

**NIGERIA
GOVERNORS'
FORUM**



**MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF NIGERIA
GOVERNORS' FORUM IN 2017**

HELD ON

18th October 2017

AT THE

BANQUET HALL, ASO VILLA, ABUJA

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1	Hon. Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar	Zamfara	Governor
2	Dr. M.A. Abubakar	Bauchi	Governor
3	Godwin Obaseki	Edo	Governor
4	Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai	Kaduna	Governor
5	Abdulfatah Ahmed	Kwara	Governor
6	Aminu Waziri Tambuwal	Sokoto	Governor
7	Moses F. Ekpo, MFR	Akwa Ibom	Deputy Governor
8	Nkem Okeke, PhD	Anambra	Deputy Governor
9	Gboribioha J. Jonah, OON	Bayelsa	Deputy Governor
10	Honourable Usman M. Durkwa	Borno	Deputy Governor
11	Professor Ivara Esu, OFR	Cross River	Deputy Governor
12	Eric Kelechi Igwe, PhD	Ebonyi	Deputy Governor
13	Professor Kolapo Olusola	Ekiti	Deputy Governor
14	Prince Eze Madumere, MFR	Imo	Deputy Governor
15	Ibrahim H. Hadejia	Jigawa	Deputy Governor
16	Professor Hafiz Abubakar	Kano	Deputy Governor
17	Mannir Yakubu	Katsina	Deputy Governor
18	Achuba Simon	Kogi	Deputy Governor
19	Silas Agara	Nasarawa	Deputy Governor
20	Ahmed Moh'd Kato	Niger	Deputy Governor
21	Ajayi A. Agboola	Ondo	Deputy Governor
22	Grace Titi Laoye-Tomori	Osun	Deputy Governor
23	Moses A. Adeyemo	Oyo	Deputy Governor
24	Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo	Rivers	Deputy Governor

1.0	COMMENCEMENT	
	<p>The meeting commenced at 8:44 P.M with an opening prayer by the Deputy Governor of Anambra State.</p>	
2.0	CHAIRMAN'S BRIEF	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed the Governors to the meeting and briefed them on the deliberations at the last meeting held for constitutional amendments.</p> <p>He informed the Forum that one of the resolutions at the last meeting was to invite the Speaker to make a presentation.</p> <p>The Chairman called on the Governor of Bauchi state to brief the Forum on the meeting with the President to discuss budget support, non-remittance to the federation account of revenues collected by some federal government agencies and to make a case for the approval of the payment of the London-Paris club refunds after reconciliation.</p> <p>The Governor of Bauchi State in his brief informed the Forum that the Chairman had conveyed the appreciation of the Forum to Mr President for all the support given to the states and congratulated him for bringing Nigeria out of recession.</p> <p>At the meeting with Mr. President, the NGF Chairman stressed the importance of the bailout fund considering the monolithic nature of the Nigerian economy.</p> <p>The President noted the comments of the governors but observed that he could not make any meaningful contributions as he was not armed with the necessary facts. The meeting was thus adjourned pending the return of the Vice President and Honourable Minister of Finance who would update him on the relevant facts.</p> <p>On the MOU between the NGF and Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG), members were informed about the working lunch</p>	

organised for the governors and captains of industries.
At the event, discussions focused on steps taken by the Federal Government to enhance the ease of doing business in Nigeria and the need for the governors' support and buy-in.

The Chairman informed the meeting that it had become necessary to establish the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum (NGWF), a platform for governors' wives to come together under a common umbrella.

He explained the purpose of the body, which was to enable the governors' wives to speak with one voice and provide a platform for funding projects. The proposal was approved by the Forum and the chairman suggested that a committee of six be constituted to see to the setting up of the machinery for running the NGWF, with the chairman's wife as the chairperson. This Forum would be oversighted by the NGF and the Secretariat would handle the logistics.

Director General

UPDATE ON POLIO

The NGF Senior Health Adviser, Dr Ahmad Abdulwahab gave an update on polio. He stated that Nigeria was polio free based on the last exercise conducted in 18 states.

On the upcoming measles campaign, he commended the states that had released the required funds. He stated that only Katsina State had not released funds out of all the states in the North West. In the North-East, Adamawa and Borno States were the only states that had complied. He urged the States to comply before November 26th, 2017.

With regards to the Monkey pox scare, he assured the meeting that as dangerous as it was, it was not fatal. There were reports that Bayelsa and Nassarawa States had recorded cases of Monkey pox.

Finally, he announced that Bill and Melinda Gates had appointed a new Country Director. The Gates Foundation had commenced pilot programmes in Niger and Kaduna States.

In response to the presentation, the Governor of Katsina State informed the meeting that the bailout fund for the measles campaign was now ready.

The Deputy Governor of Nassarawa State reported the challenge of people rejecting immunization and disputed the report that his

	<p>State was affected by monkey pox.</p> <p>The Senior Health Advisor assured that he would engage with NCDC to confirm the information on monkey pox in Nassarawa State.</p>	
3.0	LONDON & PARIS CLUB REFUNDS	
	<p>The Chairman informed the meeting that the payment of the remaining tranche was expected before the end of the month. Apparently, the absence of the Minister of Finance was stalling the release</p>	
4.0	BRIEFING BY NGF LEGAL COMMITTEE AND PRESENTATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BY RT. HON. YAKUBU DOGARA, SPEAKER, HOUSE OF RERESENTATIVES	
	<p><u>Briefing by Legal Committee</u></p> <p>The Governor of Sokoto State and member of the Legal committee informed the Forum that they would present their report at the next meeting when the Committee chair is expected to be present.</p> <p><u>Presentation on Constitutional Amendment</u></p> <p>The Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives apologised for being late and thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to be part of the Forum's meeting.</p> <p>He gave an overview of the constitutional amendment. Following the constitution of the Committee for amendment in December 2015, consultations and a public hearing were held.</p> <p>Some of the areas that were being considered for amendment include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Separation of the office of the Attorney General of Federation and the Ministry of Justice b. Tenure of the Governor and President 	

	<p>c. Not too Young to Run</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Speaker for the presentation and assured him that the Forum would deliberate on the amendments.</p>	
5.0	Director General's Brief	
	<p>The Director General reminded the Forum of their annual dues and thanked them for their support to the Secretariat.</p>	
6.0	Presentation by Stakeholders	
	<p><u>Nigeria Stock Exchange Presentation</u></p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer thanked the forum for the opportunity to make a presentation and spoke about the existing opportunities in the capital market. He urged the Forum to take advantage of these opportunities as these would enhance the revenue profile of their States. The Chief Executive Officer stated that the essence of the presentation was to encourage the States to consider alternative means of generating revenue like selling utilities, State housing estates, rather than borrowing.</p> <p>He also assured the Forum that the Stock Exchange would look into deploying a consultancy unit to the states.</p> <p>The meeting thanked the Stock Exchange for the presentation and directed the Secretariat to liaise and follow up with them.</p>	Secretariat
10.0	ADJOURNMENT/ CONCLUSION	
	<p>In the absence of further deliberations, the Edo State moved for adjournment and was seconded by the Governor of Bauchi State.</p> <p>The meeting closed by 10:37pm with a closing prayer by the Governor of Katsina State.</p>	

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