RENEWAL PPP)





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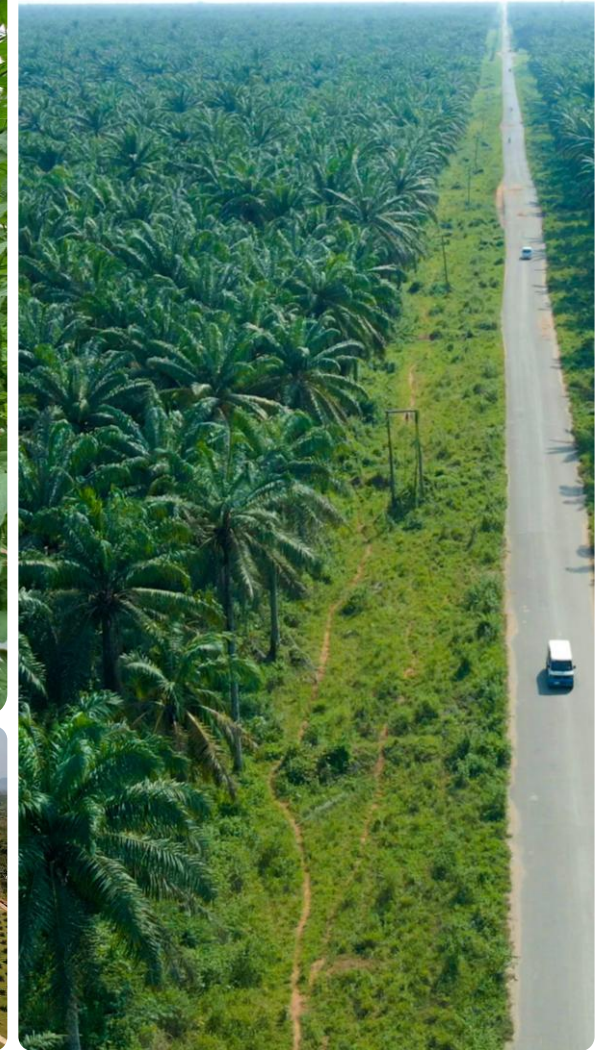
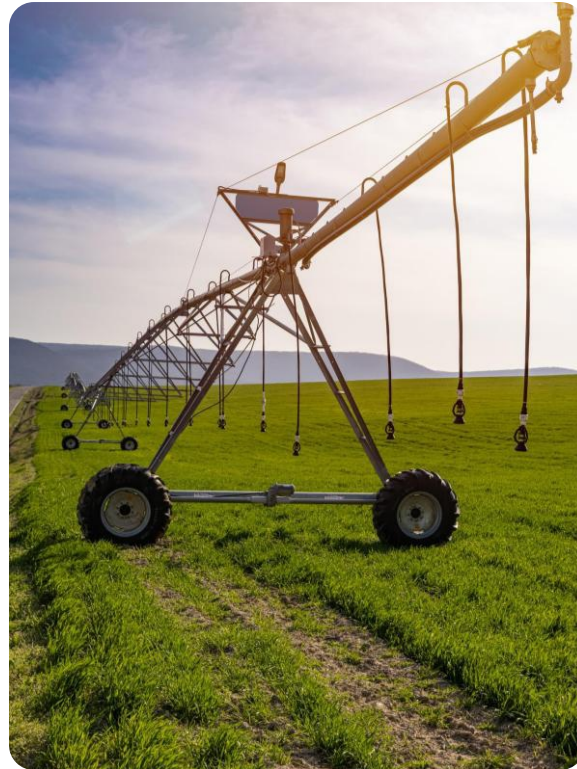
AGRO-INDUSTRIALIZATION & MORIBUND INDUSTRIES

Investment Theme: Agro-Industrialization: Moving from Farm to Market to Global Export

Strategic Objective: Revive and modernize agricultural assets to create stable value chains for food security and non-oil exports.

