

**MINUTES OF MEETING BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM (NGF) SECRETARIAT AND HON. BILLY NWOYE OF WILLIAMS WORLDWIDE, A CONSULTANT WITH THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION (NGA) HELD AT THE NGF SECRETARIAT ON MONDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2009.**

S/N	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
01	<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A.B. Okauru – Director-General, NGF</li> <li>2. Mohammed Jibia-Executive Director (Finance &amp; Admin.), NGF</li> <li>3. Chijioke Chuku – NGF/Recorder</li> <li>4. Billy Nwoye- WILLIAMS ASSOCIATE/NGA</li> </ol>	
02	<p><b><u>COMMENCEMENT:</u></b> The meeting started at 10.25am.</p>	
03	<p><b><u>DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OPENING REMARK</u></b></p> <p>The Director General (DG) welcomed Mr. Billy Nwoye to the secretariat and expressed confidence that the visit would be the beginning of a fruitful relationship between the NGF and the NGA.</p> <p><b><u>MR. BILLY NWOYE'S RESPONSE</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Nwoye in his remarks expressed his gratitude to the DG and EDs for the opportunity to meet and discuss the details of the proposed collaboration between the NGF and the NGA. He started with a brief introduction of himself and his pedigree. He emphasized his vast experience in Government and expressed his pleasure at the DG-NGF's pedigree as well as the wealth of experience that the DG brings to the Forum. Finally, he expressed hope for a synergy and co-operation between both organisations.</p>	
04	<p><b><u>NGF RAISON D'ETRE AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.</u></b></p> <p>The DG once again thanked Hon. Nwoye for his visit and related his mission at the NGF. Upon his appointment and on discovering certain similarities in purpose between the NGF and NGA, he opened up correspondence with the latter in a bid to evolve areas of collaboration and relationship.</p> <p>He summarized his mission at the NGF thus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To examine the existing structure at the secretariat with a view to determining whether to completely dismantle it or cherry-pick the staff to retain.</li> </ol>	

2. To see to the commencement and completion of the proposed N7.3bn NGF secretariat.
3. To create a credible lobby on the articulation and shaping of public policy. One of the functions of the NGF is interventionist in nature and it was his mission to ensure that this function is well articulated.
4. Capacity building for machineries of State governments.
5. To seek to bridge the image gulf between the Governors and the citizenry.
6. The registration of the Forum as a legal body-this he confirmed was in the final stages.
7. Exposure of NGF and its activities to the international community as well as the promotion of interactions between Governors and their counter-parts overseas.
8. Pursue the funding needs of the organisation.
9. Embark on a lean but highly professional staffing for the secretariat.

Hon. Nwoye on his part stated that:

1. The NGF provided a vehicle of sorts to project the connection between Nigeria and the United States of America (USA).
2. There was a need for the NGF and indeed Nigeria to 'borrow' those policies from the US that have worked so well over the decades.
3. Emphasised an advancement of the relationship between the two organisations.
4. They would examine the blue-print of the NGF with a view to determining how well it has done in achieving its stated objectives and the harmonization of its policies.
5. The envisaged partnership would neither be a telephonic relationship nor an e-mail one. There was a strong need for direct interface of the partners and consequently, a need for a visit of the NGF representatives to the NGA.
6. There will be an opportunity for capacity building at the Center for Public Leadership (CPL) of the Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

05

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT SECRETARIAT**

Hon. Nwoye made it known that the US Department had special funds set aside to support young democracies and that he was optimistic that the NGF could benefit from the fund. He felt that his organisation could be useful in facilitating NGF's access to the funds. However, he felt that there were ways that this access could be made easier:

1. Holding NGF events to appreciate stakeholders by

recognizing their support.

2. Giving awards to deserving citizens and showing recognition to organisations that sponsor the awards. He was of the view that events like this would help in highlighting the activities of NGF and its stakeholders.

Other areas that they could assist the Forum are:

1. Pledged support in co-ordinating the NGF retreat and the retreat agenda.
2. Co-ordinate the NGF chairman's visit to the NGA Summer conferences.
3. Assist in routing investments through the NGF.
4. Training on how to package documentation for foreign trips especially trips in quest of foreign investors. He had found out from experience that government officials in search of foreign investors fail in most parts because they do not package their presentation properly. He feels NGF can assist by being properly seised of the know-how of these matters.

Finally, the meeting agreed as follows:

- i. To define the scope of the relationship via a properly couched document. Hon. Nwoye to prepare a draft for the perusal and consideration of the Forum.
- ii. Proposed working visit to the US. The trips are in two forms: a) Chairman with some of his colleagues to visit the NGA. a) Senior Executives of the NGF secretariat to visit the NGA for a first hand experience of its activities.
- iii. The NGF secretariat to prepare an update on the secretariat project for onward passing to Hon. Nwoye.
- iv. Hon. Nwoye to re-ignite talks with Harvard and other institutional and technical resource persons.

The meeting ended at 12.05pm.

Chijioke Chuku Esq.  
Recorder