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**MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> EMERGENCY MEETING OF NIGERIA  
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2017**

**HELD ON**

**11th October, 2017**

**AT THE**

**BANQUET HALL, ASO VILLA, ABUJA**

## ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Hon. Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor
2	Dr Okezie Ikpeazu	Abia	Governor
3	M.A. Abubakar, Esq	Bauchi	Governor
4	Senator Dr A.I. Okowa	Delta	Governor
5	Nweze David Umahi	Ebonyi	Governor
6	Godwin Obaseki	Edo	Governor
7	Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai	Kaduna	Governor
8	Aminu Bello Masari	Katsina	Governor
9	Bello Yahaya	Kogi	Governor
10	Abubakar S. Bello	Niger	Governor
11	Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN	Ondo	Governor
12	Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola	Osun	Governor
13	Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
14	Simon Lalong	Plateau	Governor
15	Martins Babale	Adamawa	Deputy Governor
16	Moses F. Ekpo, MFR	Akwa Ibom	Deputy Governor
17	Nkem Okeke, PhD	Anambra	Deputy Governor
18	Gboribidgha J. Jonah, OON	Bayelsa	Deputy Governor
19	Benson Abounu, FNSE	Benue	2Deputy Governor
20	Professor Ivara Esu, OFR	Cross River	Deputy Governor
21	Professor Kolapo Isola	Ekiti	Deputy Governor
22	Prince Eze Madumere	Imo	Deputy Governor
23	Ezeilo, Cecilia O.	Enugu	Deputy Governor
24	Silas Agara	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
25	Yetunde Onanuga (Mrs)	Ogun	Deputy Governor

NO	TOPIC	ACTION BY
1.0	<b>COMMENCEMENT</b>	
	<p>The meeting commenced at 8:45 P.M with opening prayers by the Governor of Kogi State and the Deputy Governor of Imo State.</p>	
2.0	<b>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</b>	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed members to the emergency meeting slated to consider the Report of the NGF Committee on Constitutional Amendment.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded the Forum of the Deputy Senate President's presentation at the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 on the on-going constitutional amendment. In the light of that presentation, the Forum constituted a committee of 9 members chaired by the Governor of Osun State to review the sections of the constitution considered by the National Assembly for amendment in order to come up with a common position for the Forum.</p> <p>Pending the presentation by the Chairman of the Committee, the Governor of Ebonyi State, a member of the Committee craved the indulgence of the Forum to express a minority opinion with respect to the bill on independent candidacy. He expressed the view that independent candidacy would create more confusion in the Polity in view of the already existing political parties. This could be the grounds for nullification of elections and the process would be open to abuse by indiscriminate sponsorship of candidates.</p>	
3.0	<b>REPORT ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT</b>	
	<p>The Chairman of the NGF Committee on Constitutional Amendment and Governor of Osun State presented the Report of the work done by his Committee.</p> <p>The Committee accepted 7 of the sections and rejected 14 of them. The Committee further recommended that the Forum employ the services of a constitutional lawyer and a Public Relations/Media expert to work on an appropriate narrative explaining the reasons for the Forum's position on the draft amendments.</p>	

	<p>The Chairman concluded his Report by reiterating the position of Ebonyi State on independent candidacy.</p> <p>The Forum was informed that contrary to previous notion on the draft amendment bills, the presentation by the Deputy Senate President at the last meeting was the position of the Nigerian Senate and not the harmonised position by the National Assembly (NASS). In the light of this discovery, the Forum resolved that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The work of the Committee was not done yet and that the Report presented by the Committee be kept in view pending the harmonisation of all the positions by the National Assembly and other stakeholders.</li> <li>2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives should be invited to address the Forum at its next meeting.</li> <li>3. There was a need to engage the Conference of Speakers on the amendments and</li> <li>4. Each governor should engage directly with his State House of Assembly.</li> </ol> <p>The meeting also agreed that there was a need to engage with the NASS to postpone the transmission of the draft documents to the States until areas of concern are addressed.</p>	
4.0	UPDATES	
	<p><b><u>Progress of London Paris Club/ Budget support</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Forum had requested for the payment of the third tranche in October 2017. He informed the Forum that this was being processed and may likely be paid in the coming week.</p> <p><b><u>Acquisition of #49 Lake Chad Crescent Maitama</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman of the NGF Committee on the Permanent Secretariat Governor of Kaduna commended the Secretariat for the thorough job done and recommended that the Forum should conclude by making payments and follow up with requisite registrations at the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA). The Forum consequently approved the purchase and directed the Secretariat to conclude on same.</p>	

<b>5.0</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT/ CONCLUSION</b>	
	The Governor of Kaduna State moved the motion for adjourning the meeting and was seconded by the Ebonyi State Governor. The meeting closed by 10 pm.	

**Honourable Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar  
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum  
Governor, Zamfara State**