CATEGORY	INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY /PROJECT	VALUE PROPOSITION FOR INVESTOR
Flagship Project	Adapalm Plantations (Revitalization)	Investment and management partnership to modernize and scale palm oil production and processing for the lucrative domestic and export markets.
Core Opportunities	Processing Zones	Development of Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (AIPZs) focused on cashew, cassava, and rice, linking production farms directly to processing plants for higher value capture.
Moribund Industries	Revival of dormant state-owned assets in ceramics, glass, and rubber production through concession or acquisition, leveraging existing infrastructure and local raw materials.	
Export Logistics	Investment in cold chain storage, packaging, and logistics to move finished agricultural products from the farm to the Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport for global export.	

ADAPALM PLANTATIONS (REVITALIZATION)



The Enabling Environment (Ease of Doing Business & Contact)





a. EASE OF DOING BUSINESS: INVESTOR PROTECTION & INCENTIVES

Investment Theme: Positioning Subnational Economies for Global Capital / Ease of Doing Business

Strategic Objective: Minimize regulatory friction, guarantee investor safety, and offer competitive incentives to ensure a maximum return on investment.

PILLAR OF INVESTMENT CONFIDENCE	POLICY AND MECHANISM IN IMO STATE	INVESTOR VALUE PROPOSITION
One-Stop Service	The Imo State Investment Promotion Agency (ISIPA)	ISIPA acts as the official " one-stop center " for all investors, coordinating regulatory approvals, land acquisition, permits, and inter-agency collaboration to eliminate bureaucratic delays.
Timeliness & Accountability	Business Enabling Reform Action Plan (BERAP)	Guarantees statutory timelines for business registration, permits, and approvals, with penalties for officials who cause unwarranted delays. This ensures speed and predictability.
Investor Security	Robust State Security Architecture	A significant investment in the State's security apparatus has created a stable environment, ensuring the safety of personnel, assets, and supply chains—a core component of business continuity.
Fiscal Incentives (OSEFTZ)	Orashi Special Energy Free Trade Zone (OSEFTZ) Incentives	Investors in the OSEFTZ benefit from a high degree of fiscal freedom, including: Zero corporate tax, duty-free importation of equipment, 100% foreign ownership, and repatriation of capital/profits.
Land Security	Title and Land Support	The State provides secure land titles and offers to provide land, complete site surveys, and pay compensation fees for strategic, large-scale Free Trade Zone projects.





b.

THE HUMAN
CAPITAL EDGE

Strategic Theme: Growing Resilient
Subnational Economies: The Talent Pipeline

Investor Insight: A robust and affordable
workforce is central to long-term profitability.

FACTOR	IMO STATE ADVANTAGE	IMPLICATION FOR INVESTOR
Talent Pool	Imo has one of the highest literacy rates and density of tertiary institutions in Nigeria, guaranteeing a vast, trainable workforce.	Reduced Training Costs: A ready pool of young, educated, and entrepreneurial workers, with an average media age of only 19 years .
Targeted Training	The " SkillUpImo " program is creating a pipeline of 500,000 digital talents for global placement.	Access to Specialized Skills: Immediate access to pre-vetted and certified tech, BPO, and creative industry workers.
Diaspora Link	The Imo Diaspora remits approximately \$3 Billion USD annually , fueling a vibrant consumer economy and providing a source of highly-skilled, repatriating professionals.	Strong Consumer Base: Ensures sustained local demand for goods and services, mitigating reliance on external markets.





C. CALL TO ACTION

We invite you to join the dialogue at the upcoming **Imo Economic Summit 2025** and to begin your investment journey with Imo State today. The time for investment is now. The stability is guaranteed. The returns are waiting.

CONTACT OFFICE	FOCUS AREA	CONTACT INFORMATION
The Imo State Investment Promotion Agency (ISIPA)	Investment Guidance, Permits, Legal/Regulatory Support (The One-Stop Center)	Email: invest@imostate.gov.ng
Imo Economic Summit 2025 Secretariat	Summit Registration, Partnership, and Project Details	Website: www.imoeconomicssummit.com
Office of the Executive Governor	Strategic and Policy Inquiries	Phone: +234 911 009 9900 +234 911 009 9902
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