



## **NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM**

**REMARKS BY H.E. RT. HON. ROTIMI CHIBUIKE AMAECHI, CHAIRMAN  
OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM AND GOVERNOR OF RIVERS  
STATE AT THE INITIATION / SENSITISATION WORKSHOP ON THE  
STATE PEER REVIEW MECHANISM IN EKITI STATE**

**ADO-EKITI, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA**

**11 NOVEMBER 2011**

Your Excellency, Dr Kayode Fayemi, Governor of Ekiti State  
Justice Mohammadu Uwais, Former Chief Justice of the Federation and Chairman of the  
Steering Committee of the State Peer Review Mechanism  
Other Members of the Steering Committee Present  
Your Excellency, Mrs Funmilayo Olayinka, Deputy Governor of Ekiti State  
The Representatives of DFID, the World Bank and UNDP  
Speaker, Ekiti State House of Assembly  
Chief Judge of Ekiti State  
Other Senior Government Officials Present  
The Press  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and privilege to address you today on the launch of the State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM) in Ekiti State. This is the second time the Initiation/ Stakeholders Workshop which formally commences the SPRM process in States is holding. That of Anambra State was held in Awka, Anambra State on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011. It is in this regard that I congratulate my brother Governor Kayode Fayemi, and the good people of Ekiti State for this laudable feat.



On behalf of the Forum, I would like to thank the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), our collaborators in the SPRM process both in the development of the SPRM tools and rolling out of the mechanism, the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme who are with us today for their support.

The SPRM was conceived by the Nigeria Governors' Forum 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.

The Peer Review Programme which is an integral part of the NGF's Strategic Plan (2010-2012) was officially launched at Transcorp Hotel, Abuja on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 by the Forum as part of the 2011 Induction Programme.

Another milestone was also recorded in the State Peer Review Mechanism on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 at Transcorp Hotel, Abuja when I inaugurated the Steering Committee of the Mechanism. The 11-member Committee has the former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais as Chairman. Other members of the steering committee are Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki, the erstwhile Chairman of NGF, H.E. Donald Duke, Former Governor of Cross River State; Professor Oladipupo Adamolekun, Professor Akachi Ezeigbo and Dr Shamsudeen Usman, the Minister of National Planning.

Other personalities on the Committee are Mrs. Ayo Obe, Ms Ijeoma Nwogwugwu and the Senior Special Adviser to the President on NEPAD, Ambassador Tunji Olagunju. Also on the team are Statistician-General of the Federation, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Dr Yemi Kale and Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs, Dr. Precious Gbeneol. Some of them are present here today. As the oversight body, they have become a major anchor of the SPRM.



As indicated in the Base Document, the overriding objective of today's Sensitisation Workshop for key officials of the State government and stakeholders is to present the methodology, objectives, questions, and indicators of the assessment instrument. It formally marks the commencement of the review process in Anambra State. It is hoped that the Self-Assessment Report and the State Programme of Action prepared through an inclusive process would be submitted to the NGF Secretariat not later than six months from today. This would pave the way for fielding of the Technical Review Visit and validation of the Self-Assessment Report and ultimately, peer review by members of the Forum in a non-adversarial manner.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude by emphasizing that the State Peer Review Mechanism is not a scorecard or finger-pointing exercise but an instrument for advancing governance and development in States. A unique feature of the exercise is that it requires the effective participation of all stakeholders in the state. It is an invitation to all stakeholders to collaborate on a common platform to uplift development in States in a non-adversarial manner.

I thank you all for your attention.



**Opening Remarks/Goodwill Message**  
**By Most Rev. Felix Femi Ajakaye, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Ekiti, on**  
**Thursday, 11 November, 2011, at the Adetiloye Hall, Trade Fair Complex, Iyin**  
**Road, Ado-Ekiti.**

**Ekiti State Stakeholders' Peer Review Mechanism Meeting**

*The unfortunate need people who will be kind  
to them; the prosperous need people  
to be kind to. - Aristotle*

**Greetings**

Let us praise and thank God, our Father and Creator, for the gift of today and the blessing of our God-given talents. May His name be praised now and forever.

**Preamble**

Just three days ago, Tuesday, 8 November, 2011, I got a letter, dated 4 November, 2011, and signed by Dr Dare Ojo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Integration and Intergovernmental Affairs, inviting me to today's programme and 'to deliver opening remarks'. I am grateful to you for the invitation.

**Government Policies and the People**

In a true democracy, a legitimate government is the one that gets the confidence of the electorate through their votes. Such government is then accepted as their own and the people expect their government to outline and implement policies and programmes that will have positive impact on their lives, both individually and collectively. In this light, a sincere government, having been mandated by the people to serve them, has to engage in designed policies that will appeal to the needs, hopes and aspirations of the people. Really, this is what good governance entails.

Good governance is service of a high quality or standard. It means improving the living standard of the citizenry. Good governance is being able to do something well with the possession of necessary qualities. It involves service in honest and morally correct way, thereby making people healthy, happy and productive. I state here that it is more appropriate and meaningful to emphasize *good governance* rather than talking mostly on *dividends of democracy*.

Notably, dividend tends to be a business term. It means 'a share of the profits of a company, paid once or twice a year to the people who own the company's shares'. A company is exclusive as profit sharing concerns only the shareholders. Government is not a company, but a group of people 'controlling a country, region, (state) or town and making decisions about its laws and taxes'. Government does not just focus on only the people who have voted for the party in power. Its primary concern is for all. It is inclusive and its programmes are for all and sundry.

In democracy, a government has the people's mandate to act and actualise its goals. Here, mandate means 'the authority of an elected government or official to do the things they



promised to do before election'. This signifies that there should be constant review by the government such as the one we gather together to do today. There is the need for regular meetings between the government and the electorate, who, indeed, are stakeholders.

I congratulate the People and Government of Ekiti State for having at the helm of affairs an enlightened and refined person with cosmopolitan horizons, Dr John Kayode Fayemi. Inevitably, the Chief Executive of Ekiti State is aware of the people's power, the mandate in his custody, and he cannot afford to toy with it. In a nutshell, he **CANNOT** afford to fail.

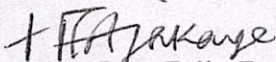
The State Government 8-Point Agenda is a pointer to the antecedents of the Governor. The Agenda's implementation demands close monitoring for it to be better understood and appreciated. With the practical expression of new attitude and orientation of Ekiti Citizens, the Agenda will then become the Ekiti People's Agenda today and tomorrow. That is, the Agenda will not just be Fayemi-Administration Agenda. This is why the Government needs to strive to carry the people along in its policies and programmes.

### **Conclusion**

I congratulate the Government for the story so far in its journey of true service to humanity, particularly, on its gradual implementation of its 8-Point Agenda since it is an ongoing process. However, much can still be achieved with the Government's focus on good governance, while those in Government with their own hidden agenda should not only be fished out, but be flushed out as well. It is such people who derail the Government. They will only be paying lip service to the 8-point Agenda. With their posture, such people cannot be active participants of good governance. Good governance is the key to security of lives and property, and it demands sacrifice and commitment.

At our gathering today and always, let us all resolve to learn to do things better, correctly and properly. May we have fruitful deliberations at our meeting today, and may God help us to be faithful collaborators and God's worthy ambassadors in our struggle towards good governance for the good of all.

With Confidence in God, Christ is our strength.



Most Rev. Felix Femi Ajakaye  
Bishop of Ekiti.

**11 November, 2011.**