



MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2013

HELD ON

24TH APRIL, 2013

AT THE

RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE, ASOKORO, ABUJA

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi	Rivers	Governor/Chairman
2	Mr. Peter Obi	Anambra	Governor/Vice Chairman
3	Chief T. A. Orji	Abia	Governor
4	Vice Admiral Murtala H. Nyako (Rtd.)	Adamawa	Governor
5	Dr Obong Godswill Akpabio	Akwa-Ibom	Governor
6	Mallam Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
7	Hon. Seriake Dickson	Bayelsa	Governor
8	Mr Gabriel Suswan Esq.	Benue	Governor
9	Senator Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor
10	Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan	Delta	Governor
11	Chief Martin Elechi	Ebonyi	Governor
12	Mr. Sullivan I. Chime Esq.	Enugu	Governor
13	Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo	Gombe	Governor
14	Alhaji Mukhtar Ramalan Yero	Kaduna	Governor
15	Dr Ibrahim Shehu Shema	Katsina	Governor
16	Capt. Idris I. Wada	Kogi	Governor
17	Dr Muazu Aliyu Babangida	Niger	Governor
18	Dr Olusegun Mimiko	Ondo	Governor
19	Dr Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
20	Hon. Abdul-Aziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor
21	Alhaji Zannah Mustapha	Borno	Deputy Governor
22	Prince Eze Madumere	Imo	Deputy Governor
23	Alhaji Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
24	Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu (OFR)	Kebbi	Deputy Governor
25	Hon. Dameshi B. Luka	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
26	Alhaji Garba Umaru	Taraba	Acting Governor

APOLOGIES

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Commrade Adams Oshiomhole	Edo	Governor
2	Dr. Kayode Fayemi	Ekiti	Governor
3	Engr. Rabiu M. Kwankwaso	Kano	Governor
4	Alhaji Abdulfattah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
5	Mr Babatunde Fashola (SAN)	Lagos	Governor
6	Senator Ibikunle Amosun	Ogun	Governor
7	Engr. Rauf Argbesola	Osun	Governor
8	Senator Abiola Ajimobi	Oyo	Governor
9	Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
10	Alhaji Ibrahim Geidam	Yobe	Governor

S/N	NOTES/RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY
1.0	<p>Commencement</p> <p>The meeting started at 20:39pm with an opening remark by the Chairman stating that rather than the circulated agenda, the meeting would be a short informal session due to the absence of a significant number of Governors who were otherwise engaged with preparations for the burial of the late Deputy Governor of Ekiti State, Mrs Oluwafunmilayo Olayinka.</p>	
2.0	<p>Chairman's Brief</p>	
2.1	<p>Update on FAAC Distribution</p> <p>a) The Chairman condoled with the Governor and people of Ekiti State on the loss of their Deputy Governor Mrs Oluwafunmilayo Olayinka, who passed away on April 6th 2013.</p> <p>b) The Chairman informed the house that he met with the Chairman of the Forum of Finance Commissioners (FoFC) to follow up on their progress with outstanding FAAC payments discovered following instructions by the Forum to the FoFC to review FAAC accounts for the last five years. He noted that the exercise had led to more discoveries and explained the reasons for the delays in the receipt of FAAC payments by States. He referred the house to item #6 in the members packs for the 24th April, 2013 Session. The Chairman of the FoFC, Barr. Timothy Odaah was invited in to brief the House.</p> <p>c) Barr. Odaah noted that they had received the mandate at the end of 2012 and had carried out the exercise within 3 months as specified. The Commissioner noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. An initial N936bn (providing for small errors due to information limitations) had been discovered at the end of 2012 ii. This followed the discovery of underpayments by NNPC to the tune of N1.8tr were also discovered. iii. NNPC accepted liability and agreed to draw up a payment schedule for releasing all outstanding amounts to the States. However at the last meeting a 	<p>All Members</p>

	<p>dispute arose regarding NNPC's previous acceptance of liability but this was clarified from the minutes of previous meetings. Upon meeting the Minister of State, it appeared there was no knowledge of the agreement, and in fact the issue of payment of outstanding amounts had not been tabled before the President. The Forum of Finance Commissioners therefore took a stand not to attend future meeting if agreements were not honoured.</p> <p>iv. He also noted that although CBN admitted to holding outstanding balances (\$5m), CBN had stated that it was not at liberty to make any payments without the mandate to do so.</p> <p>v. He noted that under his stewardship the FoFC had uncovered discrepancies amounting to about N2.09tr</p> <p>vi. The Commissioner also expressed concern that the Minister of States' decision to merge the FAAC meetings with FAAC Post Mortem, which was the platform for scrutiny that the commissioners had, would significantly weaken the FoFC.</p> <p>d) In response, a member noted that although there is a constitutional provision for separate meetings, late submissions of returns in particular by NNPC has often impacted on the timing of meetings and very often necessitates merging of meetings. This needed to be addressed so as to limit the need for joint meetings in future.</p> <p>e) The Forum resolved to provide political support to their commissioners and the Forum of Finance Commissioners to enable them complete the task.</p> <p>f) It was also noted that the management of the Federation Account had become an issue. The rapid decline in the national reserve is alarming and as a result the NASS has decided to send the budget back to the Presidency without treatment.</p>	
2.2	<p>Constitution Amendment</p> <p>The Chairman drew attention to the proposal for Local</p>	

	Government and State Assembly autonomy, and referred members to item #5 in Members packs for 24 th April, 2013. He noted that the proposal will have significant consequences for states and should be addressed. After discussion, it was resolved that the Chairman would speak to the Speaker and Senate President. All Governors were also to return to their states and dialogue with their Houses of Assembly to reach workable understanding on funding and other related issues	Chairman/All Members
3.0	AOB	
3.1	It was noted that elections to offices within the Forum were due in May. Given the tight and often conflicting schedules of members, it was requested that a date be set for the elections. After extensive debate, it was proposed that the elections should be held in the week of the 22 nd of May 2013.	
7.0	Adjournment/Conclusion	
7.1	The session closed with the invitation of the press to join the Members in observing a minute silence in honour of the late Deputy Governor of Ekiti State, Mrs Oluwafunmilayo Olayinka.	
7.2	The meeting closed at 10:22pm.	

Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
24th April, 2013