

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR A. B. OKAURU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING ON  
THE STATE PEER REVIEW MECHANISM WITH THE EXECUTIVE OF  
ANAMBRA STATE**

**AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA**

**22 JULY 2011**

His Excellency, Peter Obi, Governor of Anambra State  
HE, Emeka Sibeudu, Deputy Governor of Anambra State  
Distinguished Commissioners  
Permanent Secretaries  
Other Senior Government Officials Present  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour and privilege to address Your Excellencies on the State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM) in Anambra State. On behalf of the Forum, I would like to begin by congratulating Governor Peter Obi, who commemorated his Golden Jubilee Anniversary on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011. This is a remarkable milestone and I pray that God will grant him the wisdom so that Anambra State and indeed, the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), where he is the Vice Chairman, will witness further monumental strides and transformation under his leadership.

The SPRM was conceived by the NGF as an instrument to assist States in accelerating the pace of their development, through periodic reviews of progress in the implementation of their development policies, plans and programmes. This would be achieved through the sharing of experiences among States and reinforcement of commendable and innovative practices unveiled in the process. It is our hope that through participation in the peer review process, State Governors will be able to learn from their peers about innovative and good practices that they could adapt and adopt in their respective states.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the mandate for this task flows from a resolution of the National Economic Council (NEC) imploring all thirty-six (36) states of the federation to peer review themselves in a manner modelled after the African Union (AU) Peer

Review Exercise. This NEC Resolution was subsequently endorsed by all 36 State Governors in the country under the NGF platform.

As a follow-up to the NEC decision, NGF mandated its Secretariat to develop the SPRM tools. As a first step, the NGF Secretariat embarked on a peer review tour of all the 36 States in early 2009 and 2010. Although the reviews were not based on any benchmarking standards, they provided opportunity for the States to show-case their achievements as well as share their areas of challenges with the NGF review team. We have transmitted the Draft Reports of the Peer Review Tours to all the Governors for comments.

The visit to Anambra State took place specifically from 2-4 June 2009. From this visit, it became obvious that the State was doing a number of things well. From infrastructural developments to innovations in education, health and agricultural sectors, Anambra State is making giant strides in socio-economic development.

A number of benchmarks were identified. To mention just a few:

- The Ornor rice farms, together with the Ogboji Ezira rice lands of Orumba, and Odoekpe rice fields in Ogbaru, earn for Anambra State the third richest rice potential area in Nigeria.
- Anambra State government has spent over N3 billion to provide potable and sustainable water schemes in over forty communities in the state.
- The current administration has completed and put to use two magnificent State Secretariat Complexes.
- Tremendous progress has been made in the provision of infrastructure and facilities for schools. Over 100 schools have benefited from the state Government's laboratory rehabilitation and equipment programme, entailing renovation of school laboratories and increased supply of science and computing equipment and instructional materials. Libraries in 174 secondary schools have also been renovated and equipped.

- Governance in Anambra State is demand – driven, targeted at alleviating the hardship previously experienced by the people. Since the state is one of those with a comparatively low revenue base, the governor runs a very slim government.

On the flip side, the team observed some challenges too:

- The Public Procurement and Fiscal Responsibility Bills had not been finalised during the visit and the Team urged the State to hasten action on these bills. They had undergone second readings at the Anambra State House of Assembly then.
- Public-Private Partnership arrangements for infrastructure provision were very few.
- The state was not achieving maximal water reticulation and would therefore require further re-evaluation of the present design, including the use of solar powered systems.

The NGF, also in 2009, in collaboration with DFID articulated and adopted a systematic and robust Peer Review process that was launched at Transcorp Hotel, Abuja on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 by the Forum as part of the 2011 induction programme.

Distinguished participants, I am happy to inform you that Edo and Anambra states were selected as the pioneering States that would undertake the exercise that is unprecedented at the Sub-national level in the world. Arrangements are also on-going to commence the process in Ekiti, Jigawa, Niger and Rivers States. It is, in this regard, that my Team is visiting Awka to commence the process.

The overriding objective of today's exercise is to present the tools and methodology for the SPRM to the Executives of Anambra State and agree on a roadmap for taking forward the review process in Anambra State.

Excellencies, I now call on Mr Joe Abah to present the Goodwill Message from DFID and Professor Alex Gboyega to present synopsis of the SPRM Process and expectations from Anambra State thereafter.

I thank you for your attention.



## **NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM**

**The Secretariat**

### **Agenda for the SPRM Meeting in Anambra States on Friday 22 July 2011**

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1. Welcome Remarks by his Excellency, Peter Obi, Governor of Anambra State
2. Introductory Remarks by Mr. A. B. Okauru
3. Goodwill Message by DFID – Mr. Joe Abah
4. Presentation on the SPRM Process by Prof. Alex Gboyega
5. Questions and Clarification on the Way Forward
6. Vote of Thanks by Alhaji LOT Shittu
7. Closing Remarks by His Excellency, the Governor



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### **Briefing on the State Peer Review Mechanism Programme**

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The draft reports of the State Peer Review Tours undertaken by the Secretariat to the 36 States are now ready and they are being transmitted to State Governors for comments.

Your Excellencies may recall that the State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM) was launched on 17 May, 2011 at Transcorp Hotel, Abuja, as part of the 2011 Induction / Symposium of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, at a ceremony presided over by Dr. Bukola Saraki, the erstwhile Chairman of the Forum and attended by several serving Governors and other major stakeholders.

The SPRM is an integral part of the NGF's Strategic Plan (2010-2012) and the objective is to assist States in accelerating the pace of their development through periodic reviews of progress in the implementation of their development policies, plans and programmes. The scope of the SPRM which is influenced by the mandate of State Governors covers a select set of core sectors/thematic areas common to all States of the Federation.

Arrangements are on-going for the State Peer Review Team to visit Edo and Anambra States, the two states that are pioneering the process, to commence the process which is unprecedented at the sub-national level in Africa. The Governors of Ekiti, Jigawa, Niger and Rivers States have also been approached as part of preparing the four states to undergo the process.

## **Draft Agenda for the SPRM Meeting in Anambra States on Friday 22 July 2011**

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### **Brief Meeting with His Excellency, Governor Peter Obi**

- Expectations from the State (Constitution of Anambra State SPRM Team/Coordinator to drive the Process)
- The Stakeholders Workshop (To be declared open by the Governor- Date, participants and sensitization)

### **Meeting with Expanded Executive**

- Welcome Remarks by his Excellency, the Governor
- Introductory Remarks by Mr. A. B. Okauru
- Goodwill Message by DFID – Mr. Joe Abah
- Presentation on the SPRM Process by Prof. Alex Gboyega

Composition of Team: DG + 5.

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- Presentation on the SPRM Process by Prof. Alex Gboyega
- Questions
- Response by the SPRM Team

### **Requirements**

20 Copies of Base Document

Secretariat Team (DG + ?)

SPARC ( Joe, Hadiza, Jerome + Alex)

### **Update on the SPRM process for the Forum Meeting**

Report of the Peer Review Tours

Visits to States- Anambra, Edo, Ekiti, Rivers, Jigawa and Niger.

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